

# Al Shabaab Threatens Mall Attacks in the US, Canada and UK



Al Shabaab Westlake Mall Attackers, Nairobi Kenya, September 21, 2013

This weekend Al Shabaab [released](#) a video featuring a British accented English speaking spokesperson masked behind a white checked kaffiyeh threatening attacks on malls in America, Canada and the UK. It singling out for attention, the giant Mall of America (MoA) near the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul posting the MoA GPS coordinates on screen. The Twin cities have been an Al Shabaab recruiting center drawing on the large Somali émigré communities. A number of recruits have been killed and some returning ones have been prosecuted in federal courts. Given Al Shabaab's deadly truck bombing attack on a hotel in Mogadishu last Friday that killed 25 wounding 45 and the 2013 Westlake Mall attack in Nairobi that killed 67 wounding over 200. there was lots of chatter on Sunday talk shows about the Al Shabaab video threatening attacks on malls here in the US.

Watch the latest video at [video.foxnews.com](http://video.foxnews.com)

Watch this *Sunday Fox and Friends* report.

On *Fox News Sunday*, Jim Kallstrom, former New York FBI Office head who investigated the [1996 TWA Flight 800](#) explosion over Long Island , [commented](#):

The FBI has a "huge job in front of them.

You look at the Mall of America, you look at all the malls then you start to backtrack and say you know it would be

nice if we knew what comes and goes into the country. We don't have a clue.

Department of Homeland Security Jae Johnson appearing on both *ABC News* and *NBC Meet the Press* [commented](#):

There needs to be awareness.

We're in a new phase now, and I'm afraid that this most recent video release reflects that.

A joint DHS FBI statement released Sunday drew attention to mall security [concerns](#):

In recent months, the FBI and DHS have worked closely with our state and local public safety counterparts and members of the private sector, to include mall owners and operators, to prevent and mitigate these types of threats.

Mall of America issued a statement [saying](#):

We will continue to monitor events with the help of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. As always, we take any potential threat seriously and respond appropriately. Mall of America has implemented extra security precautions, some may be noticeable to guests, and others won't be. We will continue to follow the situation, along with law enforcement, and will remain vigilant as we always do in similar situation.

In NER articles in [2009](#) and [2013](#) we drew attention to the possible US Mall attack scenarios. After the devastating 2013 Westlake Mall episode, we [wrote](#):

Could a Nairobi type Swarming attack happen in the US?

Because there were allegations that there may have been émigré Somali Americans in the Westgate Mall attack, that raises serious questions from counterterrorism agencies in the US whether returning Jihadis could undertake a Nairobi type

swarming attack on a mall here. In May 2013, two returning Al Shabaab US recruits were [convicted](#) in a Minneapolis Federal court and given lengthy sentences on charges including in one case, conspiracy to kill, kidnap, maim and injure.

A CNN [report](#) endeavoring to answer this “what if” question chronicled a series of actions at American Malls, some of which have been thwarted, but others have not. It noted these:

In the past few years, federal prosecutors say they have thwarted two planned attacks on malls, each of which would have been carried out by single attacker:

–Nuradin M. Abdi, a Somali citizen living in Columbus, Ohio, [was sentenced in 2008](#) to 35 years in prison after pleading guilty to plotting to set off grenades at a Rockford shopping mall. Shareef was a convert to Islam who was recorded saying he wanted to kill “infidels.”

But attacks which have succeeded in causing casualties at American malls in recent years have been carried out by young lone gunmen with no apparent cause to promote:

–A 19-year-old man