



**NATIONAL SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Potential Activity Alert  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION  
SACRAMENTO DIVISION**

Approved for Release: 24 September 2019

SIR Number: SIR-00328876940

**(U//FOUO) Upcoming “Joker” Movie Prompts Violent Online Threats by Involuntary Celibate Community**

Source: A write-in to this agency.

(U//FOUO) The purpose of this National Situational Information Report is to raise awareness among law enforcement personnel and public safety officials about individuals sharing threatening online posts calling for unspecific mass shootings at showings of the movie, “Joker.” “Joker” is scheduled to open in theaters 4 October, although some theaters may have screenings the evening of 3 October. The FBI received tips of threats posted on multiple social media platforms since at least May 2019. The FBI has no information indicating specific, credible threats to particular locations or venues. If specific threat information is collected, the FBI will respond accordingly.

(U//FOUO) Some of the threats contain references to the involuntary celibate (Incel) community and a subset community known as Clowncel. Some who identify with the primarily online Incel community, believe society unjustly denies them sexual or romantic attention, to which they believe they are entitled. Incels blame social and political movements for empowering others to deny them romantic or sexual attention. Many Incels utilize forums and message boards to commiserate with likeminded individuals. Clowncels support similar beliefs, but use

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*(U) Note: This product reflects the views of the CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, the COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION, and the SACRAMENTO FIELD OFFICE.*

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clown images and motifs in their online posts. While many Incels advocate for societal change through non-violence, some within the community encourage violent acts to generate social change, or as retribution for perceived societal wrongdoing against them.

(U//FOUO) Some of the recent threats referenced the 20 July 2012 mass shooting at an Aurora, Colorado, movie theater showing “The Dark Knight Rises,” during which 12 were killed and 58 wounded. While the connection between the Aurora mass shooter and the Joker character has not been corroborated by investigation, a review of associated online postings reveals that individuals frequently equate the two. Recent posts highlight similarities between “The Dark Knight Rises” and “Joker,” as well as the notoriety achieved by the shooter.

(U) This report has been prepared by the Criminal Investigative Division, Counterterrorism Division, and Sacramento Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Criminal Investigative Division at 202-324-2290 or the Sacramento Division at 916-746-7000.

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**Customer and Product Information**

SIR Tracking ID: SIR-00328876940

Product Title: Upcoming "Joker" Movie Prompts Violent Online Threats by Involuntary Celibate Community

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Relevance to Your Intelligence Needs**

1. The product increased my knowledge of an issue or topic. (Check one)

- 5. Strongly Agree
- 4. Somewhat Agree
- 3. Neither Agree or Disagree
- 2. Somewhat Disagree
- 1. Strongly Disagree

**Actionable Value**

2. The product helped me decide on a course of action. (Check one)

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- 3. Neither Agree or Disagree
- 2. Somewhat Disagree
- 1. Strongly Disagree

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3. The product was timely to my needs. (Check one)

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- 4. Somewhat Agree
- 3. Neither Agree or Disagree
- 2. Somewhat Disagree
- 1. Strongly Disagree

Comments (please use reverse or attach separate page if needed):

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