

# ‘Terror attack’ injures 8 in Colorado

People set on fire during demonstration; suspect taken into custody

John Bacon  
USA TODAY

Authorities in Colorado investigated what the FBI described as a “targeted terror attack” in Boulder, Colorado, after a man with a makeshift flamethrower shouted “Free Palestine” and set eight people aflame.

The June 1 attack prompted chaos at a pedestrian mall where protesters were calling for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza. One of the burn victims is a Holocaust survivor, a local rabbi said.

The suspect, identified by authorities as Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, was taken into custody at the scene, authorities said. He was booked on multiple preliminary charges.

The protest is a “regularly scheduled, weekly peaceful event,” said Mark Michalek, special agent in charge at the FBI’s Denver field office, during a briefing.

“It is clear that this is a targeted act of violence and the FBI is investigating this as an act of terrorism,” Michalek said.

Boulder Police Chief Stephen Redfearn said authorities did not believe there were additional suspects at large.

The victims, ages 52 to 88, were transported to local hospitals with injuries ranging from serious to minor, Redfearn said. At least two of the wounded were airlifted to a hospital in the Denver area, he said.

Boulder dispatch received several calls to the county courthouse at around 1:26 p.m. local time June 1, Redfearn said. Initial reports indicated that there was a man with a weapon and that people were being set on fire at the scene. Responding officers encountered multiple victims who were injured with wounds consistent with burns and other injuries, Redfearn said.

Rabbi Israel Wilhelm, Chabad director at the University of Colorado Boulder, told CBS Colorado the 88-year-old victim is a Holocaust refugee who fled Europe. Wilhelm described the woman



Several people suffered burns and other injuries June 1 in Boulder, Colorado, in what the FBI called a “targeted terror attack” against demonstrators seeking the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza. ELI IMADALI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

as a “very loving person.”

Chany Scheiner, a friend of the victim, told KUSA-TV the woman is “amazing.”

“She has spoken at our synagogues as well as other synagogues and schools just about her background and the Holocaust and from her own perspective,” Scheiner said. “Her life wasn’t easy, but she is just a bright light. And anybody who is her friend is a friend for life.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on June 2 expressed solidarity with the victims who were attacked “simply because they were Jews.” He said he was confident U.S. authorities would prosecute “the cold blood perpetrator to the fullest extent of the law.”

“The antisemitic attacks around the world are a direct result of blood libels against the Jewish state and people,

and this must be stopped,” Netanyahu said in a statement.

The June 1 attack fell on the Jewish holiday of Shavuot and came less than two weeks after two Israeli Embassy aides were fatally shot outside a Jewish museum in Washington, D.C.

Tensions have been high in the United States and around the world over Israel’s military campaign in Gaza. The war has dragged on for 20 months since the Hamas attack on Israeli border communities that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and saw more than 250 others taken into Gaza as hostages. Israel’s campaign has devastated much of Gaza, killing more than 54,000 Palestinians.

The conflict has fueled antisemitic hate crime in the United States. Reports of incidents of antisemitism rose for a

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second year in a row in 2024, according to an annual report released by the Anti-Defamation League in April.

The controversy also has prompted supporters of Israel, including President Donald Trump, to brand peaceful, pro-Palestinian protests as antisemitic.

Contributing: Thao Nguyen, Susan Miller and Michael Collins, USA TODAY; Reuters

## Diplomat says Iran to dismiss U.S. deal

Tehran calls nuclear proposal a ‘nonstarter’

Parisa Hafezi  
REUTERS

DUBAI – Iran is poised to reject a U.S. proposal to end a decades-old nuclear dispute, an Iranian diplomat said on June 2, dismissing it as a “nonstarter” that fails to address Tehran’s interests or soften Washington’s stance on uranium enrichment.

“Iran is drafting a negative response to the U.S. proposal, which could be interpreted as a rejection of the U.S. offer,” the senior diplomat, who is close to Iran’s negotiating team, told Reuters.

The U.S. proposal for a new nuclear deal was presented to Iran on June 1 by Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, who was on a short visit to Tehran and has been mediating talks between Tehran and Washington.

After five rounds of discussions between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and President Donald Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, several obstacles remain. Among them are Iran’s rejection of a U.S. demand that it commit to scrapping uranium enrichment and its refusal to ship abroad its entire existing stockpile of highly enriched uranium – possible raw material for nuclear bombs.

Tehran says it wants to master nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and has long denied accusations by Western powers that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

“In this proposal, the U.S. stance on enrichment on Iranian soil remains unchanged, and there is no clear explanation regarding the lifting of sanctions,” said the diplomat, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Araghchi said Tehran would formally respond to the proposal soon.

Tehran demands the immediate re-

moval of all U.S.-imposed curbs that impair its oil-based economy. But the United States says nuclear-related sanctions should be removed in phases. Dozens of institutions vital to Iran’s economy, including its central bank and national oil company, have been black-listed since 2018 for, according to Washington, “supporting terrorism or weapons proliferation.”

Trump’s revival of “maximum pressure” against Tehran since his return to the White House in January has included tightening sanctions and threatening to bomb Iran if the negotiations yield no deal. During his first term in 2018, Trump ditched Tehran’s 2015 nuclear pact with six powers and reimposed sanctions that have crippled Iran’s economy. Iran responded by escalating enrichment far beyond the pact’s limits.

Under the deal, Iran had until 2018 curbed its sensitive nuclear work in return for relief from U.S., EU and U.N. economic sanctions.

The diplomat said the assessment of “Iran’s nuclear negotiations committee,” under the supervision of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was that the U.S. proposal was “completely one-sided” and could not serve Tehran’s interests. Therefore, the diplomat said, Tehran considers this proposal a “nonstarter” and believes it unilaterally attempts to impose a “bad deal” on Iran through excessive demands.

The stakes are high for both sides. Trump wants to curtail Tehran’s potential to produce a nuclear weapon that could trigger a regional arms race and perhaps threaten Israel. Iran’s clerical establishment, for its part, wants to be rid of the devastating sanctions.

Iran says it is ready to accept some limits on enrichment but needs airtight guarantees that Washington would not renege on a future nuclear accord. Two Iranian officials told Reuters last week that Iran could pause uranium enrichment if the United States released frozen Iranian funds and recognized Tehran’s right to refine uranium for civilian use under a “political deal” that could lead to a broader nuclear accord.



A suspect is in custody after reportedly throwing an incendiary device at a group participating in an organized walk in Boulder, Colorado, to show solidarity with hostages held by Hamas in Gaza. CHET STRANGE/GETTY IMAGES

## DHS: Terror attack suspect applied for asylum in 2022

Christopher Cann  
USA TODAY

The lone suspect in the June 1 attack in Boulder, Colorado – Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45 – was taken into custody at the scene after witnesses pointed him out, authorities said.

Authorities say he injured at least eight people at a regular event calling for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza. The FBI is investigating it as “an act of terrorism.”

FBI agents searched Soliman’s home in El Paso County hours after the attack, the agency’s field office in Denver said on X. The agency did not provide details about the search.

Police said Soliman was injured in the incident and taken to a hospital to be medically evaluated before being booked in the Boulder County jail. It was unclear if he had an attorney.

Authorities did not immediately release many details about Soliman. Multiple news outlets said he is an Egyptian national, including CBS and Fox News, citing unnamed sources.

Stephen Miller, the White House deputy chief of staff, said Soliman overstayed a tourist visa issued in 2022.

“In response, the Biden administration gave him a work permit,” Miller said in a social media post. “Immigration security is national security. No

more hostile migration. Keep them out and send them back.”

In general, B-2 visas are valid for six months and can be used for vacations, visiting relatives, medical treatment or participation in music, sports or events. The State Department issues millions of B-1 and B-2 visas each year. B-1 visas are similar to B-2 and allow for nonimmigrants to visit for conferences and business for six months.

Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said on X that Soliman applied for asylum in 2022. That claim was likely still pending: As of March, the immigration court backlog was around 3.6 million cases, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.

Mark Michalek, special agent in charge at the FBI’s Denver field office, said at a news conference that authorities have not found any link between the suspect and a greater criminal network or particular group. He added, however, that “this will be a thorough and complete investigation and those checks are ongoing.”

“We are fully united – 100% – in making sure the charges we bring hold the attacker fully accountable,” said Boulder County District Attorney Michael Doherty.

Contributing: Nick Penzenstadler, USA TODAY