



# REVIEW



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## IMPRESS

The EU co-funded project IMPRESS (**IMP**roving **R**ailway **sE**curity through awarene**SS** and training) aims to improve the protection of stations and trains by developing security training and awareness programmes for all stakeholders in rail stations and on trains.

It focuses on the ‘immediate responders’ from the railway environment, or those who are most likely to be the first to prevent or react to a security incident. This includes rail staff at stations and onboard trains, security staff, staff from station shops, and cleaning staff as well as other service providers.

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## REVIEW

As part of the IMPRESS dissemination strategy, a media monitoring was carried out by the UIC Security Department on the topic of rail security from 1st March 2025 to 31st May 2025.

Based on keyword searches performed on X, LinkedIn, Google news & AP News, the following pages summarize the relevant news items found for the following threats:

**Theft, Aggression, Fraud, Trespassing, Vandalism, Security Measures, Terrorism, Hoax, Bomb, Sabotage, Gender-based Violence, Human Trafficking & Knife attacks.**

It also describes news item of relevance to rail security culture and recent publications.



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## GENERAL THEFT

### RECORD SURGE IN CARGO THEFT CALLS FOR ACTION (USA)

Cargo theft in the U.S. has reached unprecedented levels, with over 65,000 incidents reported in 2024—a 40% increase from the previous year. Losses are estimated between \$15 billion and \$35 billion annually, affecting rail, trucking, and shipping industries. Organized crime groups are employing increasingly sophisticated tactics, such as identity theft and rerouting schemes, to target vulnerable supply chains. In response, Congress is considering measures including establishing a Federal Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center, increasing penalties for theft, and modernizing freight security protocols. Stakeholders have urged lawmakers to act swiftly to protect businesses and consumers from escalating theft-related disruptions [1].

### THIEVES CAUGHT STEALING 30 CASES OF BEER FROM RIVERSIDE TRAIN (USA)

In a daring heist, two thieves were arrested in Riverside County after attempting to steal nearly 30 cases of Modelo Especial beer from a train. The incident, dubbed "Grand Theft Cerveza," was thwarted by deputies from the Jurupa Valley Sheriff's Station, who caught the thieves in the act. The suspects were chased down by law enforcement teams, including the Eastvale SET team and K9 unit. While the identities of the suspects and potential charges have not been disclosed [2].



### Youth Arrested at Nagpur Station with Stolen Bag (India)

A 25-year-old man from Alipur (India) was caught, on 8 April 2025, at Nagpur railway station with a stolen bag containing an iPad and other valuables. The youth, identified as Kadke, confessed to the theft during interrogation and returned the stolen items [3].





## **METAL THEFT**

### **North Shields Steam Railway Faces Derailment Risk After Theft (UK)**

The North Tyneside Steam Railway in North Shields (UK) has been hit by a significant theft, with over 1,200 essential track components stolen, including 800 screws and 400 keys. This theft jeopardizes the safety of the railway, posing a serious risk of derailment. Despite the setback, volunteers have worked tirelessly to repair the damage, ensuring the railway can reopen for the tourist season. In response to the incident, enhanced security measures have been implemented, including daily patrols and CCTV installation [4].

### **Belgian Rail Delays Amid Cable Theft Problem (Belgium)**

In 2025, cable thefts caused 7,525 minutes of train delays in Belgium, despite a drop in incidents to 223 from 471 in 2022. While the decrease is encouraging, each theft still disrupts travel and delays maintenance. Infrabel is fighting back by replacing copper cables with aluminum, burying cables, and adding protective covers. Authorities emphasize continued vigilance to reduce thefts and improve train reliability [5].

### **Copper Cable Theft Halts Spain's High-Speed Trains (Spain)**

In May 2025, coordinated copper cable thefts along Spain's high-speed rail line caused major disruptions, stranding over 10,000 passengers and halting trains to Andalusia. Authorities condemned the thefts as sabotage and launched investigations. Services resumed within a day [6][7][8][9][10].





## **BOMB**

### **FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBER STRIKES IN SOUTHWESTERN PAKISTAN TRAIN (PAKISTAN)**

On 6 March 2025, a female suicide bomber detonated explosives in a train in Turbat (Pakistan). The attack killed one person and injured four others. The bombing occurred near a government office and is suspected to be linked to separatist groups active in the region. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far, but Balochistan has seen frequent violence from separatist and militant groups targeting security forces and civilians. Authorities are investigating the incident [11].

### **BOMB EXPLODES NEAR HELLENIC TRAIN OFFICES (GREECE)**

A bomb detonated outside the offices of Hellenic Train in central Athens on 11 April 2025, causing limited damage but no injuries. The attack, preceded by warning calls to media, was claimed by a new extremist group, Revolutionary Class Struggle, which cited anger over Greece's 2023 deadly train crash that killed 57 people. The bombing occurred in a busy area and prompted a swift police response, including evacuations. Authorities are investigating the group's motives and possible links to other recent attacks, as public scrutiny of railway safety and government accountability intensifies [12][13][14][15][16][17].

## **BIKE THEFT**

### **Bike Thefts Surge at UK Railway Stations: Over 100 Stolen Weekly (UK)**

Bicycle thefts at UK railway stations have reached alarming levels, with over 100 bikes stolen weekly during the summer months. In 2022 alone, 6,956 bicycles were reported stolen, marking a 39% increase from the previous year. Commuter hubs such as St Albans City, Cambridge North, and Woking stations have emerged as hotspots for these crimes. Despite the rise in thieves, recovery rates remain low, with only 1.5% of bikes stolen returned to their owners [18].







## GENERAL SECURITY

### **Southeastern Leads Efforts to Empower Women in the Rail Industry (UK)**

Southeastern Railway (UK) is implementing strategic initiatives to increase gender diversity within its workforce, contributing to enhanced security and operational resilience across its railway services. By prioritizing the recruitment and career development of women, and fostering a truly inclusive workplace environment, the company aims to overcome traditional barriers in the transportation sector. These efforts are geared towards building a more balanced and diverse workforce, which in turn is expected to bring varied perspectives to security challenges, strengthen on-the-ground vigilance, and improve responsiveness to passenger concerns. Ultimately, this increased gender representation is seen as a key component in reinforcing the overall security framework and passenger confidence on the rail network [19].

### **Agreement Reached on Strengthening Transport Security (France)**

On 6 March 2025, France's parliamentary joint committee (CMP) finalized an agreement on a bill to enhance transport security. This legislation, LOI n° 2025-379 du 28 avril 2025, has officially come into force, with all its measures becoming legally binding and effective. This marks a significant step in France's approach to securing its transport networks:

- Security Checks: Agents can conduct visual and physical luggage inspections (with consent) and personal searches without prior police prefect authorization. Dangerous items may be seized and retained for up to 48 hours.
- Surveillance: Body-worn cameras for security personnel are permanently authorized, while algorithmic video surveillance experimentation is extended until March 2027.
- Expanded Authority: Security agents gain rights to pursue offenders in public spaces, evict individuals from transport zones, and seize illegally sold goods near stations.
- Penalties: New fines target “trainsurfing,” and violent or terrorist offenders face bans from working as transport drivers. A tiered sanction system is introduced for abandoned luggage.
- Use of Force: Agents may carry tasers with administrative approval, but firearm protocols remain distinct from police rules.
- Terrorism Recognition: Railway security operators are explicitly acknowledged for their role in counterterrorism efforts.
- Privatization Review: A report on privatization’s impact on transport security is mandated by late 2026 [20][21][22].





## VANDALISM

### **NETWORK RAIL WARNS FLY-TIPPING THREATENS RAIL SECURITY (UK)**

On Global Recycling Day (18 March 2025), Network Rail reported nearly 4,000 fly-tipping incidents on UK railways since 2021, including 328 in the Wessex region. Despite the risks to rail security and operations, almost a quarter of Brits are unaware that fly-tipping is a crime. Network Rail is increasing public awareness and security measures, urging the public to report incidents to help protect the railway and environment [23][24][25].

### **KANNADA ACTIVISTS BLACKEN RAILWAY SIGNBOARD (INDIA)**

In Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district, Kannada activists defaced a railway signboard by covering it in black paint to protest the absence of Kannada language representation. The signboard displayed text only in Telugu, Hindi, and English. Activists also hoisted a Kannada flag near the railway gate, demanding immediate inclusion of Kannada on all railway signboards in the region [26].



### **VANDALISM AND ATTEMPTED ARSON ON EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY (UK)**

On 12 April 2025, vandals broke into the East Lancashire Railway's Baron Street site (UK), smashing 21 train windows, damaging three carriages, and attempting arson. The incident caused over £5,000 in damage and targeted carriages under restoration by volunteers. The police to identify the perpetrators [27][28][29].





## KNIFE ATTACKS

### AGAINST PASSENGERS

#### **Stabbing Attack in Israel Leaves 1 Dead, 4 Injured (Israel)**

On 10 March 2025, a stabbing attack occurred at a train station in Israel, leaving one person dead and four others injured. First responders quickly arrived at the scene to provide medical assistance to the victims. The motive behind the attack and the identity of the assailant have not yet been disclosed [30][31][32]

#### **Seventeen Injured in Hamburg Train Station Stabbing (Germany)**

On 24 May 2025, a knife attack at Hamburg's main train station (Germany) left 17 people injured, all of whom are now reported to be in stable condition. The incident occurred during a busy period, prompting a swift response from emergency services. Police arrested a woman at the scene in connection with the attack [33][34][35].

### AGAINST STAFF AND PASSENGERS

#### **Hundreds Evacuated from Train After Knifeman Threatens Staff (Germany)**

A dramatic incident unfolded aboard a Berlin-bound Deutsche Bahn ICE train traveling from Cologne when a man brandished a knife and threatened passengers near Gifhorn, Lower Saxony (Germany) on 11 March 2025. The train made an emergency stop, leading to the evacuation of 340 passengers. Authorities detained the suspect, identified as a 44-year-old Afghan national already known to law enforcement. No injuries were reported, and a thorough search confirmed no ongoing threat. The suspect had earlier clashed with staff at Hanover Central station over a bicycle dispute [36].





## SABOTAGE

### **Bangladesh Railway Suspects Sabotage in Commuter Train Fire (Bangladesh)**

Bangladesh Railway is investigating a fire that broke out on a commuter train in Gazipur's Sripur area on 5 April 2025, suspecting possible sabotage. The fire disrupted rail communication between Dhaka and Mymensingh for about two hours on Thursday morning. No casualties were reported, and an inquiry committee is expected to submit its findings soon. The damaged power car has been sent to Chattogram for repairs [37].







## HOAXES

### HISTORIC WWII BOMB FORCES CLOSURE OF PARIS TRAIN LINES (FRANCE)

A 500-kilogram World War II bomb was discovered near Paris's Gare du Nord train station on 7 March 2025, halting all domestic and international rail services—including Eurostar trains to London and Brussels—for much of the day. Nearly 500 trains were canceled, impacting around 600,000 travelers. Police evacuated nearby residents and set up a large security perimeter as bomb disposal teams safely defused the device. Train and road traffic gradually resumed after the successful operation [38][39][40][41].

### Bomb Threat Prompts Wien Hauptbahnhof Evacuation (Austria)

Wien Hauptbahnhof train station (Austria), was evacuated on 4 March 2025 due to an unspecified threat, prompting a large police operation and halting rail traffic. The threat, which some Austrian media outlets described as a bomb threat, led to a 90-minute shutdown before police gave the all-clear [42].

### MULTIPLE HOAX BOMB DISRUPT INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS (INDIA)

In March 2025, several Indian railway stations were disrupted by hoax bomb threats, causing panic and operational delays. On March 9, Mysuru railway station in Karnataka faced a bomb threat that led to a thorough security sweep, but no explosives were found, and normal operations resumed. A week later, a youth from Andhra Pradesh was arrested for sending a hoax bomb threat email to Southern Railway, triggering a security alert. On March 25, Bidadi railway station near Bengaluru experienced a similar hoax threat, resulting in temporary suspension of train services and a police investigation [43][44][45][46].

### Bomb Threat and Terror Hoax at Gare de l'Est (France)

Gare de l'Est railway station in Paris (France) was evacuated after an individual claimed to be a terrorist and said he had dropped a suspicious package on 16 April 2025. Police and bomb disposal units intervened, the suspect was arrested, and a security perimeter was established. Train traffic was completely suspended for almost an hour, causing significant delays [47][48].





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

### **Sexual Assaults on Indian Trains (India)**

In India, two shocking incidents of sexual assault occurred on trains in early 2025. On 3 April 2025, a 12-year-old girl was raped by a co-passenger in the washroom of a moving train near Hyderabad; the accused was arrested after the Government Railway Police intervened. Just a month earlier, on 5 March 2025, Nirmal Mishra was sexually harassed and forcibly kissed by a male co-passenger while asleep on the Pune-Hatia Express. Despite video evidence, the Railway Protection Force reportedly dismissed Mishra's case due to the same-gender nature of the assault [49][50].

### **Police Appeal for Help After Sexual Assault at Southwick Railway Station (UK)**

British Transport Police released CCTV footage seeking help to identify a person of interest in a recent sexual assault at Southwick railway station. Authorities urge the public to provide information, while increased patrols and security measures have been introduced to ensure passenger safety [51].

### **Sexual Abuse Allegation Leads to Arrest at Brooklyn Train Station (USA)**

Alexis Cameron was arrested and faces multiple charges, including first-degree sexual abuse and forcible touching, after allegedly kissing and touching a 31-year-old woman without her consent at the West 4th Street Station on 8 February 2025. The victim was not injured. Police apprehended Cameron on 21 May 2025, and the investigation is ongoing [52].

### **Crime and Sexual Assaults Surge at Essex Train Stations (UK)**

British Transport Police have reported a sharp rise in crimes, including sexual assaults, at Essex train stations, raising security concerns for women and young people. Authorities urge vigilance, prompt reporting, and use of the Railway Guardian app to combat harassment and exploitation [53].





## FRAUD

### **26 OFFICIALS ARRESTED, ₹1.17 CRORE SEIZED (INDIA)**

The CBI uncovered a major exam paper leak scam in East Central Railway at Mughalsarai (India), resulting in the arrest of 26 people, including senior officials and loco pilots. The scam involved leaking handwritten Chief Loco Inspector exam papers for cash. Authorities seized ₹1.17 crore during raids at eight locations. Nine officials and others face charges of corruption and criminal conspiracy, with investigations ongoing [54].



### **VIGILANCE TEAM UNCOVERS FRAUD (INDIA)**

A canteen worker at Mumbai's CSMT was arrested for forging railway officials' signatures to issue fake VIP quota tickets, earning ₹1-1.5 lakh monthly. The scam affected trains like the 12322 Howrah Mail and may have run for up to two years. Investigations are ongoing [56].

### **CONTRACTOR CHARGED IN \$2M AMTRAK BRIBERY SCHEME (USA)**

Mark Snedden pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit federal program bribery and submitting false claims related to Amtrak's 30th Street Station restoration in Philadelphia. Snedden bribed an Amtrak project manager with gifts worth over \$323,000 in exchange for insider information and approval of inflated project costs [55].





## **PHYSICAL AGRESSION AGAINST PASSENGERS**

### **PERTH TRAIN RAGE INCIDENT (SCOTLAND)**

A woman in Perth (Scotland), shocked passengers with a drunken attack on her partner during a train ride on 3 March 2025. The incident was witnessed by several commuters [58].

### **TRAGIC DISCOVERY: TEEN GIRL'S BODY FOUND IN SUITCASE (INDIA)**

An 18-year-old girl's body was discovered inside a suitcase near the old Chandapura railway bridge in South Bengaluru (India). Police suspect the suitcase was thrown from a moving train. The girl's identity remains unknown, and authorities have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances of her death [59].

### **VIOLENCE AT LEEDS RAILWAY STATION: TAXI RANK BRAWLER ATTACKS COUPLE (UK)**

A violent incident occurred at the taxi rank of Leeds Railway Station (UK), where a brawler attacked both a man and a woman who were out for the night on 4 March 2025 [57].



## **VERBAL AGRESSION**

### **Man Jailed for Assault and Racist Abuse Toward Railway Staff in Woking (UK)**

John Gilbert has been sentenced to 16 months in prison for racially and homophobically aggravated harassment, assault, and possession of a knife. The incidents occurred at Woking railway station and aboard a train between London Waterloo and West Byfleet (UK). Gilbert verbally abused railway staff with racist and homophobic slurs after being asked to scan his ticket and later assaulted a train guard by hitting him with a bottle. A knife was also found in his possession during his arrest [60].







## **PHYSICAL AGRESSION AGAINST STAFF**

### **Railway Station Staff Assaulted (UK)**

A man was arrested at Grimsby railway station (UK) after allegedly assaulting staff members on 2 March 2025. Further details about the incident remain unspecified by the authorities [61].

### **Four Arrested for Assaulting NS Train Crew in Deurne (The Netherlands)**

Four individuals were arrested on 9 March 2025 morning in Deurne, the Netherlands, for assaulting a train conductor and machinist aboard an NS train. The incident occurred during routine operations, prompting intervention by local police. Authorities have not disclosed further details about the motive or circumstances surrounding the attack [62].

### **Police Officer Injured While Detaining Trespasser at Tri-Rail Station (USA)**

A police officer was hospitalized following a violent altercation with a trespasser at the Tri-Rail station on Tamarind Avenue in West Palm Beach (USA). The incident occurred on 26 April 2025, when officers responded to reports of a trespasser causing a disturbance. During the confrontation, the suspect resisted arrest, leading to a struggle in which the officer sustained injuries. The officer was taken to a local hospital for treatment, while the suspect was taken into custody [63].

## **TERRORISM**

### **PAKISTAN TRAIN HIJACKING LEAVES 33 DEAD (PAKISTAN)**

The Jaffar Express, a passenger train traveling through Balochistan, Pakistan, was ambushed and hijacked by militants from the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) on 11 March 2025. The attackers took approximately 400 passengers' hostage, leading to a violent standoff with security forces that lasted over 30 hours. Pakistani authorities reported that 26 hostages, including civilians and military personnel, were killed, while 354 others were rescued. The operation resulted in the deaths of all 33 insurgents [64][65][66][67][68][69][70][71]





## SECURITY MEASURES

### DRONES COMBAT RAILWAY TRESPASSERS (UK)

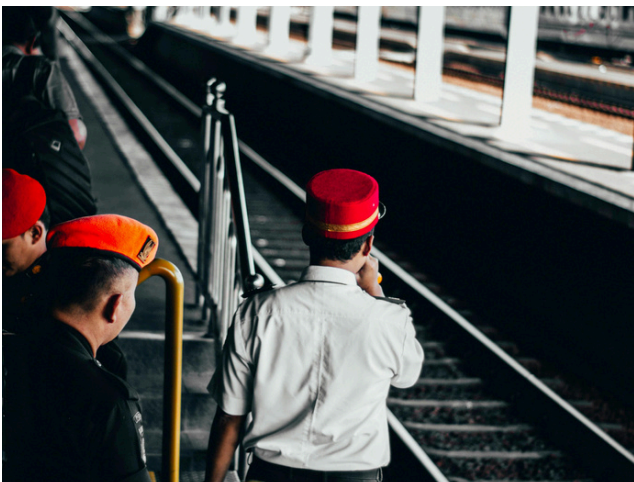
Railway authorities in Durham (UK) are using drones with thermal imaging to reduce trespassing incidents, which increased during the 2025 Easter holidays. These drones have already assisted in catching a stone-throwing youth and a trackside photographer, and in deterring two teenagers from lying on the tracks. Railway officials emphasize the dangers of trespassing and the effectiveness of drones in quickly detecting and addressing these incidents. The drones will continue to be used during the summer holidays alongside on-the-ground monitoring [76].

### GREATER ANGLIA USES VIRTUAL REALITY TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON RAILWAYS (UK)

Greater Anglia (UK) has launched a virtual reality experience at select stations to help passengers recognize and safely intervene in cases of sexual harassment on 7 March 2025. The VR tool demonstrates simple bystander actions, like swapping seats or creating distractions, to support victims. Research shows 85% of women would appreciate such interventions [73][74][75].

### CCTV CAMERAS INSTALLED AFTER VANDALISM (UK)

Following a series of vandalism incidents early in 2025, CCTV cameras have been installed at Corwen railway station (UK). The installation aims to enhance security and deter future acts of vandalism [72].





REVIEW  
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## CONSORTIUM



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