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A Brush with Terror

continued from front

tivities. There's no real cause to do different."

Investigators are looking into the likelihood that the early Sunday morning fire was in retaliation to the bomb plot, as Mohamud occasionally attended the mosque while he was enrolled at Oregon State Uni-

Since the fire, police have stepped up patrols around mosques.

No one was injured in the blaze, though 80 percent of the Islamic center's office was burned.

The FBI has joined the arson investigation, and has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

We have made it quite clear that the FBI will not tolerate any kind of retribution or attack on the Muslim community," said Arthur Balizan, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Oregon, in a prepared statement. "We are working very closely with the leadership at the mosque. We will find the person responsible for this attack and bring the full force of the federal justice system to bear. In the meantime, the FBI remains absolutely committed to protecting each

work and worship in a free and safe society."

In reaction to the arson fire, one Portland resident remembered that "During the Iran hostage affair, Lebanese restaurant owners were attacked (because) people couldn't tell - or between Arabs and Iranians. Never mind that Iranians who came to United States to escape the political regime had nothing to do with it anyway," she said. "People feeling powerless lash out thoughtlessly."

In response to questions about fear of further reprisals, Mayor Sam Adams said, "I trust in Portlanders' sense of fairness; that bad actions by one member of any group does not and should not be generalized or applied more widely to other members of that same group. Othergroup in Portland, European-Americans, producing many crimes daily, would be in deep trouble."

He added that City Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Portland Police Chief Mike Reese are doing outreach to leadership within the Somali community.

On Sunday, Adams and Fritz met

and every American's right to live, with leaders of the Somali community at City Hall for a peace rally to discuss the Black Friday scare and its aftermath.

> Also at the rally was Jama, acting as a spokesman for the Somali community.

"The mayor's office and Amanda bother to find out — the different Fritz's office have been very helpful. We're really grateful for their support," he said. "Citizens have been calling or emailing asking how they can help...everyone is being very supportive."

> Mohamud, a graduate of Beaverton's Westview High School who had been enrolled at Oregon State until October, was first contacted by an undercover FBI agent in June, though he had been monitored by investigators for at least months prior.

Just minutes after Mohamud's wise, as part of the biggest racial 5:40 p.m. arrest, the tree lighting ceremony continued without further incident.

In response to the thwarted bomb plot, Commissioner Dan Saltzman on Monday called for the City Council to rejoin the federal Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force, which focuses on counteracting international terrorism through increased security.

Created in 1997, the JTTF focused primarily on domestic terrorism, though that changed following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorists attacks.

Saltzman said Portland should commit to rejoining the JTTF at its Dec. 8 city council meeting, saying, "We need to move forward, we must not delay when the safety of our residents is at stake."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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