



COMMITTEE ON  
**HOMELAND  
SECURITY**  
DEMOCRATS

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, *Ranking member*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)**

***The Future of Counterterrorism: Addressing the Evolving Threat to  
Domestic Security***

**Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence**

**February 28, 2017**

Today, we will hear about what can be done to effectively counter ISIL, Al Qaeda, sovereign citizens, and other terrorist organizations. Through improved intelligence and effective allegiances, we have come a long way as a nation since September 11th.

However, just a little over a month into the Trump Administration, the President, through his ill-conceived and hasty U.S. counterterrorism policies seeks to weaken counterterrorism defenses built over the sixteen years since 9/11.

For example, on January 27th, President Trump used unilateral Presidential power to circumvent Congress and defied our constitution by issuing an Executive Order based on stereotyping, fear mongering, and bigotry. This careless executive order and President Trump's inflammatory rhetoric used throughout his campaign and during his presidency provides propaganda for terrorist networks and alienates our allies within the United States and abroad.

And while the Trump Administration continues to advance policies that do nothing to make this country safer, and those in Congress defend these policies, questions still remain about one of the largest counterterrorism issues before our Country.

We have no more answers regarding President Trump and this Administration's continuous entanglement with the Vladimir Putin Regime. In fact, we have more questions now than then because we know that President Trump's former national security advisor lied about his communications with the Putin Regime. I am disappointed that Republicans in Congress are unwilling to acknowledge that this significantly impacts our national security.

I have said it several times and I will continue, we need an independent commission to fully investigate Russia's interference with the election and any potential Trump campaign ties to Putin and his policies. Congress and the American public must be assured that our leaders have their best interests in mind when creating policy, especially and including our counterterrorism policies, not the best interests of foreign nations and their leaders.

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