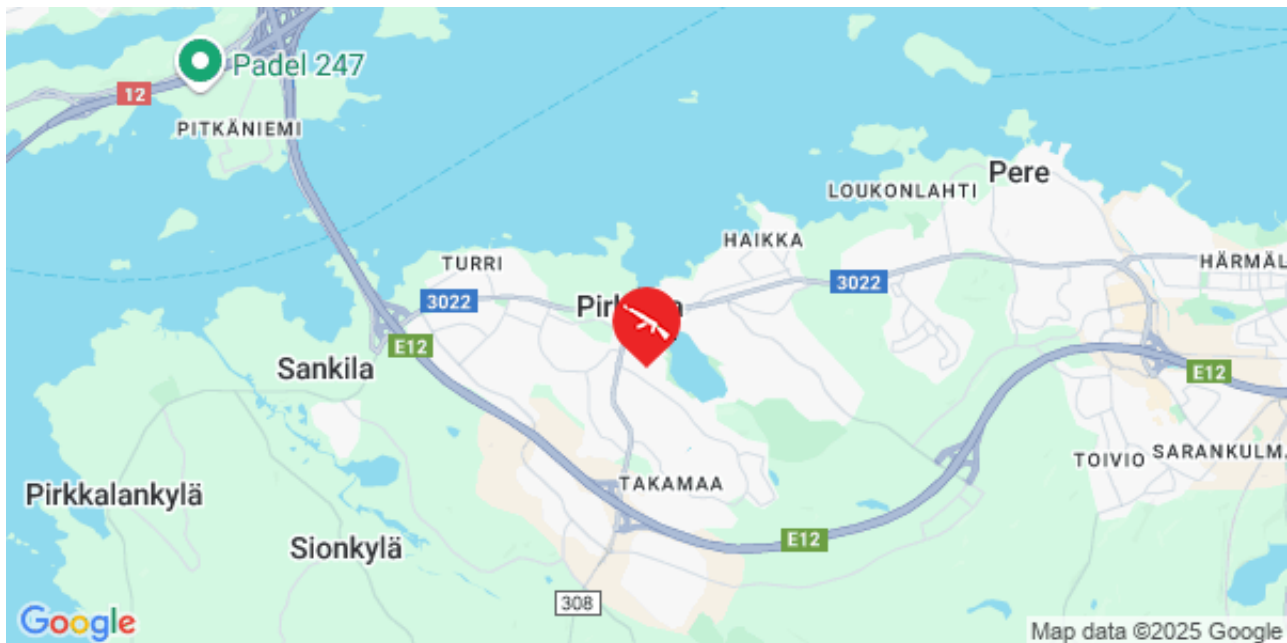


Militancy/Terrorism

**21**MAY
11:43 UTC

Finland Alert: 16-year-old student stabs three female students at school in Pirkkala on May 20; premeditated attack, far-right, incel motive likely

Current Situation

- On May 20, a 16-year-old student stabbed three other students at Vahajarvi School in Pirkkala, Pirkanmaa region, at approximately 10:42 (local time).
- Three female students under the age of 15 were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect fled the scene but was later apprehended by police. He did not resist arrest.
- The suspect was armed with a bladed weapon and wore all-black clothing and a face mask. He reportedly concealed a mobile phone on his waist to record the incident.
- As per media reports, shortly before the attack, the suspect emailed a manifesto he wrote to several Finnish media outlets. The document outlines a six-month plan to kill one person, injure two others, and then surrender to authorities. The manifesto states that the targets were girls.
- According to media reports, the suspect is believed to have accessed a website that hosts graphic content, including videos of real school shootings. The same platform was previously visited by the [perpetrator of the shooting at Viertola Elementary School, located in Vantaa, in April 2024](#). Police have confirmed that the suspect was not previously known to law enforcement.

Source: [YLE](#)

Assessments & Forecast

1. Several aspects of the attack — namely, the suspect entering the school masked in black attire, carrying a bladed weapon, and the distribution of a manifesto prior to the attack — indicate that this was a premeditated act.
2. The manifesto itself, including the premeditated targeting of female students, strongly suggests that the perpetrator was ideologically motivated. In particular, the gender-specific targeting suggests that the assailant was influenced by so-called involuntary celibates (incels) online communities, which are known to be extremist, misogynist, and often violent in nature, promoting violence against women. Furthermore, the attire worn by the perpetrator, coupled with the alleged filming of the incident, also suggests the possible influence of far-right extremist ideologies, as these tactics have previously been used in far-right extremist attacks in Europe and North America.
3. The fact that the suspect was active on an extremist website hosting violent content also aligns with the sustained threat of online youth radicalization by extremist actors in Finland. This is supported by warnings from Suojelupoliisi (Supo), the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service, regarding online radicalization and promotion of violence – especially from far-right extremists.
4. Furthermore, while school attacks are relatively uncommon in Finland, with only three attacks reported in the last five years, the attack underscores the growing threat of violence among youth in Finland. According to May 2024 reports, there were 3,600 victims of assaults who were minors in 2023 – a 20 percent increase from 2022. Moreover, the most common age of an assault suspect in 2023 was 14 years old. This will likely increase calls for monitoring at schools and closer coordination between teachers and police officials with regard to potential at-risk individuals.
5. **FORECAST:** Considering that police warned of potential copycat attacks following the April 2024 school shooting, similar warnings are likely to be issued in relation to the recent incident in the coming days. Consequently, authorities are likely to implement tighter school security measures nationwide in the coming weeks. These are likely to include enhanced entry controls, police patrols around campuses, and increased digital monitoring of online threats — particularly threats to educational institutions.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in Finland on May 21 and in the coming weeks are advised to maintain heightened vigilance for the threat of potential violent incidents in and near educational institutions.
2. Report any suspicious behavior, communications, or items near school premises to local authorities immediately.
3. If a stabbing, shooting, or similar incident occurs, individuals are advised to evacuate the area if safe to do so, or otherwise seek secure shelter inside a locked room and remain quiet until cleared by police.
4. Public, private, and third-sector organizations are advised to increase their awareness of threats on social media through the use of threat monitoring services. Increased awareness of an organization's political footprint and perceptions from fringe online groups can help uncover potential violent actors and plots before they occur.
5. For further questions and risk assessments, please contact intel@max-security.com.