

# CBRNe4rail

## MEDIA MONITORING

1st Edition, Published December 2025  
Covering the period: 1 June - 30 September 2025



### CBRNe4rail

The EU co-funded project CBRNe4rail (CBRNe preparedness for passenger rail transport hubs) aims to enhance awareness and capabilities of railway stakeholders to effectively respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) emergencies at railway stations by improving their security plans and training railway staff.

### MEDIA MONITORING

As part of the CBRNe4rail dissemination strategy, a media monitoring is being carried out by the UIC Security Department on the topics of rail security and CBRNe. Based on keyword searches performed on LinkedIn, Google news & AP News, the following pages summarize the relevant news items found. This first edition welcomes as an annex an analysis of the IMPRESS Review.

#### Call ID and Topic:

**ISF-2024-TF2-AG-PROTECT;**

**CBRN**

**Grant Agreement No: 101190621**

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**Coordinator:**

**UIC Security Department**



**Co-funded by  
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## METAL THEFT

### EUROSTAR DELAYS AFTER COPPER CABLE THEFT NEAR LILLE (FRANCE)

Copper cable theft near Lille (France), caused major delays and cancellations for Eurostar services on 25 June 2025. Thieves stole over 600 meters of copper cable south of Lille Europe station, disrupting high-speed train traffic already affected due to two track fatalities in France the day before. Emergency repair teams worked throughout the day, but at least six trains between London and Paris were cancelled, with others significantly delayed. Eurostar operated trains on diverted routes with extended journey times and advised passengers to postpone their travel; free exchanges and refunds were offered [1][2][3][4][5].

### EIGHT NABBED OVER ECRL CABLE THEFT (MALAYSIA)

Between 10 and 14 September 2025, Malaysian police arrested eight members of "Geng Musang" and "Geng Jep Gambang" in raids across Temerloh, Kuantan, and Bentong. Six suspects allegedly stole cables from the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project, while two were workers and owners of a scrap metal shop who bought the stolen cables. Nearly one tonne of project components, valued at over RM825,000 and stretching almost 5km, was recovered during the raids. Five suspects tested positive for methamphetamine, and some have criminal records. Authorities are still searching for three more suspects [6].

### NEARLY 1KM OF COPPER CABLE AND BELLS STOLEN FROM HAWKE'S BAY RAILWAYS (NEW ZEALAND)

In late June 2025, thieves stole more than 750 meters of copper cable and four level crossing bells from railway crossings and a bridge in Hawke's Bay, posing major safety risks and prompting police warnings about potentially fatal accidents [7].

## PICKPOCKETING

### Mobile phones snatching cases on trains (India)

The Railway Protection Force in Kerala (India) successfully solved three mobile snatching incidents on moving trains in August 2025. In one case, the thief used a stick during a violent robbery before being apprehended [8].

## GENERAL THEFT

### SNCF RAIL POLICE STEP UP VIGILANCE FOR SUMMER DEPARTURES (FRANCE)

As the summer holiday season began, SNCF rail security agents intensified patrols to prevent theft, fraud, and incivilities, ensuring safer and calmer travel conditions for passengers during peak departures [9].

### VIOLENT THIEF ADMITS TRAIN ROBBERIES (UK)

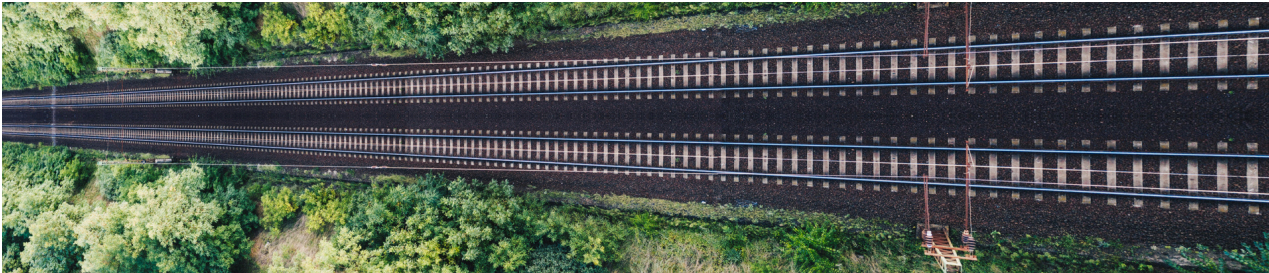
On 11 September 2025, Teddy Kelt confessed in Inner London Crown Court to multiple violent robberies committed across London trains and stations in December 2024. Over four days, he targeted passengers with knives and machetes—threatening, striking, and robbing victims of nearly £4,000 worth of valuables. Kelt pleaded guilty to robbery, attempted robbery, assault, and possessing bladed weapons; sentencing is set for 16 October 2025 [10].



## INSIDER THREAT

### Security threat prompts suspension of Madaraka Express train (Kenya)

Kenya's Madaraka Express train from Mombasa to Nairobi was suspended on 6 July 2025, officially due to technical issues. However, a close politician linked to the President revealed it was actually a security precaution after intelligence warned of a planned attack on passengers. The train service resumed the next day, with Kenya Railways offering refunds and alternative travel to affected passengers [11].



## HOAX

### **BOMB THREAT TURNS OUT TO BE HOAX (INDIA)**

A bomb threat received on 1 June 2025 evening targeting Jammu Railway Station (India) was found to be a hoax after an extensive search led by police and railway security. The premises were thoroughly checked using sniffer dogs and metal detectors, with no suspicious items found. Authorities are actively working to identify the unknown caller. The incident occurred shortly before the scheduled inauguration of the Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir, prompting heightened security measures at the station [12].

### **MAN ARRESTED FOR HOAX BOMB THREAT AT RAILWAY STATION (UK)**

A man was arrested by British Transport Police at Oxford railway station after making a false bomb threat on July 2025. The individual was removed from a train and taken into custody following reports of the hoax threat, which caused disruption but was proven to be a false alarm [13].

## ABANDONED LUGGAGE

### **Newborn abandoned in bag on train found near Moradabad (India)**

A newborn baby boy was found abandoned inside a travel bag in an AC second-class coach of the Patna-Chandigarh Summer Special train just before it reached Moradabad station (India). Passengers alerted railway officials after noticing suspicious movement in the bag. The baby, who still had his umbilical cord attached, rushed to the hospital and is now stable after receiving intensive care for breathing difficulties. Railway police are investigating the case, reviewing CCTV footage from stations along the train route to identify the culprit. A SIM card found in the bag helped trace the baby's family, revealing a tragic background involving rape of the minor mother by her father [14].



## AGRESSION

### PHYSICAL

#### **RSSB reports 53% rise in assaults on rail staff; fatal attack at Ilford station (UK)**

The Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) revealed a 53% increase in assaults against railway staff in the past year, highlighting growing safety risks for frontline workers. The report marks the tragic death of Jorge Ortega, a gateline worker fatally injured during an assault at Ilford station. The rail industry is responding with enhanced training, body-worn cameras, and body armour to protect staff. The report also highlights ongoing issues with trespassing and a national rise in railway suicides. Industry leaders emphasize the need for a fundamental change in public behavior to improve safety outcomes across UK railways [15].

### VERBAL

#### AGAINST STAFF

#### **LNER staff praise body cameras for curbing abuse (UK)**

LNER employees who faced verbal abuse and threats are reporting positive results after 180 body-worn cameras were deployed. Staff say the cameras have helped reduce incidents and improve their safety while working on trains and at stations [16].

#### **RMT survey: 63% of transport workers suffered workplace violence (UK)**

According to a recent RMT union survey of over 6,000 public transport workers, almost two-thirds (63%) experienced workplace violence in the past year, with the majority facing verbal abuse. Many staff reported repeated incidents, highlighting a growing security concern in the UK's transport sector [17][18][19].

#### AGAINST STAFF AND PASSENGERS

#### **Passenger complaints: alcohol, drugs, and abuse on rail services (Ireland)**

Passengers on trains to and from Cork have reported widespread antisocial behavior including public drug use (heroin and cocaine), alcohol consumption, loud and aggressive conduct, and verbal abuse; creating unsafe and uncomfortable conditions. Many passengers lament the lack of staff presence and effective security intervention. Irish Rail acknowledges these societal challenges and has implemented proactive and preventative measures, including increased security presence and cooperation with An Garda Síochána to address and respond rapidly to these incidents. Despite these efforts, staff report feeling afraid to work on certain routes due to the level of antisocial behaviour [20][21].

## VANDALISM

### **Police arrest 29 suspects for vandalism on trains (Spain)**

Spanish National Police have arrested 29 individuals across Spain, including four in Malaga, alleged to be responsible for 287 graffiti incidents on trains, causing nearly 1.5 million euros in economic damage primarily in Madrid and Andalusia. The suspects demonstrated high planning and professionalism, studying train schedules and carrying specialized tools. They often recorded and shared their vandalism on social media [22].

### **Vehicles vandalized at multiple Long Island rail stations (USA)**

Suffolk County police reported at least four incidents of vehicle vandalism at several Long Island rail stations at the beginning of June 2025. The damages include broken windows and other forms of criminal mischief. The Third Precinct Crime Section is currently investigating the incidents as concerned residents seek answers about the vandalism affecting their parked vehicles [23].

### **MoU to combat railway vandalism and crime (Zambia)**

Zambia Police Service and Zambia Railways Limited signed an MoU to jointly fight vandalism, theft, and encroachment on railway property on 10 September 2025. The partnership includes coordinated patrols, scrap metal trade controls, security assessments and public awareness campaigns to protect critical infrastructure that supports Zambia's economic growth and regional trade [24].



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **France deploys 4,000 police officers for Operation Sentinelle (France)**

In June 2025, France deployed 4,000 police, gendarmes, customs officers, and military personnel as part of Operation Sentinelle to conduct intensive identity checks and arrests of illegal migrants at train stations and transport hubs. Since the start of 2025, approximately 47,000 foreigners without valid documentation have been apprehended. The operation involved patrolling trains and major French cities, targeting irregular immigration and increasing border controls [25].

## KNIFE ATTACK

### **2 KNIFE ATTACKS/DAY IN 2025 (GERMANY)**

Germany experiences nearly two knife attacks per day in train stations and on trains, with 609 incidents reported in 2024 and a rising trend in 2025. Most attacks happen in stations and public transport, and the number of knives seized by the police increased significantly [26].

### **PASSENGERS WOUNDED IN TRAIN KNIFE ATTACK (GERMANY)**

On 3 July 2025, a man attacked and wounded four people with a knife on a high-speed train traveling from Hamburg to Vienna, Germany. The train made an emergency stop after passengers pulled the brake, allowing quick police intervention and arrest of the assailant. Around 500 passengers were on board during the incident. Injuries were reported to be minor, and emergency services treated the victims on-site. The investigation of the motive and suspect's background is ongoing [27][28].



### **STABBER SENTENCED (USA)**

Esono-Asue attacked a woman with a fork, then stabbed the 16-year-old in the back and the 14-year-old in the leg, was sentenced to prison. The motive remains unclear, though witness reports indicated the perpetrator made derogatory comments prior to the assaults [29].



## GRAFFITI

### CAUGHT RED-HANDED SPRAY-PAINTING TRAIN (THAILAND)

On 13 July 2025, a Japanese tourist was arrested for spray-painting the locomotive and carriages of an express train traveling the Bangkok-Sungai Kolok route near a railway bridge. Police apprehended the tourist at the scene with 10 spray paint cans in his possession. The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) condemned the vandalism, emphasizing legal action and deterrence to protect national railway assets [30].

### SENTENCE FOR €60,000 DAMAGE TO TRAINS AND PEPPER-SPRAYING DRIVER (IRELAND)

Sean Cullen, a 22-year-old Dublin graffiti artist, received a four-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty to causing over €60,000 worth of damage to Irish Rail carriages and pepper-spraying a train driver who confronted him. The incidents dated back several years and included multiple graffiti attacks on trains and railway property [31].





## SABOTAGE

### SUSPECTED SABOTAGE DURING NATO SUMMIT (THE NETHERLANDS)

In June 2025 NATO summit in The Hague, a fire damaged nearly 30 rail cables near Schiphol Airport, causing widespread disruption to train services connecting the airport to Amsterdam, Utrecht, and surrounding areas. Dutch authorities are investigating the incident as possible sabotage amid heightened security for the summit, which involves 27,000 police and 10,000 military personnel. The fire coincided with cyberattacks by a pro-Russian hacker group targeting NATO-related websites. While investigations continue, the disruption severely impacted travel logistics for summit attendees and the public [33][34][35].

### MAJOR FIRE DISRUPTING RAIL TRAFFIC (GERMANY)

A fire on the main railway line caused major disruptions to train services across western Germany at the end of July 2025. Police suspect the incident to be deliberate sabotage, marking the second arson attack in the area within two days. The attacks damaged cable infrastructure, affecting one of Germany's busiest rail corridors linking the Ruhr industrial region with northern Europe. Responsibility for the first blaze was claimed by a far-left anarchist group, "Angry Birds Kommando," protesting industrial systems [36][37].

### COPPER CABLE AND BELLS STOLEN FROM RAILWAYS (FRANCE)

"Block Everything" protests in France triggered widespread sabotage and strikes, severely disrupting train services and transport infrastructure. Protesters blocked roads, set fires, damaged power lines, and occupied railway stations in major cities, causing major travel chaos. Authorities deployed 80,000 police officers and made hundreds of arrests to control the unrest on 10 September 2025 [38].



## FRAUD

### IDENTITY

#### **Woman arrested for railway job scam and defrauding victims (India)**

Pettah police in Thiruvananthapuram arrested a woman defrauding several people by offering fake jobs in Indian Railways. She used a forged identity card claiming to be a senior clerk and promised recruitment while collecting large sums of money. Victims were provided fake documents and offer letters and realized the scam after verification with officials. The suspect was previously arrested in a similar case, and investigations are ongoing to uncover her connections and links to a larger racket involving forged railway job offers [39].

### TICKET

#### **Indian Railways act against ticketing scams and passenger disorder (India)**

In June 2025, Indian Railways' online ticketing platform IRCTC launched a major crackdown on ticket fraud. The platform deactivated 2.5 crore (25 million) fake user IDs and flagged 2.9 lakh suspicious PNRs linked to unfair practices such as hoarding and reselling tickets, especially high-demand Tatkal tickets, using disposable emails and automated bots. To curb abuse, new measures include Aadhaar-based identity verification for Tatkal bookings and a 30 minute restriction on agent bookings after ticket sales open. On 2 August 2025, a separate incident occurred on a Dadar–Virar suburban train in Mumbai, where a passenger without a valid ticket turned violent after being asked to disembark at Borivali station. Inside the ticket checker's office, he damaged computer equipment, attacked railway staff, and issued threats. Both the passenger and a staff member sustained injuries and received medical aid. The individual was handed over to the Government Railway Police for further action [4][41][42][43].

#### **UK Transport Secretary backs ORR report highlighting inconsistent and harsh ticket enforcement practices (UK)**

The UK's Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander fully supports a June 2025 Office of Rail and Road (ORR) report that reveals significant inconsistency and sometimes harsh enforcement in rail ticketing rules across train operators. The report found passengers often confused by complex ticket rules and unaware of their rights if accused of fare evasion, leading to disproportionate penalties especially for genuine mistakes. Alexander emphasized the professionalism of front-line staff but noted the need for enforcement to be fair and proportionate. The Department for Transport and Rail Delivery Group are coordinating responses and projects to improve transparency, fairness, and passenger understanding of fares and enforcement [44].

## SECURITY MEASURES

### NS LAUNCH PILOT SCHEME ARMING SECURITY STAFF WITH BATONS (THE NETHERLANDS)

The Dutch rail company (NS) announced in late July 2025 its intention to launch a pilot scheme arming 75 of its security staff with batons. This decision comes in response to a significant increase in violence against NS employees, with incidents rising from 160 in 2019 to approximately 340 in 2024. NS submitted a formal request to the Ministry of Justice and Security, whose screening authority, Justis, will assess the proposal. The decision period for approval is 13 weeks. If approved, an external research agency will supervise and evaluate the trial, though the exact start date and design are yet to be determined [45].

### SBB IMPLEMENTS MULTI-LEVEL VIOLENCE PREVENTION TO PROTECT STAFF (SWITZERLAND)

The Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) addresses violence against employees as a widespread societal challenge by implementing a comprehensive prevention system. Key measures include clear behavioral guidelines, focused de-escalation training, strategic use of security personnel and technology, strict legal prosecution of offenders, and psychosocial support for affected staff. The campaign aims to enhance safety and foster respect between travelers and employees in public transport environments [46].







## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

### **ATTACKS AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS ON SCOTLAND'S TRAINS (UK)**

There has been a significant rise in violent attacks against women and girls on Scotland's trains, reflecting a broader UK-wide trend. Recent data shows crimes against women on British railways increased from 7,561 cases in 2021 to 11,357 in 2023, with a doubling of sexual harassment reports and a 10% jump in sexual offences. Most attacks occur during busy evening rush hours. Authorities and activists emphasize the urgent need for tougher sentencing and improved security measures. Ongoing campaigns aim to educate passengers on recognizing and security intervening in harassment incidents [47].

### **MAN ACCUSED OF CARRYING WIFE'S DISMEMBERED BODY ONTO PUBLIC TRAIN IN SUITCASE (USA)**

California man Valentino Gutierrez, 64, is accused of murdering and dismembering his wife, Tiana Alfred, then carrying her remains in a suitcase on a public train before setting it on fire in a Home Depot parking lot in Pasadena. The case, dating back to 2018, has been suspended pending a mental health evaluation. Gutierrez faces charges of murder and arson and has a lengthy criminal history. If convicted, he could face life in prison [48].

### **LEGAL ACTION AND PROTESTS AFTER WOMAN VIOLENTLY ASSAULTED BY RAILWAY SECURITY (BELGIUM)**

At Brussels North Station, a woman was allegedly violently assaulted by Securail railway security agents in an incident described as racially aggravated. The victim, Grace T., has filed legal complaints for assault and battery, with her lawyer emphasizing racist motivation and calling for anti-racism training. The event sparked public protests and drew reactions from SNCB, which has launched an internal investigation and pledged serious action depending on the outcome of inquiries [49].





# ANNEX IMPRESS REVIEW: AN ANALYSIS



## ABOUT

The CBRNe4rail project builds on the work of the IMPRESS project, which focused on improving the protection of stations and trains through security training and awareness programmes for all stakeholders. IMPRESS addressed terrorism and violent crimes through a broader security culture framework and included CBRN as part of its scope. The IMPRESS CBRN awareness materials and training module are now being carried forward and expanded in the CBRNe4rail project's training development.

Similarly to CBRNe4rail, the IMPRESS project also carried out a media monitoring throughout its two-year project lifetime. To provide a more comprehensive picture of rail security issues, we analysed the security incidents compiled in the seven editions of the IMPRESS Review. The following pages present our key findings.

Find out more about the IMPRESS project, read all the IMPRESS Reviews, and download the awareness materials and serious game on the website: [impress-rail-project.eu](http://impress-rail-project.eu)  
The training materials are available for download from the [UIC Rail Security Hub](http://UIC Rail Security Hub).

### Important Disclaimer

This analysis is not a comprehensive representation of all global incidents. Results are influenced by:

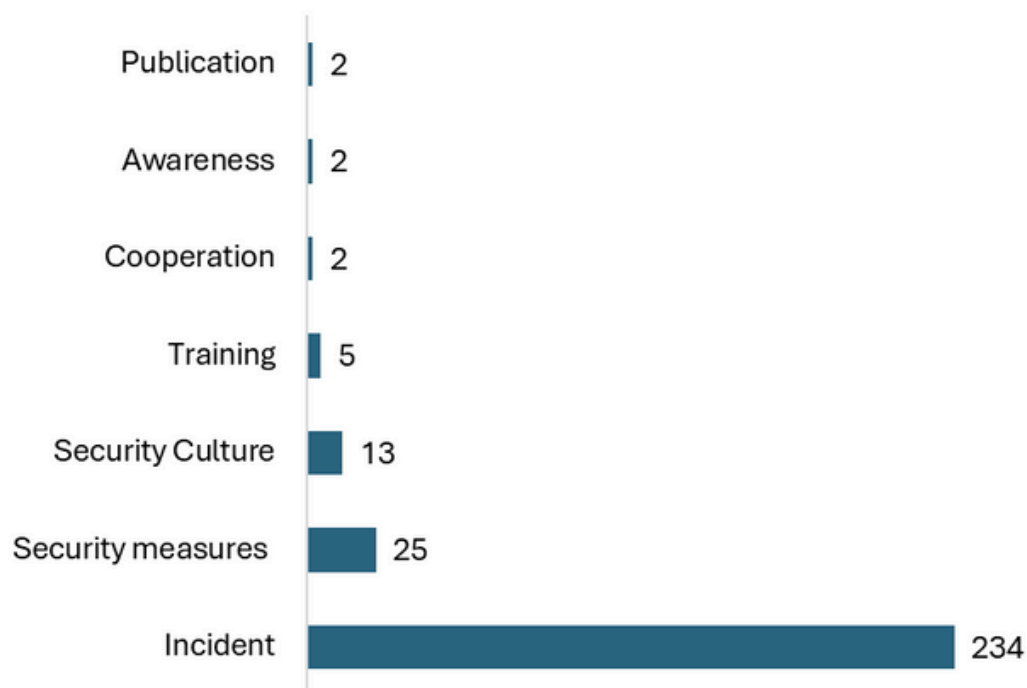
- Keyword-based filtering, which may exclude relevant cases
- Media coverage bias, favoring regions with higher reporting activity or focusing only on major events or cases of substantial public interest
- Language, as searches were mainly carried out in English
- Source limitations, as for example only publicly available media were monitored

**Consequently, these figures should be interpreted as indicative trends within the monitored dataset, not as an exhaustive or globally accurate picture.**



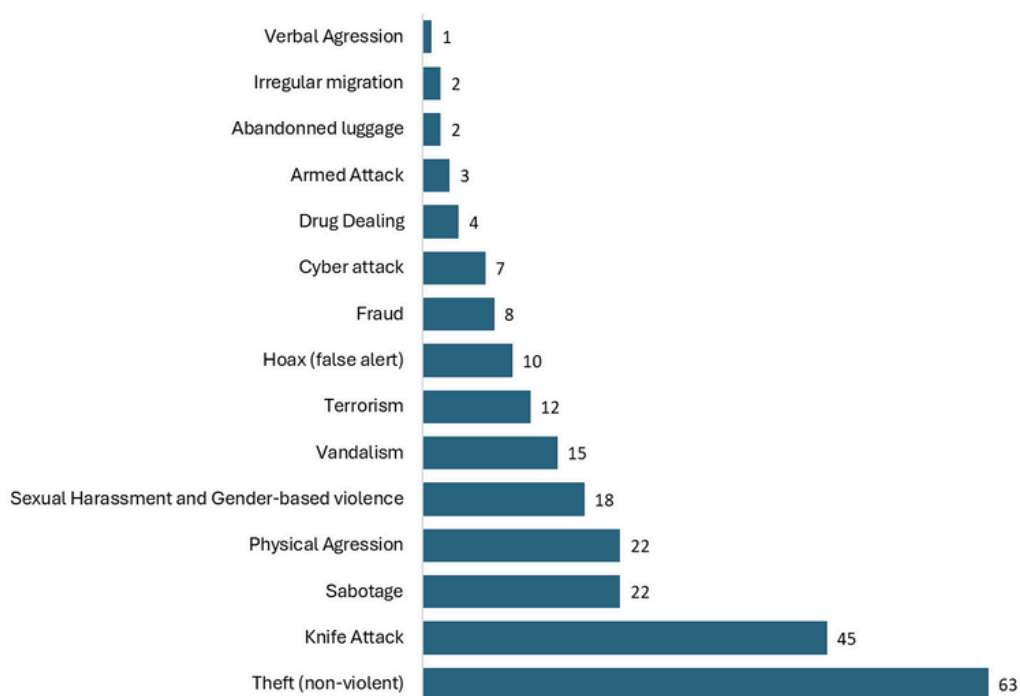
## GLOBAL OVERVIEW

- **Total news documented:** 283 security events
- **About:**
  - Awareness
  - Cooperation
  - Incident
  - Publication
  - Security Culture
  - Security Measures
  - Training
- **Period covered:** 7 editions across 24 months
- **Geographic scope:** 5 UIC regions (Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, North America, Latin America)



## CORE DATA ANALYSIS

### 1. INCIDENT DISTRIBUTION



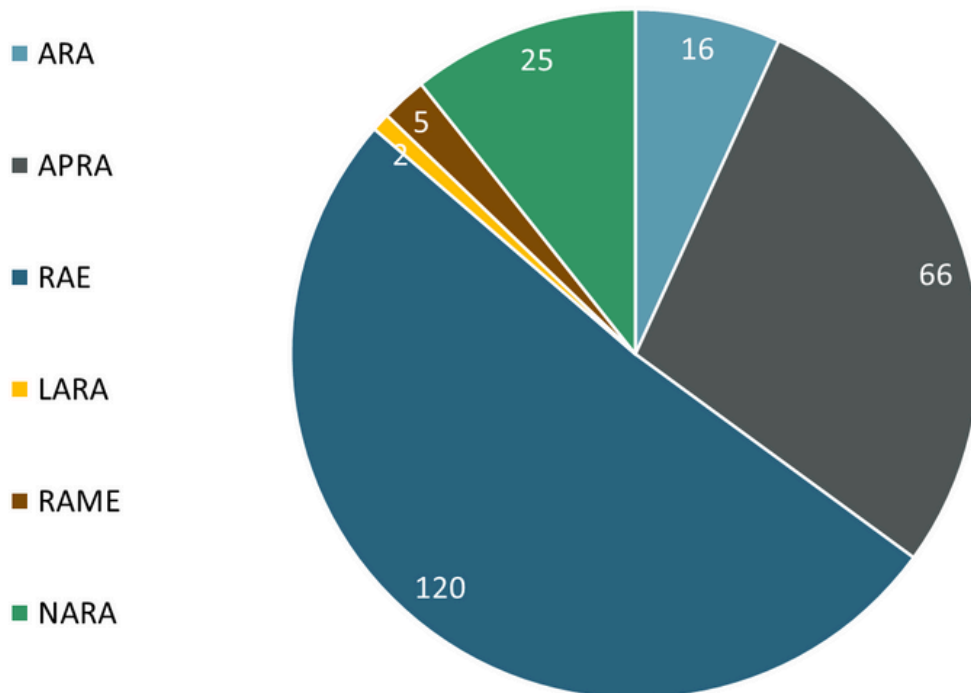
Over the past two years, the IMPRESS Media Monitoring registered 234 security-related (malicious) incidents in the global rail sector, offering an indicative view of the current threat landscape:

Non-violent theft is the most frequently reported threat, with 63 incidents, often targeting infrastructure such as cables, metal, and batteries.

Knife attacks follow as the most common violent incident, with 45 cases, highlighting persistent risks to both passengers and staff.

Other significant reported threats include physical aggression (22), sabotage (22), and sexual harassment and gender-based violence (18).

## 2. SECURITY INCIDENT DISTRIBUTION ACROSS UIC REGIONS

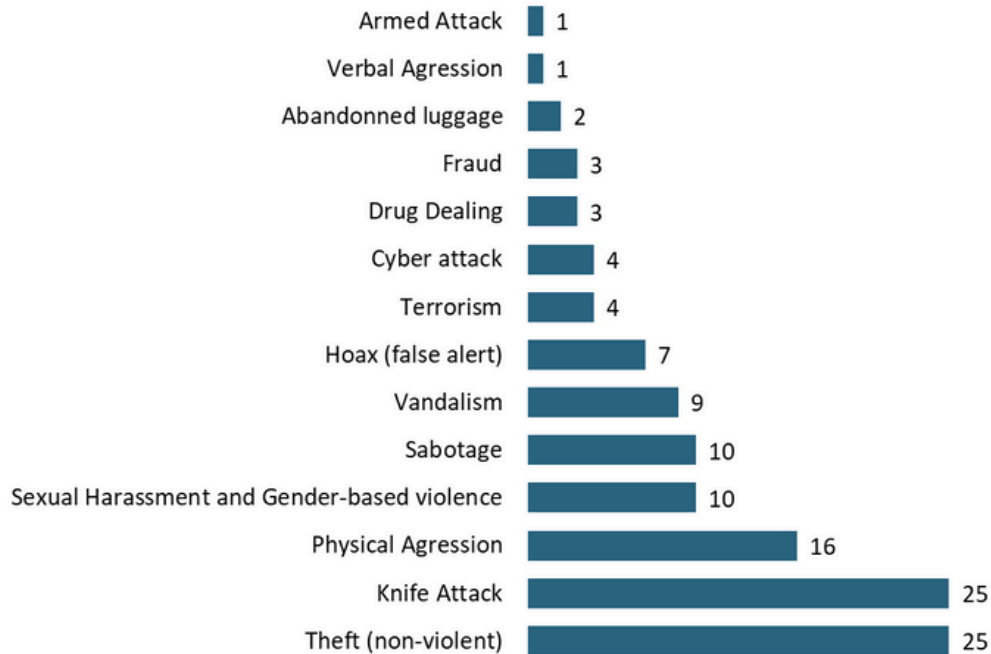


The chart shows the number of security-related incidents recorded in each UIC region during the monitoring period:

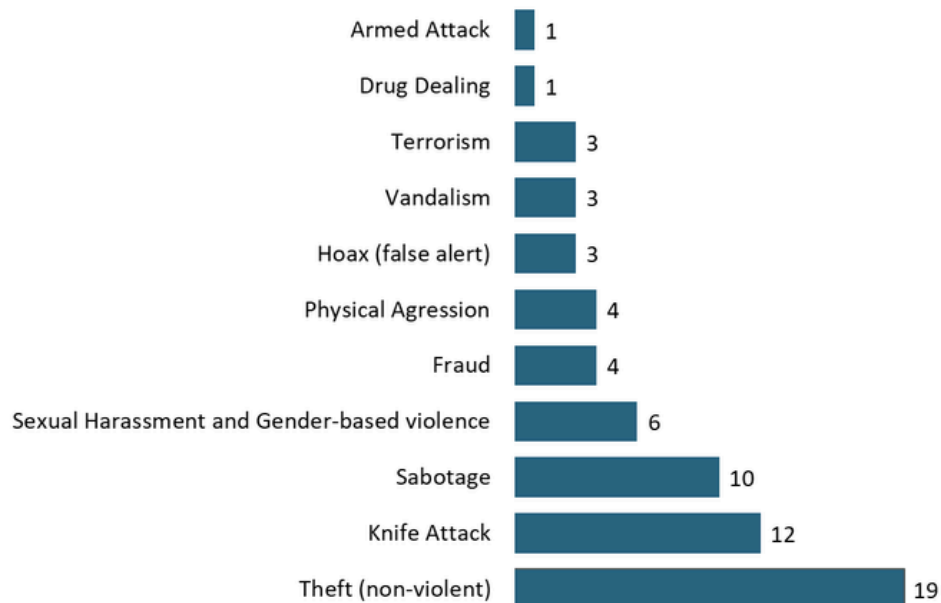
- **RAE (Europe) – 120 incidents:** Europe represents the largest share of reported cases, this may partly reflect the extensive media coverage and keyword relevance in this region. Reported incidents include a wide range of threats, from non-violent theft and knife attacks to physical aggression and, gender-based violence and sexual harassment.
- **APRA (Asia-Pacific) – 66 incidents:** Asia-Pacific ranks second, with a diverse mix of threats such as non-violent theft, knife attack, and sabotage incidents.
- **NARA (North America) – 25 incidents:** North America shows a moderate number of incidents, primarily involving non-violent theft and knife attack, alongside occasional gender-based violence and sexual harassment, and terrorism cases.
- **ARA (Africa) – 16 incidents:** Africa's reported incidents include non-violent theft, vandalism, and isolated cases of physical aggression, sabotage and cyber attack.
- **RAME (Middle East) – 5 incidents:** Incidents registered for the Middle East are limited but include serious threats such as terrorism, knife attack and cyber attack.
- **LARA (Latin America) – 2 incidents:** Latin America registers the fewest cases, mainly involving non-violent theft and irregular migration. This may partly reflect the language used for the monitoring (English).



## 2.1. EUROPEAN REGION (RAE)

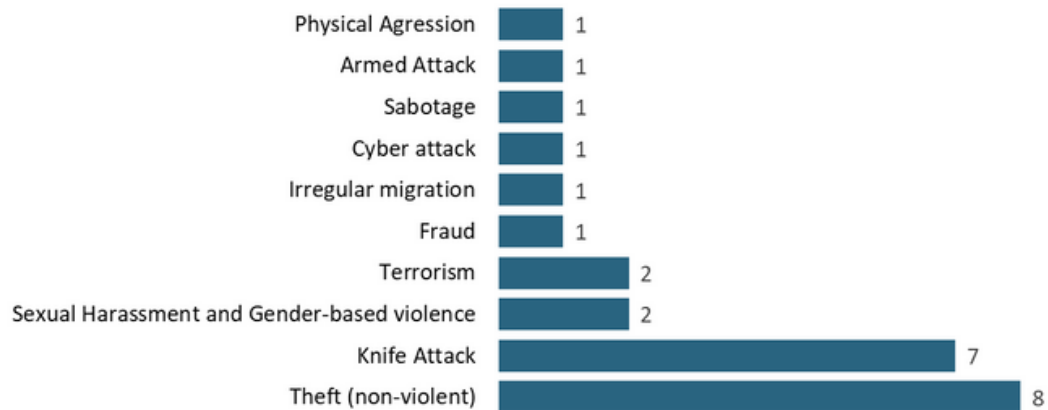


## 2.2. ASIA-PACIFIC REGION (APRA)

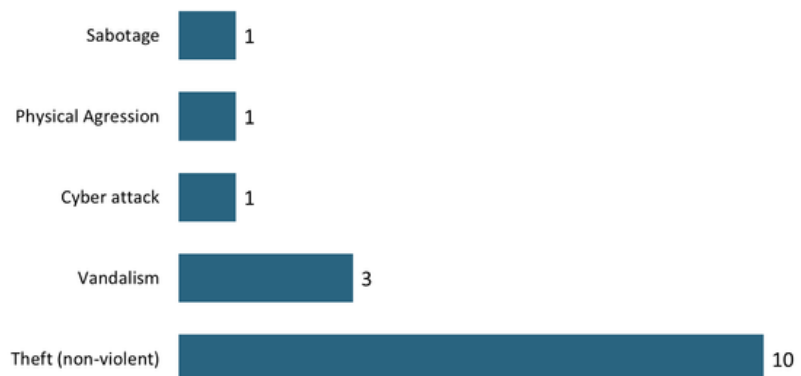




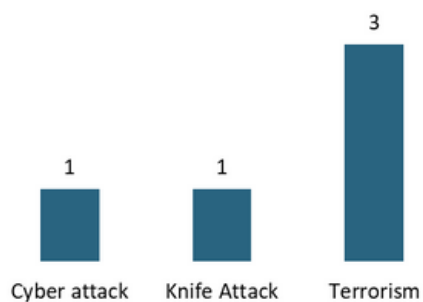
### 2.3. NORTH AMERICA REGION (NARA)



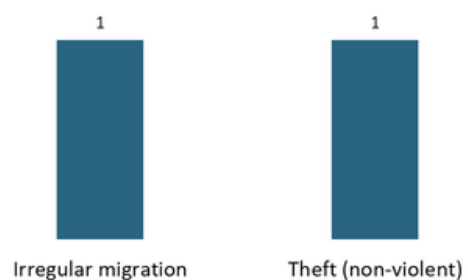
### 2.4. AFRICAN REGION (ARA)



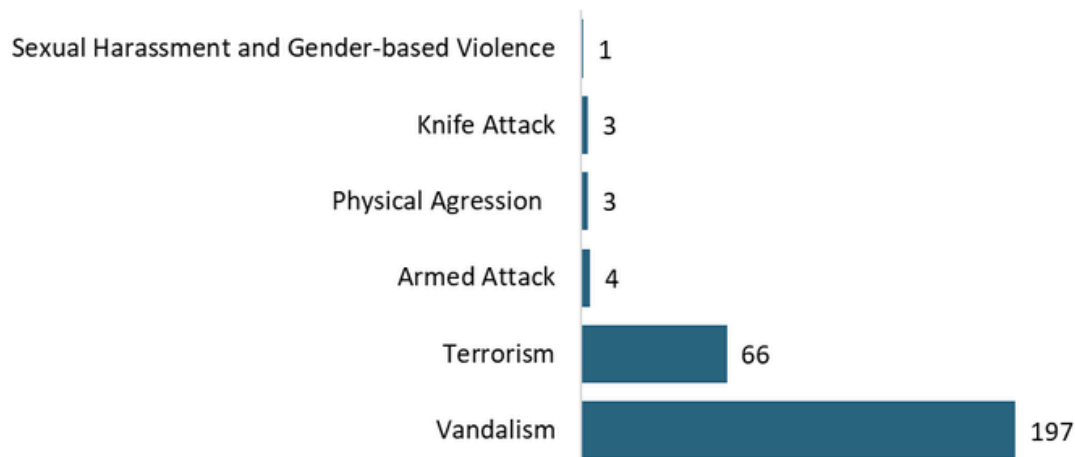
### 2.5. MIDDLE EAST REGION (RAME)



### 2.6. LATIN AMERICA REGION (LARA)

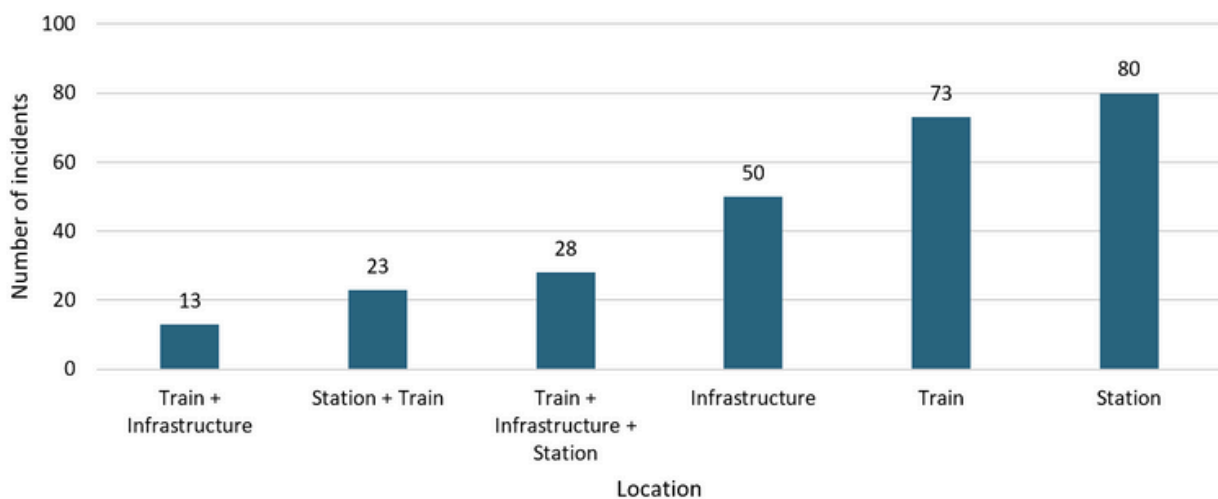


### 3. FATALITIES



Fatalities are overwhelmingly linked to vandalism (197 deaths), making it the most lethal category in the dataset. Terrorism follows with 66 fatalities, while other threats—such as armed attacks (4), knife attacks (3), physical aggression (3), and sexual harassment and gender-based violence (1)—account for significantly fewer cases. This stark contrast highlights the severe impact of large-scale disruptive acts compared to interpersonal violence.

### 4. INCIDENTS PER LOCATION

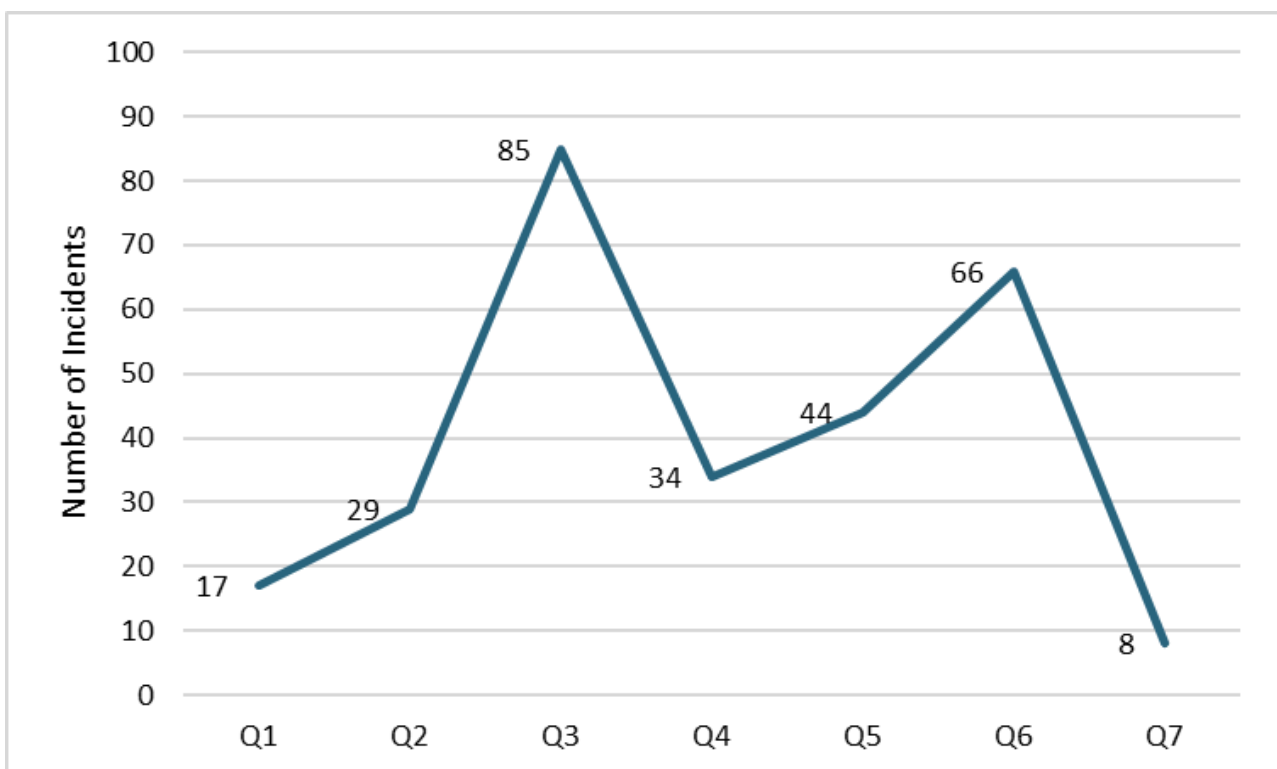


Reported incidents mostly occur in rail stations.

## 5. INCIDENTS OVER TIME

To examine trends over the two-year monitoring period, the timeframe was divided into seven quarters, allowing for a more granular view of changes in threat occurrence.

Here are the overall incidents recorded for each quarter.

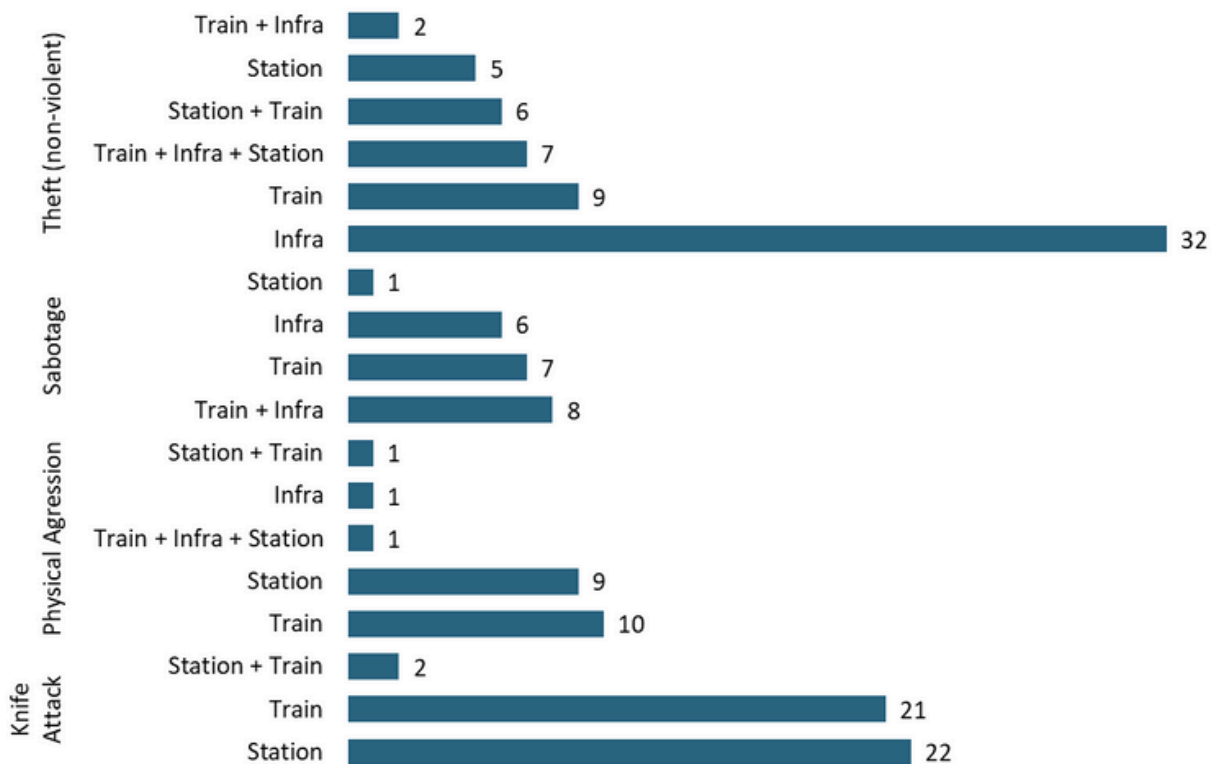


Reported incidents mostly occur in rail stations.



## SPECIFIC ANALYSIS: RECURRENT THREATS

### 1. RECURRENT THREATS PER LOCATION

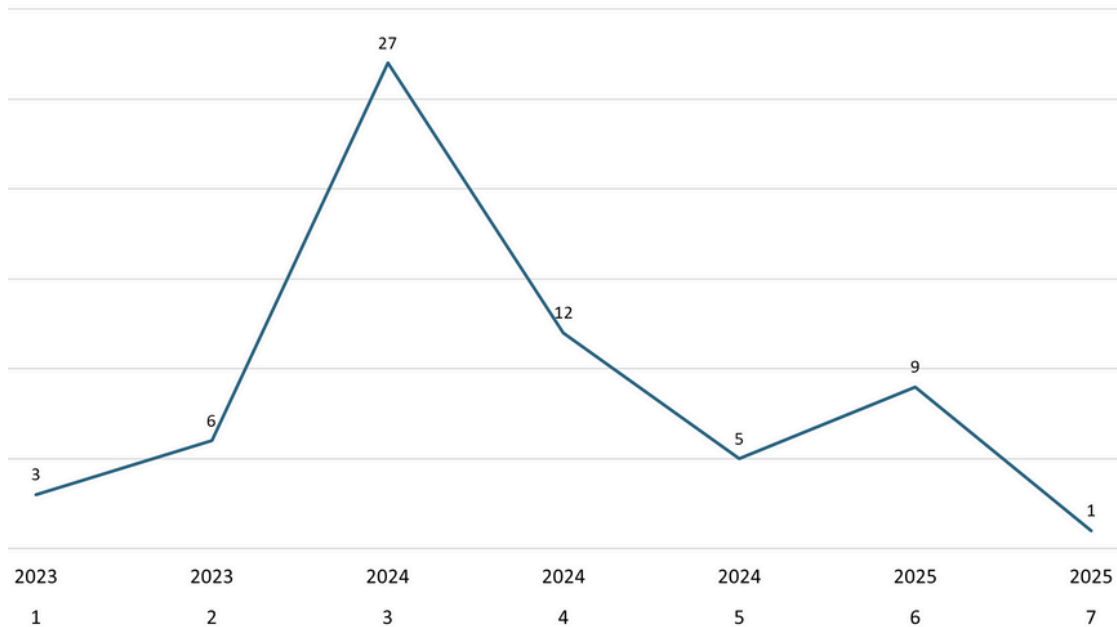


The data shows clear patterns in where recurrent threats occur:

- **Non-violent theft** is overwhelmingly concentrated in infrastructure (32 cases), with additional occurrences on trains (9) and mixed locations such as train–station (6) or train–infrastructure–station (7).
- **Sabotage** also targets infrastructure (6) and trains (7), with combined-location incidents adding complexity.
- **Physical aggression** is most frequent on trains (10) and stations (9), highlighting passenger areas as key risk points.
- **Knife attacks** are almost evenly split between stations (22) and trains (21), confirming both as critical hotspots for violent threats.

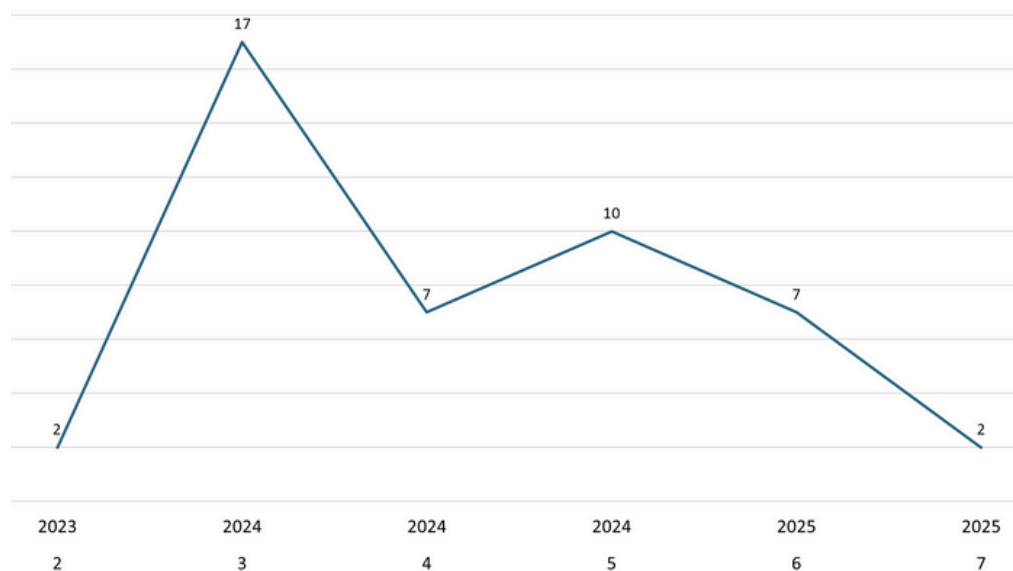
In the following section, we focus on the most recurrent threats identified by the IMPRESS Review, analyzing their evolution across these intervals. The graphs only show quarters where a data point was recorded.

## 2.1.THEFT NON-VIOLENT



This pattern suggests a temporary surge in theft activity during 2024, with subsequent stabilization at lower levels.

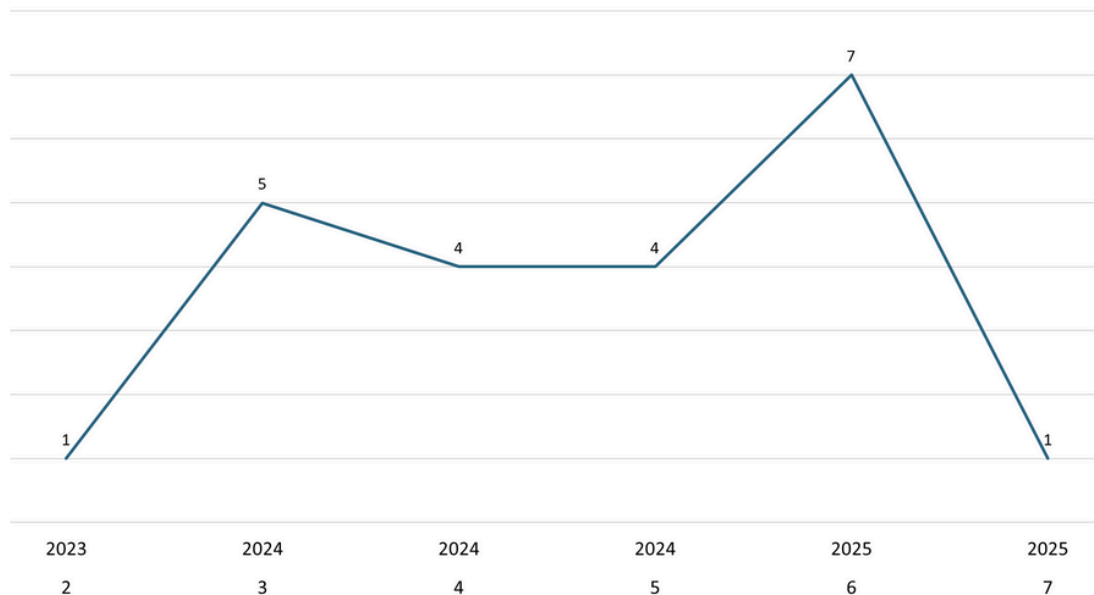
## 2.2. KNIFE ATTACK



This pattern suggests an episodic spike rather than a sustained increase, possibly linked to isolated clusters or heightened reporting during specific periods.

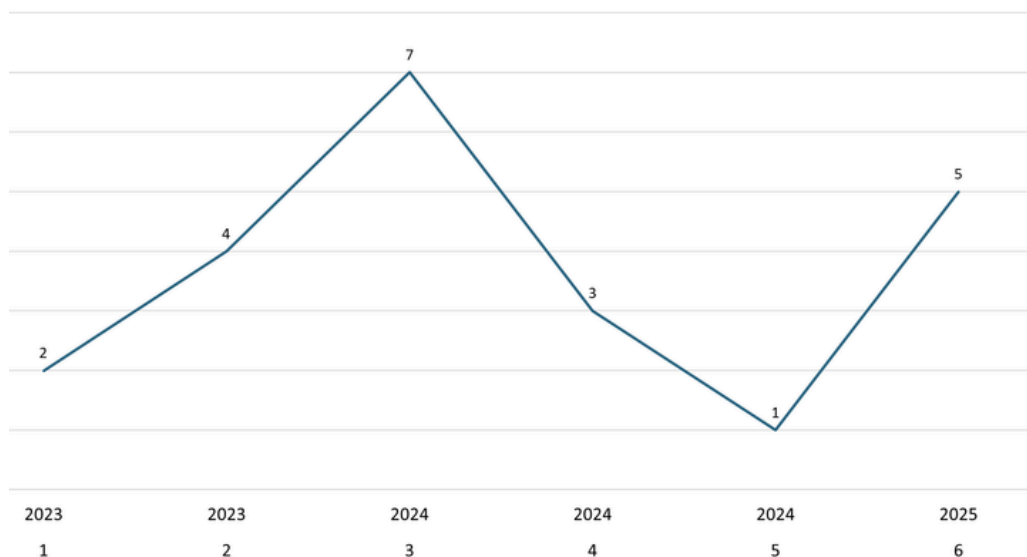


## 2.3. PHYSICAL AGGRESSION



This pattern suggests sporadic increases rather than sustained growth, with peaks likely linked to isolated events or temporary reporting intensification.

## 2.4. SABOTAGE



This pattern reflects episodic surges rather than consistent growth, with fluctuations likely linked to isolated events or specific operational disruptions. The resurgence in 2025 suggests that sabotage remains a persistent risk, particularly for infrastructure, which previous data identified as the primary target for this threat.

## SOURCES

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