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## OUR LIFE NOW

### FBI probes alleged Las Vegas threat

LAS VEGAS — A man who says his cellular phone picked up people talking in Arabic about a

planned terrorist attack has given his phone records to the FBI, which wants him to take a polygraph test. Investigators want to determine the validity of Michael Hamdan's story, said police Sgt. Mike Bunker.

Hamdan said he signed over his cell phone records from June 14-16 to investigators, but postponed an interview during which the FBI was asking him to take a polygraph test. He said he was exhausted after several media interviews. He did not say whether he would submit to a polygraph.

### Jewish groups vigilant but calm after FBI warning

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jewish groups across the country pledged to be vigilant, but few said they were taking extra security measures in response to an FBI warning that terrorists could be plotting to attack their schools and synagogues.

"We don't want to cause mass panic; we don't want to cause a siege mentality. At the same time, we want to be cautious and diligent," said Joshua Platt, spokesman for the Columbus Jew-

ish Federation, which alerted its members by e-mail.

The warning to law enforcement agencies was not based on a specific threat, but on interviews with captured al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who indicated such a plot had been discussed, said a U.S. official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The interviews did not reveal a target city or time.

"Our advice is simple and direct; neither exaggerate or diminish the threat warnings," said Art Teitelbaum, the Anti-Defamation League's southern area director. "We will remain alert and not be intimidated by these threats."

Jewish groups were taking the alert seriously but urging calm.

"It's not a time to panic," said Rabbi Marvin Heir, dean of the Simon Weisenthal Center in West Los Angeles. "But it's better safe than late. It just means that people have to be prudent, careful."

Leaders in Jewish neighborhoods in New York's Brooklyn borough called on residents to be vigilant, and for police to beef up patrols.

From wire reports

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