



## HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

### Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Scott Perry (R-PA) Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee

*Identifying the Enemy: Radical Islamist Terror*  
*September 22, 2016*

Remarks as Prepared

From Mohammod Abdulazeez in Chattanooga, TN, Nidal Hasan in Fort Hood, TX, to Syed Farook in San Bernardino, CA, radical Islamist terrorism is becoming more and more frequent and devastating. According to the Committee on Homeland Security's September 2016 Terror Threat Snapshot, since 2014, there have been 105 ISIS-linked plots to attack the West – 30 of those in the United States. In 2016 alone, 214 people have been murdered in terrorist attacks against the West, and just a few months ago, the deadliest post-9/11 terror attack on American soil occurred when Islamist terrorist, Omar Mateen, opened fire in an Orlando nightclub, killing 49 innocent people.

Unfortunately, the Obama Administration is more focused on being politically correct in its terminology than actually confronting this growing cancer – evidenced by among other things, the unnecessary censorship of Omar Mateen's 9-1-1 call transcript. In a joint statement with the FBI, the Department of Justice said that the purpose of releasing the redacted transcript was not wanting "to provide the killer or terrorist organizations with a publicity platform for hateful propaganda," while still providing transparency. Omitting Omar Mateen's pledge of allegiance to ISIS is one of many examples of the utterly gross negligence of this Administration in confronting the threat of radical Islamist terror.

While the Obama Administration says it refrains from using certain terms so as not to condemn an entire religion, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has said, "It is extraordinary that the political correctness of Western elites has discouraged the study of what inspires those who dream of slaughtering us...We must understand the deep roots of Islamist beliefs...if we are going to combat them."

It's long past time to stop hiding behind the façade of political correctness. Radical Islamist terrorists are the ones who threaten our freedoms and threaten our way of life, not the millions of Muslims who value peace with their American brothers and sisters. If we're unwilling or afraid to name our enemy and to dig deep into their ideological motivations, how will we ever destroy this scourge? Retired Army Lt. General, and former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Michael Flynn, said it best: "We're in a world war against a messianic mass movement of evil people, most of them inspired by a totalitarian ideology: Radical Islam. But we are not permitted to speak or write those two words, which is potentially fatal to our culture. We can't beat them if we don't understand them and are afraid to define them, but our political leaders haven't permitted that. We're not allowed to use the phrase 'Radical Islam' or 'Islamists.' That's got to change."

By disallowing the use of specific phrases and by denying contributing factors to this extremist movement, the Administration is undercutting prominent Muslims who truly understand that reforming Islam must

come from within. We must target the root causes of radicalization, instead of waiting until countless more of our citizens are murdered by these radicals, and then playing defense after the fact.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was established in response to the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. DHS currently is the lead federal agency in an initiative known as “countering violent extremism” or CVE. For example, in September 2015, DHS created the Office of Community Partnerships to counter violent extremism by coordinating efforts among federal agencies. Congress already appropriated \$10 million to DHS for CVE grants for FY 2016, but we have no way of gauging whether CVE efforts have been successful – or harmful – or if money is being spent wisely.

Additionally, in September 2015, the Department’s Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) established a Countering Violent Extremism Subcommittee. I was appalled, and frankly disgusted, to learn that a person who tweeted that the 9/11 attacks “changed the world for good” was even considered, let alone asked to be a member of this group tasked with providing advice to senior government officials responsible for the safety of our Nation. In addition, DHS Secretary Johnson became the first Cabinet Secretary to address the Islamic Society of North America’s annual conference. Addressing an organization that was an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation investigation, the largest terror financing investigation in American history, is astounding. Not only are these examples exceptionally troubling – at best – they call into question the Department’s judgment and allegiance when it comes to defeating this obvious threat. The purpose of this hearing is to gain an outside perspective on the real threat that faces our Nation; does our government truly understand the extent of radical Islamist terror, and what needs to be done to combat it? I hope this hearing will provide much needed insight into the next actions we should take to fulfill our Constitutional duty in protecting this country and its ideals. It’s time for us to identify the enemy, and destroy it.

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