CBRNe4rail MEDIA MONITORING

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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.

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THEFT (NON-VIOLENT)

GENERAL THEFT

Sentences for luggage theft (UK)

On 19 June, three individuals were given sentences of around two years following a luggage theft. On 16 October 2025, the men had stolen two pieces of luggage from a family boarding a taxi outside St Pancras Station (London, UK), with items inside worth over £600,000. One of the individuals had at least already done similar thefts on five occasions. Two were caught on the day while the last one was found in November. [1] Another man was sentenced on 6 August to one year and 10 months in prison for a crime commited on 11 April 2026, whereby he had distracted the victim and left with the suitcase containing £175,000 worth of high value items. He was later recognised through CCTV and caught by the police. [2][3]

Items having been stolen from freight trains recovered (USA)

On 19 August, authorities recovered $30k in Lego sets allegedly stolen from a freight train. The 123 boxes were found in an abandoned van in Newberry Springs (California, USA), but no suspects have been named. [4] On 24 August, also in California, the police stopped a car at a traffic stop, arresting a man suspected of having stolen $150k worth of shoes, after having received warnings that multiple people had broken into freight train wagons. [6]

R2 billion losses due to theft and vandalism (South Africa)

In the 2025/26 financial year, Transnet, South Africa's freight rail company, declared losses of almost R2 billion due to theft and vandalism, despite a 7% reduction in the number of incidents to 5,870. At the same time, the company spent R3.7 billion on security measures, and the volume of freight transported increased by 5%. [7]



PICK POCKETING

PHONE THEFTS ON TRAINS (INDIA)

A video was published showing an individual kicked out of a moving train by a passenger in response to an alleged phone theft on 20 July in India. The Government Rail Police have already identified the individuals and are investigating what happened. [46] Two individuals were caught by the police on 7 August in Kochi, India, after an alleged series of phone theft on trains. The duo would steal phones left unattended or picked them from bags. They were found through CCTV and linked to at least 15 cases. [47]



METAL THEFT

Rise in railway cable theft disrupts services (New Zealand)

Rail operators in New Zealand reported a significant increase in cable and rail equipment thefts during June 2026, particularly in the Wellington region (New Zealand). On 15 June, an individual attempted to steal copper from a railway tunnel, causing the line between Wellington and Porirua (New Zealand) to be closed for the morning [8][9]. A separate attempted theft on Auckland's Eastern Line on 24 June caused reduced service frequencies. Authorities linked the trend to rising copper scrap prices and reported repeated line closures and operational delays. [10][11][12]

Cable theft incidents lead to arrests and infrastructure damage (Malaysia)

Between 15 and 16 June 2026, Malaysian authorities cracked down on multiple railway cable theft incidents, arresting suspected offenders linked to cable thefts on the ECRL project in Kelantan and the KTM network in Perak. There, thefts affected signalling infrastructure and one suspect was electrocuted while attempting to steal high-voltage railway cables. [13]

Police crack down on metal theft (Canada)

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (Canada) launched a dedicated operation on 18 June 2026 following 38 theft incidents between February and May, including thefts affecting railway infrastructure. Stolen materials included copper wiring, scrap metal, tools and electrical wiring. [14]

Copper cable theft disrupts high-speed services (Italy)

On 19 June morning, unidentified individuals stole copper cables on the high-speed line between Rome and Naples. Services were cancelled and delayed due to rerouting. [15]

Railway tracks, overhead wire and signalling cables stolen (India)

On 24 June, 500 metres of railway tracks from a disused line were stolen from the high-security Willingdon Island port zone in Kochi, India. The incident surprised due to the challenge of cutting and moving tonnes of steel in an area restricted from the public and under round-the-clock surveillance by security forces. [16] On 9 July, thieves stole around 100 meters of 25kv overhead wire in Bihar, India, disrupting train services for around three hours. The Railway Protection Force has recovered the wire and an investigation is ongoing. [22][23][24][25][26] On 19 August, the theft of signalling cables from a railway yard in Bhopal, India, disrupted four passenger trains by up to 60 minutes. The cables were subsequently recovered from a man and his alleged accomplice after identifying them thanks to solar powered cameras installed around the station. [42]

Signalling cable theft causes major rail disruptions (UK)

Three signalling cable theft incidents caused significant disruption to rail services in the UK during summer 2026. On 29 June, thefts between Newark Northgate, Lincoln and Grantham affected Grand Central and LNER services, causing delays, cancellations and diversions. A further theft on 9 July disrupted services through Doncaster, leading to cancellations and reduced operations during the morning. [17][18][19][20][21] An attempt to steal signalling cables on 30 July led to services being disrupted in the morning on a Scottish line. [39][40] Then, following the suspected theft of signalling cables on 30 August, trains between London and several regions in the UK faced delays. [43]

Stolen sleepers and rail tracks (Nigeria)

On 8 July, military troops intercepted at a checkpoint a vehicle carrying railway sleepers thought to have been stolen from rail infrastructure in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria. One suspect was apprehended while two others fled the scene. [27] On 15 July, the Oyo Police arrested three suspected members of a railway vandalism syndicate, finding around ₦200 million worth of stolen rail tracks. These appear to have been stolen in another state and transported as part of a coordinated operation. [29][30]





Trains cancelled following attempted cable theft (Belgium)

On 14 July, trains were cancelled for a morning between Bruges and Ostend (Belgium) following an attempted cable theft. Thieves left empty-handed before the police arrived but had cut many cables. [28]

Charges and arrests for damages to signaling cables (New Zealand)

On 23 July, a man was arrested and charged following damages done to railway signaling cables on 3 July in Tawa, New Zealand. [34] On 31 July, A man was arrested following a series of signalling power cabling thefts on the Wellington line, causing damage. Around 5km of cable have gone missing in the region in the first half of 2026. [41]

Cable thefts on both high-speed and regional rail (Spain)

On 22 July, a cable theft between Barcelona and Girona (Spain) limited high speed rail morning services. The incident happened a day after a similar theft on regional lines close by which had caused major fires and damage to the railway infrastructure. [35] Then, a cable theft on 10 September in Catalonia, disrupted railway traffic regulation systems, leading to the interruption of circulation of regional trains. [45]

Suspects arrested following rail infrastructure theft (South Africa)

On 23 July, two men were arrested after stolen rail goods were uncovered in South Africa. These include overhead track equipment, rails, batteries and copper, for a total value of approximately R10 million. [37][38]

Additional investigation related to rail material theft (Romania)

On 4 September, Romanian Transport Police officers carried out six searches related to the theft of rail materials. A total of 17 people are being investigated. Police have documented 280 material acts related to theft, as well as large sums of cash suspected to come from criminal activities. [44]

PHYSICAL AGRESSION

AGAINST PASSENGERS

Stabbing in New York Station ahead of international events (USA)

Six individuals were stabbed on 8 June at New York Penn Station (USA), all later recovered. The perpetrator was caught on the spot and is said to be a known local homeless man with a history of mental illnesses. The event occurred just days before the city would host the basketball finals and the football World Cup. [48][49][50][51][52]

Man attacks passenger with iron rod (India)

A man was arrested on 18 June after allegedly attacking a passenger with an iron rod and stealing his mobile phone aboard a train in Chennai, India. The suspect reportedly pulled the emergency stop to escape. [53]

Several violent incidents on Mumbai suburban lines (India)

Mumbai's suburban railway witnessed a series of incidents over the course of 24 hours on 14 July. A man running on platforms with a wooden stick created panic before being intercepted, a fight left two passengers injured inside a moving train, a video went viral showcasing a group fight (to be confirmed whether it happened on that day and place) and finally there was an alleged fight with pepper spray to secure seats in the women's compartment. [55]

Stabbing at railway station (Germany)

A British woman was stabbed during the night at Rosenheim station (Germany) on 30 August. The suspect was arrested at the scene and is held in a psychiatric hospital. The attack seems to have been unprovoked and unplanned. [56][57][58]

Man pushed from moving train (USA)

In an event where a man fell off a moving train in Chicago (Illinois, USA) on 7 September, investigators reviewing the incident determined he had been pushed out of the car. Cameras show how three men pushed him while another one opened the side door. He was incapacitated by the third rail and later struck by another train. [60]

Football fans who fought in a train receive sentence (UK)

Three men received 12-18 months community orders with rehabilitation requirements after assaulting other football fans in a train heading towards Halling station (UK) following a game. [61]

AGAINST STAFF

Police investigation after attack on station staff (UK)

British Transport Police is investigating an attack in Brighton Station (UK) on 27 February where a railway station staff member was hit and left unconscious with a fractured skull. The Police have shared images of alleged attackers on 10 June, seeking information from the public. [62][63][64]

Court decision following death of train conductor (Germany)

Following the death of a train conductor in Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany), the accused received a 10-year prison sentence on 9 July for causing bodily harm resulting in death. On 4 February, the conductor had been hit by a passenger without ticket on a regional train and subsequently died of brain haemorrhage. The victim's family will appeal the sentence, aiming for a manslaughter conviction. [65]

Security guard falls off train after altercation with passenger (Germany)

Following an altercation with a passenger during ticket check near Karlsruhe (Germany) on 17 July, a security guard who came to support the inspector was pushed against a door which opened, or possibly broke, causing him to fall on the track while the train was travelling around 120km/h. The train stopped around 2km later. An investigation is underway to determine the cause. [66][67][68]

Woman fights Railway Protection Force with razor blade (India)

Railway Protection Force officers were called to settle a dispute over a seat in the AC compartment near Surat (India) on 12 August. A woman fought and threatened them with a razor blade, attempting to flee through a window. She was caught and handed to Governmental Police at the next stop. [69][70]



Ticket clerk assaulted and robbed (India)

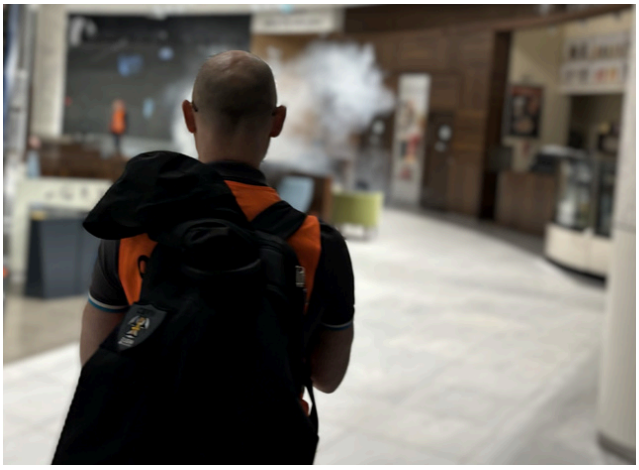
On 20 August, two men attacked a ticket clerk at the booking counter and robbed him of the ticket cash collected as well as personal belongings at Pune railway station (India). The suspects were seen on CCTV and were expected to be quickly arrested. [5]

Man found guilty of fatally assaulting a rail worker (UK)

On 16 September, the jury found the perpetrator guilty of having violently pushed a railway worker in a London (UK) station on 4 December 2025, subsequently leading to the death of the worker. The perpetrator will however remain in hospital because of significant mental health issues. [71][72]

Increase in violence against Dutch rail workers (Netherlands)

On 30 September, the Dutch Rail workers' union sent a letter to politicians calling for actions against the increase in violent incidents towards them. Figures provided show a total of 5,088 reports of aggression and violence in the first three quarters of 2026, compared to 6,400 in 2025 and 2,700 in 2023. The union called for additional security officers to be deployed. [125]





SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

UPDATES ON TRIALS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULTS (UK)

Three cases involving violence against women on the UK rail network advanced through the judicial process over the summer.
On 11 June 2026, a teenager admitted to strangling a woman aboard a train and assaulting another person at a railway station during incidents that occurred on 21 January 2026.
Meanwhile, on 13 July 2026, a man accused of rape and sexual assault at Nuneaton railway station pleaded not guilty to the charges. The alleged offences were reported to police in March 2026, and the case is scheduled to go to trial in December 2026. [54]
Then, on 2 September, the man who had sexually assaulted a young women on a platform in Newbury Station in August 2024 was sentenced to two years and three months in jail. [59]



TERRORISM

Man brings homemade bombs and makes threats on commuter train (USA)

A man was charged in Boston (Massachusetts, USA) on 9 July after allegedly bringing homemade explosives onto a commuter train and making bomb threats on 27 June. Authorities safely neutralised the devices, and a pre-trial hearing is scheduled for 28 July 2026. [73][74][75]

Train halted following suspect bomb on track bed (Germany)

Experts investigated a suspected explosive device found in the track bed at the entrance of a train station in Bavaria (Germany) on 13 August. An X-Ray analysis was done, revealing that the object did not contain explosives. Replacement buses were organized to replace regional trains, while long-distance ones were rerouted. [76][77][78]

INTERPOL Blue Notice requested against terrorist (India)

Following a story mentioned in the 3rd Press Review, where a bomb had exploded on a freight corridor in Punjab (India) on 27 April 2026, the alleged suspect was found to be linked to a terrorist organisation who claimed the incident. India's National Investigation Agency made a formal request on 21 September to INTERPOL to release a Blue Notice against the suspect. [79]

HOAX (FALSE ALERT)

Passenger raises bomb alert after failing to secure seat (India)

A passenger was arrested in Lucknow (India) on 16 June 2026 after allegedly issuing a false bomb alert aboard a train when he was unable to secure a seat. The claim triggered a security response, prompting passengers to evacuate and the train to be stopped for a thorough search. No explosive device was found, and services resumed after the inspection. [80][81]

Man raises two bomb alert hoaxes over two days (UK)

On 18 September, a man activated the train alarm claiming a bomb was on board in the UK. He repeated this action on the following day in another train and was later arrested on suspicion of creating hoaxes. He will be brought to Court on 12 October. [82][83][84][85]



VANDALISM

Increased number of criminal acts around railways (Germany)

Bild newspaper reported on 14 July that, according to an internal report from Deutsche Bahn, its rail network has been targeted by 2,200 events of sabotage, arson, interference or metal theft since the start of 2026. This is a Year-on-Year increase of 7% and led to 220,000 minutes of delays. [86]

Minister calls for harsher laws against infrastructure vandalism (Malawi)

The Malawian Minister of Justice called on 3 August for tougher laws and penalties against vandalism, including towards rail. He emphasised how critical lines and infrastructures are undermined, leaving communities stranded. His proposed law includes stiffer jail terms, heavier fines, specific fast track courts and increased investigative powers. [87]

SABOTAGE

Sabotage suspected behind regional trail derailment (France)

Investigators suspect an act of sabotage after a regional train derailed near Rouen (France) on 12 September, injuring 44. A fragment of rail weighing around 250kg was found on the track, raising the possibility of a malicious act. The train started being removed from the tracks on 16 September and operations restarted on 5 October. The investigation is ongoing. [88][89][90][91][92]

Dutch railway system hit by power outage and track sabotage (Netherlands)

The Dutch railway system was hit by a large outage which affected transit in central and eastern regions on 15 September. Materials had been found on the tracks in 30 locations, making sabotage likely. No injuries were reported. The investigation is ongoing. [93][94][95][96][97]

BOMB

Arrests following high speed line sabotage during Winter Olympics (Italy)

Italian police arrested seven individuals on 16 June 2026 in connection with the sabotage of a high-speed railway line during the Winter Olympics in February 2026. The attack reportedly involved improvised explosive devices and caused approximately €455,000 in damage. Five suspects were jailed and two placed under house arrest. [102][103][104][105]

Investigation of plot to blow up railway traffic regulation tool (France)

French authorities revealed on 20 June 2026 that they were investigating several suspected sabotage operations allegedly linked to Russian-backed networks. One ongoing case concerns a suspect accused of plotting to blow up an SNCF transformer used for rail traffic regulation. [106]

Tracks damaged by bomb (Pakistan)

A bomb damaged railway tracks near Jacobabad station (Pakistan) on 18 August. Repairs were quickly completed and services were re-opened. Police are still investigating. [107]

Repairs completed after track bombing (Thailand)

On 24 August, the State Railway of Thailand announced it had completed repairs to the track which had been damaged by a bombing on 22 August, part of a coordinated attack in 40 locations across the Narathiwat region. A suspect was taken into custody and specialized teams, including K9, inspected the track extensively for additional risks, finding new IEDs. [108][109]

Explosion in railway station (Germany)

An unidentified object exploded in a building passage of Augsburg main station (Germany) on 2 September. Two individuals suffered acoustic trauma and windows broke. Officers then found another suspicious object and closed off the station, halting traffic. Research is still ongoing regarding the background behind this IED. [110]

ARSON

SUSPECTED ARSON ATTACKS DISRUPT RAIL SERVICES (GERMANY)

Two suspected arson attacks targeted railway infrastructure in Germany in June and July 2026. On 12 June, cables were damaged on the Düsseldorf-Cologne line, causing a full-day closure and prompting a sabotage investigation after a claim of responsibility by the group Kommando Angry Birds. On 14 July, a fire affecting signalling equipment on the Hamburg-Cuxhaven line led to the cancellation of more than 200 train services. [98][99][100][101]

STONE PELTING

STONE ATTACK ON VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS (INDIA)

On 25 August, a Mumbai-Ahmedabad (India) train was targeted by a stone-pelting attack. A suspect was taken into custody. [111]

CABLE CUTTING

SERVICES CANCELLED DUE TO SUSPECTED SABOTAGE (ITALY)

Train services in Calabria (Italy) were suspended on the morning of 9 July after railway cables were deliberately damaged at several locations along the Tyrrhenian rail line. Authorities treated the incident as a suspected act of sabotage, with the cable cuts causing significant disruption to rail operations. [112]

TRAINS HALTED DUE TO CUT CABLES (GERMANY)

Trains in southwestern Germany were stopped for around three hours in the night after cables running along the tracks were cut. Investigators believe that the act was done deliberately. [113][114]

KNIFE ATTACK

AGAINST PASSENGERS

Trial opens one year after axe attack on ICE train (Germany)

A trial began in Germany on 2 June 2026, one year after an axe attack aboard an ICE train in which several passengers were injured. Prosecutors allege that the attacker assaulted multiple individuals before being restrained by fellow passengers and are seeking his placement in a psychiatric facility. [115]

Man accused of stabbing on train is sent to psychiatric hospital (USA)

A man accused of stabbing two women and committing a robbery aboard an Amtrak train in California (USA) in 2024 was declared mentally incompetent to stand trial. On 12 June 2026, a court ordered his placement in a state psychiatric hospital for up to two years. [116]

Two knife attacks leave one dead and another injured (India)

Two knife attacks involving rail passengers were reported in Mumbai, India, on 25 and 28 June 2026. In the first case, a passenger was fatally stabbed aboard a train, with the suspect later identified through CCTV footage. Three days later, another passenger was stabbed at a railway station following a minor dispute after the attacker allegedly followed the victim through the station.[117][118]

Trials held for deadly knife attacks (UK)

On 9 July 2026, a man pleaded not guilty to charges related to a knife attack on a London-bound LNER train near Huntingdon (UK). The defendant faces 21 charges, including the attempted murder of ten people and assaulting a police officer. The incident occurred on 1 November 2025. Trial proceedings are scheduled to begin on 26 October 2026. [119][120][121][122] On 10 September 2025, a teen stabbed another twice using a 19cm knife on a railway platform in Seaford station, killing him on the spot. The trial has started against the perpetrators and two other teenagers who accompanied him. The attack appears to have been borne out of a trivial cannabis debt. [123]

Altercation leads to stabbing (Switzerland)

On 8 August, an altercation at Aarau station (Switzerland) led to a man being stabbed. The suspect had fled the scene and an investigation is being launched. [124]

Man dies at station after being arrested by police (Australia)

A man died at a Clayton railway station (Australia) after being taken into custody by the police. Officers had been called as an agitated man with a knife was seen on platforms. After arresting him, he stopped responding and the emergency medical teams were unable to save him. [126]

SECURITY MEASURES

Drone surveillance deployed to protect railway infrastructure (India)

Railway authorities in Ahmedabad (India) began deploying drone surveillance on 10 June 2026 to protect critical infrastructure and reduce incidents affecting rail operations. The drones are being used at selected stations and yard areas to monitor track conditions and suspicious activities, enabling faster and more accurate responses to potential threats. [127]

Drone trials launched to combat rail crime (UK)

The integrated Anglia management team, comprising Network Rail, c2c and Greater Anglia, announced on 17 June 2026 the launch of two drone trials across the Anglia region (UK). The BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) drones will support the detection of vandalism, cable theft and trespassing, while thermal cameras will help identify damaged railway assets and infrastructure. [128][129][130]

Drone threat crisis exercise carried out (Estonia)

As part of a national test of Estonia's emergency warning systems on 24 June, Estonian Railways and Elron tested their chain of command and crisis preparedness with real-life conditions exercises on four lines. They simulated a drone threat requiring immediate stop, evacuation and sheltering, involving actual passengers. [131][132][133]

Drone deployed to prevent trespassing (UK)

Automated drones are being deployed around London Waterloo Station (UK) in August to prevent trespassing, improve safety and security and limit disruptions. The drones will be operated remotely by a British firm and can provide intelligence to the control centre when a situation requires inspection. [149]



Increased rail security measures announced (Taiwan)

Following the December 2025 knife attack on the Taipei Metro, authorities in Taiwan announced new security measures on 25 June 2026. These include AI-powered surveillance systems, enhanced staff training, coordinated emergency response plans, and closer cooperation between transport operators, police and other security stakeholders. [134]

Increased surveillance of critical infrastructure (Nigeria)

A new operational framework was launched by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria, on 30 June 2026. The initiative aims to address increasing vandalism targeting critical infrastructure, such as rail networks and its cabling, through strengthened surveillance and coordinated security operations. [135]

Rail infrastructure protection strengthened (Malaysia)

On 2 July, Malaysia announced stricter measures to protect its rail network, combining tougher penalties for trespassing, vandalism and railway theft with the installation of 1,146 AI-powered surveillance cameras by the end of 2026. The initiative follows 393 cable theft incidents since 2023, which have caused losses of approximately €3.5 million and the theft of around 19 km of cable. [136][137][138]

Police officers to provide security on rail network (Georgia)

Passenger and infrastructure protection measures were strengthened in Georgia on 3 July 2026, when Georgia Railway announced that, following recent legislative changes, 818 Security Police officers would provide round-the-clock coverage at 76 railway facilities. [139]



Modernisation of railway training requirements (Canada)

Major reforms to railway worker certification and training, including regarding rail security, were unveiled by Transport Canada on 4 July. Applicable across Canada, the new framework replaces standards dating back to 1987 and expands requirements for security-critical positions, training records and crew resource management. [140][141]

New law strengthens penalties for infrastructure crime (Canada)

On 15 July, Canada modified its criminal code to add tougher provisions for organised crime, with new aggravating factors when targeting critical infrastructure, such as via copper theft. It also makes it more difficult for repeat offenders to receive bail. [36]

New anonymous reporting service against theft (Wales)

Transport for Wales (TfW) (UK) launched on 16 July an anonymous reporting service, TfW Protect, meant to reduce cable and metal theft. The reports will be by phone or via an online form, calling for witnesses or people with information to share their knowledge. TfW also hopes to raise awareness of the impact theft has on the community and economy through this initiative. [31][32][33]

Many charged during crackdown of transport network offenders (Australia)

Initiated in 2024, Australia's Operation Waratah coordinates the arrest of alleged transport network offenders. Its 6th edition deployed 400 officers over a July weekend, leading to 539 trains being patrolled, 645 charges laid, 28 weapons seized and 473 rail infringements issued among others. [142][143][144]

Reaffirmed collaboration between railways and security agencies (Nigeria)

On 18 July, the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) reaffirmed its collaboration with security agencies to protect railway assets. NRC will continue to work closely with them to ensure that individuals arrested for vandalising railways will be prosecuted. [145]

AI-powered surveillance robot introduced to protect railway stations and assets (India)

East Coast Railway in India launched on 22 July an AI-powered robotic surveillance platform designed to increase station security and support the Railway Protection Force personnel through intelligent monitoring, real-time analytics, and automated incident detection into a comprehensive security platform. The robot, named DSC ARJUN, can be deployed in and around stations as well as vulnerable locations that require enhanced surveillance. It will assist the RPF in preventing crime, managing heavy crowds during peak travel periods, protecting railway assets and responding swiftly to emergencies. [146][147]



Measures and cooperation to prevent stone-throwing (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh Railways has initiated on 31 July measures to prevent stone-throwing on trains. The railway authorities are distributing awareness leaflets to the local population and will share additional information with the Government Railway Police (GRP) so they can take legal action. In vulnerable areas, information will also be shared with Civil Administration Officers in order to facilitate preventive action. [148]

Proposal to increase rail theft fines by 100x (Malaysia)

In August, the Malaysian government was finalising amendments in order to increase fines from RM 1,000 to RM 100,000 towards individuals trespassing rail facilities or stealing cables. [150]

Transport Police arrest 24 during three-day rail security operation (UK)

On 30 July – 1 August, Transport Police carried out "Operation Disrupt," deploying officers to train stations to prevent criminal activities in the UK. Over three days, they arrested 24 individuals for 27 offences, seized eight knives, detected drugs in 12 cases and identified six breaches of bail. [151]

Canine patrols trial in station (UK)

London Waterloo Station (UK) has recruited three specialised dogs in August to carry out regular security patrols for a three-month trial. They are meant to provide a visible deterrent and create a feeling of security for passengers and staff. [152]

Railway Police increase security measures and strengthen international cooperation (Laos)

In the first half of the year, the Laos Railway Police Department has strengthened its security measures on the border routes with China and Thailand. With increased numbers of patrols and controls, a total of 699 operations took place on these routes. In the second half of the year, the department will raise public awareness and train its officers to emerging challenges. The RPD emphasises the importance of international cooperation, which they want to strengthen. [153]

New vehicles for increased security patrols (Nigeria)

In September, the Lagos State Government of Nigeria gave two vehicles to the Nigerian Railway Corporation to reinforce its security in face of increased vandalism. The vehicles are meant to support the Railway Polce in surveillance and rapid response along the corridor. [154][155][156]

Increased security measures attributed to the decrease in metal theft (USA)

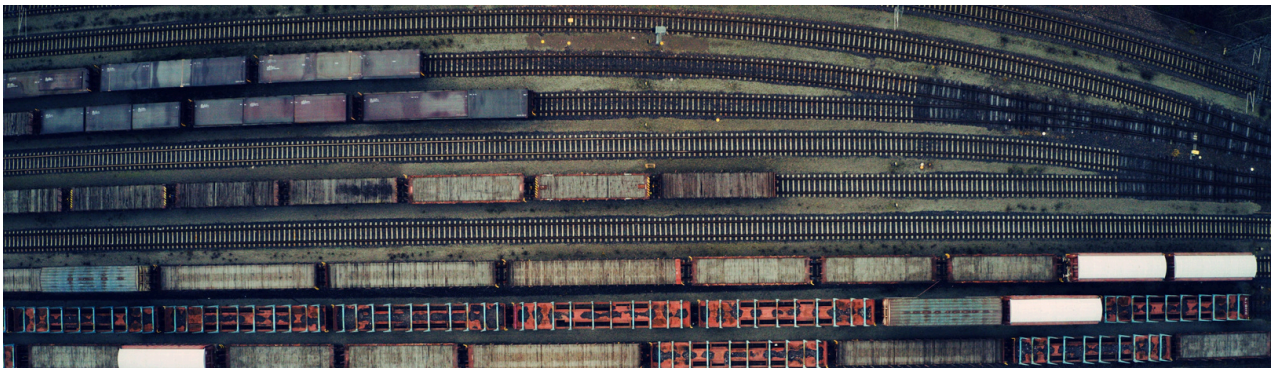
By the end of August, copper wire thefts on the Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) (Colorado, USA) rail are down from 25 at the same point last year to 8. The RTD credits increased police visibility, cooperation with law enforcement and metal yards, as well as increased use in cameras and technology. [157]

Railway found guilty in a 20 year old case (India)

On 31 August, an Indian Commission found Indian Railways responsible for lacking security measures after night train passengers were robbed at gunpoint in 2004. After a legal battle, the final Commission found that the passengers had legitimate expectations of safety to be provided, imposing a Rs20,000 fine. [158]

Security measures to host Pope (France)

To ensure security during Pope Leo XIV visit in France on 25-28 September, 500 of SNCF Sûreté officers were dedicated to crowd management, reinforcing the rail network monitoring and increasing explosive detection in stations. They worked in coordination with the state police and drew from their knowledge acquired during the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. [159]





CBRNE

Responses to hazmat incidents (USA)

On 3 June, in Cajon Pass, California (USA), a freight train carrying lithium batteries caught fire, prompting a response from hazardous materials (hazmat) specialists. Emergency teams monitored air quality and the potential spread of the fire due to the risks associated with lithium battery incidents. The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation. [160]

On 5 June, in Bensalem, Pennsylvania (USA), a freight train derailed, causing a locomotive and several freight cars to leave the tracks. Reports indicated that the locomotive was leaking fuel and that some railcars were carrying hazardous materials, including an alcoholic substance and an acid. Hazmat teams were deployed to secure the area, and nearby residents were evacuated until authorities determined that the situation was safe. [164][165][166][167]

On 8 July, at a rail yard in Chadbourn, North Carolina (USA), a firefighter was hospitalized following an incident involving fire and hazardous materials. Emergency responders deployed two hazmat trailers to monitor and manage the scene. The circumstances of the incident and the materials involved were still under investigation. [170]

Between 20 August and 30 September, three freight trains carrying hazardous materials derailed in Texas, Vermont and North Dakota (USA). In all cases, specialised forces were sent and determined the absence of spills and of risks to the public, although 10 wagons overturned in one case and a fire started in another. On 20 August, a freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed near El Paso, USA, with 10 out of 18 cars overturning. The incident was classified as Hazmat condition 2 and a specialized Task Force was sent. They determined the absence of spills and of risks to the public. [171][172][173][174]

Rail sector expands emergency response training and preparedness (USA)

In June, CSX opened a Hazardous Materials Training Institute in Florida, and Palmetto Railways hosted a week-long hazmat emergency response exercise in South Carolina involving 90 first responders and railway personnel. Norfolk Southern received a national award for its emergency response training programme, including hazmat, which reached nearly 6,000 participants through drills, exercises and online learning. [161][162][163]

Russian actors linked to Novichok production sanctioned (UK)

In July, the UK imposed sanctions on Russian actors who were involved in the development of Novichok, a nerve agent used in several poisonings in the last decades. Seven individuals and two research institutes are targeted. [168][169]



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MEDIA MONITORING

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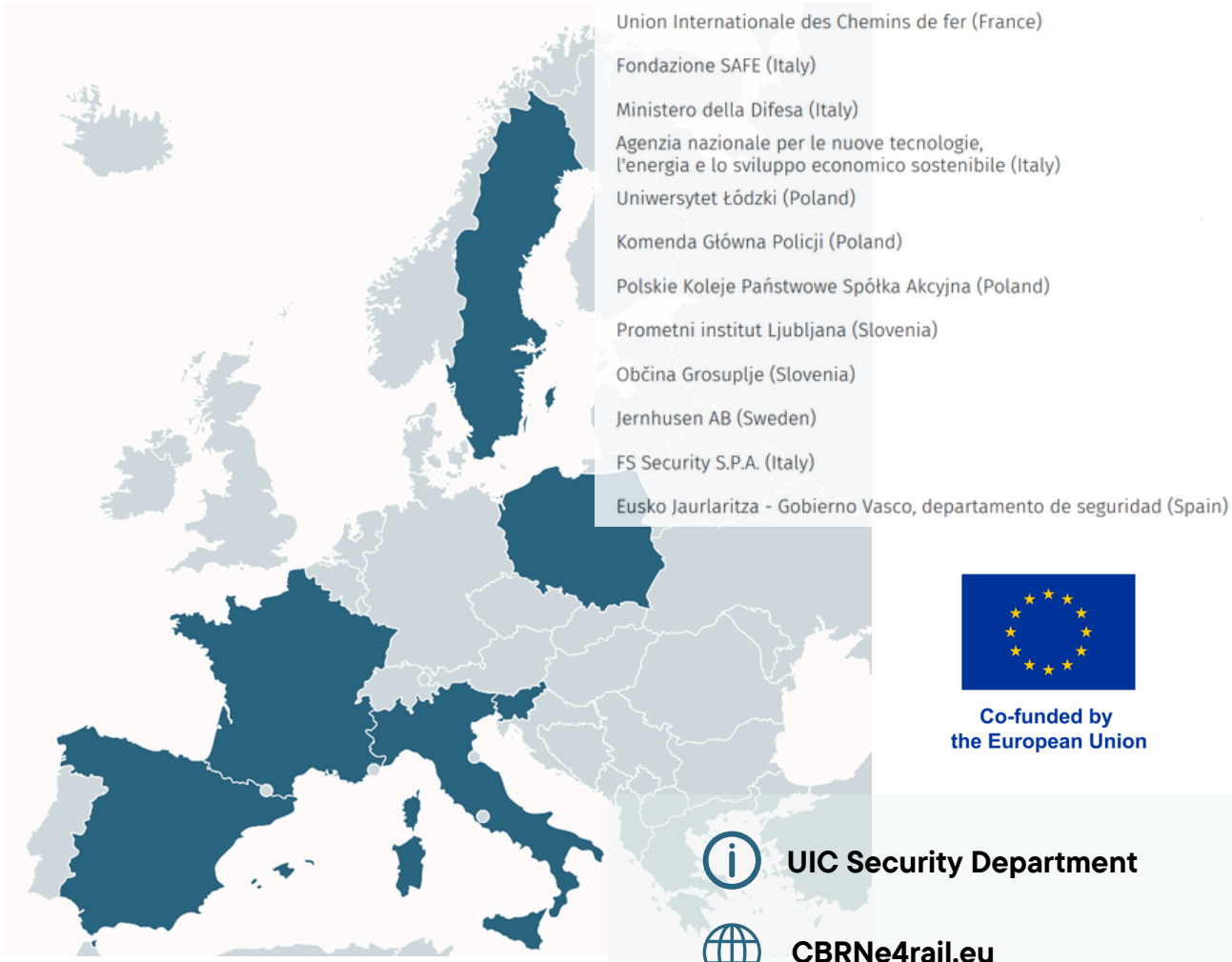

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