



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
Suite 11050  
1425 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Telephone: (202) 514-3642

September 29, 2017

William F. Marshall  
Judicial Watch, Inc.  
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
[bmarshall@judicialwatch.org](mailto:bmarshall@judicialwatch.org)

Re: AG/16-00260 (F)  
VRB:DRH:ND

Dear Mr. Marshall:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 5, 2015, and received October 19, 2015, seeking records concerning the Strong Cities Network. This response is made on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General.

Please be advised that a search has been conducted in the Office of the Attorney General and of the electronic database of the Department Executive Secretariat, which is the official records repository of the Office of the Attorney General, and seventy-six pages were located that are responsive to your request. I have determined that thirty-seven pages are appropriate for release with excisions made pursuant to Exemption 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) and (b)(6), and copies are enclosed. Exemption 5 pertains to certain inter and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege. Exemption 6 pertains to information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties. I have also determined that twenty-eight pages should be withheld in full pursuant to the deliberative process privilege of Exemption 5.

For your information, emails in the enclosed documents which use the account name "Elizabeth Carlisle" denote e-mails to or from former Attorney General Loretta Lynch's official Department of Justice email account. Mrs. Lynch's official email account did not use her name, in order to protect her security and privacy and enable her to conduct Department business efficiently via email.

Please note that the enclosed pages also contain records that are not responsive to your request inasmuch as they do not concern the Strong Cities Network in any way. Those records have not been processed and are marked accordingly. Furthermore, please be advised that logistical emails concerning the involvement of Attorney General Lynch at the September 28, 2015 announcement launching the Strong Cities Network were not considered responsive to your request.

-2-

Because eleven pages contain information of interest to the National Security Division (NSD) and Department of State (DOS), we have referred this material to NSD and DOS for processing and direct response to you. Specifically, we have referred six pages to NSD and five pages to DOS. Contact information for NSD and DOS can be found online at [www.foia.gov](http://www.foia.gov).

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2015) (amended 2016). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Laurie Day, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001; telephone at 202-514-3642; or facsimile at 202-514-1009.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,



Vanessa R. Brinkmann  
Senior Counsel

Enclosures

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**From:** Steele, Brette L. (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 2:16 PM  
**To:** Cheung, Denise (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: AG's Briefing Book

Agenda and running order attache (b) (5)

    
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ORDER.PDF 9 28 15.docx

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**From:** Cheung, Denise (OAG)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 1:08 PM  
**To:** Steele, Brette L. (ODAG) (b) (6) (NSD)  
**Subject:** AG's Briefing Book

Are there any materials you have that should be part of the AG's briefing materials for UNGA tomorrow? If so, can you send them my way? Thanks!

## STRONG CITIES NETWORK LAUNCH



### AGENDA

Tuesday, 29 September 2015

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Trustee Council Chamber, United Nations

New York, United States

- 4:00pm**      **Initial Welcome**  
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
- 4:10pm**      **Welcome Remarks**  
Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City
- 4:20pm**      **Keynote Address**  
U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch
- 4:30pm**      **Strong Cities Network: Overview**  
Sasha Havlicek, CEO of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- 4:35pm**      **Video Statement**  
Mayor Denis Coderre of Montreal
- 4:40pm**      **Strong Cities Network: Focus, objectives and delivery**  
**Chair:** Sasha Havlicek, CEO of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- Deputy Executive Director Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, UN-Habitat
  - Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb of Rotterdam, Netherlands
  - Governor Hassan Ali Joho of Mombasa, Kenya
  - Mayor Betsy Hodges of Minneapolis, United States
- 5:25pm**      **Closing Video Statement**  
Mayor Anne Hidalgo of Paris
- 5:30pm**      **End of Session**

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**From:** Maccoby, Jacob D (OPA)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:09 PM  
**To:** Carlisle, Elizabeth ← "Official email account of the Attorney General"  
**Cc:** Werner, Sharon (OAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Cheung, Denise (OAG); Swartz, Bruce; Newman, Melanie (OPA); Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA); Pierce, Emily (OPA); Chandler, Adam D. (OPA); Meadows, Bessie L (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Remarks - UNGA Strong Cities  
**Attachments:** UNGA Strong Cities DRAFT4 AG FORMAT.docx

Good afternoon, ma'am-

One very minor addition at the close of the UNGA remarks -- the Institute for Strategic Dialogue would like you to tee up their CEO, Sasha Havlicek, who will be following you. I've added the following sentence:

"At this time, I would like to turn things over to Sasha Havlicek ["HAVE-lih-check"], the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue."

An updated version with that addition is attached.

Thank you,

-Jake

-----Original Message-----

From: Maccoby, Jacob D (OPA)  
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 11:44 PM  
To: Carlisle, Elizabeth ← "Official email account of the Attorney General"  
Cc: Werner, Sharon (OAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Cheung, Denise (OAG); Swartz, Bruce; Newman, Melanie (OPA); Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA); Pierce, Emily (OPA); Chandler, Adam D. (OPA); Meadows, Bessie L (OAG)  
Subject: Draft Remarks - UNGA Strong Cities

Good evening, ma'am-

Attached are draft remarks for your UNGA Strong Cities Network speech.

Please let me know any edits.

Thank you,

-Jake

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**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 6:18 PM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN P. CARLIN DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW'S EVENT ON MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO THE FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTER THREAT



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV)

NSD  
(202) 514-2007  
TTY (866) 544-5309

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN P. CARLIN DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW'S EVENT ON MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO THE FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTER THREAT**

*Remarks as prepared for delivery*

NEW YORK

Thank you, Maqsoud [Kruse], for that kind introduction.

It is an honor to be back here in New York at this event, hosted by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) and the Hedayah Center. IIJ's efforts to uphold and promote the rule of law provide a clear vision not only of what we are up against, but what we stand for. As President Obama said, "The essential ingredient to real and lasting stability and progress is not less democracy; it's more democracy. It's institutions that uphold the rule of law and apply justice equally." We are honored to join you in carrying out this mission.

Likewise, we stand with the Hedayah Center, the first-ever International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Less than three years since its inauguration, Hedayah is already bringing together expertise and experience from around the globe to prevent individuals from ever starting down the path toward radicalization to violence. Hedayah's work is essential to our collective success.

To both the IIJ and the Hedayah Center, your partnership reflects an integrated counterterrorism approach, critical to keeping people safe. Thank you.

## **Global Changes**

At the U.S. Department of Justice, we fight against ISIL to protect the American public, here and abroad. But we also understand that our work contributes to global efforts to eliminate the threat ISIL poses to innocents around the world. We recognize our collective responsibility to prevent our citizens from going overseas or funding others to join ISIL in a campaign that uses rape, sexual slavery and the murder of civilians, including children, as tactics for success.

Last year, the United States joined the international community in a historic step, with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2178. Through Resolution 2178, the global community committed to address the foreign terrorist fighter threat through law enforcement, border security, information sharing and countering violent extremism.

And the international community has made great strides to honor that commitment.

Many nations have implemented the best practices endorsed at the Global Counterterrorism Forum. In the United States, we have in place law enforcement investigative tools and techniques that are both effective and protective of individual rights and the rule of law. We use sophisticated undercover operations to disrupt those who plan to travel to engage in terrorism, allowing us to identify the threats early – before potential fighters travel, train or return. We criminalize providing a broad range of material support for terrorist activity. These are tools we have used for many years and ones that are now globally recognized as invaluable in our fight against terrorism.

Since the adoption of Resolution 2178, we have visited more than 20 countries to consult on legislative reform and investigative and prosecutorial strategies, and to learn from their experiences. We assisted nations pursuing their first foreign terrorist fighter prosecutions and exchanged best practices. We will continue these efforts in the coming year.

Since the adoption of Resolution 2178, over 20 countries have enacted or strengthened their laws and nearly three dozen nations have taken law enforcement actions to disrupt foreign fighters and aspirants.

Since last year's meeting, foreign terrorist fighter cases in the United States have increased from about a dozen to more than 50. In total, since 2013, we have publicly charged more than 70 individuals, in over 25 districts, for foreign terrorist fighter or homegrown violent extremist-related conduct. And the FBI has open investigations of suspected supporters of ISIL in all 50 states.

It is hard to believe that it has been only one year since we all gathered in New York for last September's historic events. While we have made tremendous progress in our collective global efforts to combat the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, we must redouble our efforts. This will be a multi-year struggle.

## **Threat Evolution**

We must continue to grow and evolve, because the threat will.

At about this time last year, foreign terrorist fighters in Syria and Iraq numbered about 15,000. Recent estimates show that today that number has nearly doubled – to an estimated 28,000 – a number that dwarfs the foreign fighter numbers at the height of the Afghan conflict in the 1980s and 90s.

These figures are not precise because they come from a variety of sources that vary in quality. And it may be that our efforts have made us better at identifying and counting these individuals. But the trend line is nonetheless disturbing. Twenty-eight thousand people, from 100 countries worldwide, who threaten not only the regions to which they travel but also the countries to which they return.

These figures highlight the need for nations to continue and in fact increase efforts to collectively fight ISIL. There is still much to do, including to find ways to disrupt ISIL's ability to recruit and radicalize followers through social media.

In an interconnected world, it takes just the push of a button for ISIL to reach an exponentially greater number of people. ISIL has turned to social media – the language of youth and a global marketing tool designed to reach households around the world. According to FBI Director [James] Comey, ISIL now has about 21,000 English-language followers on Twitter alone.

ISIL exploits social media to recruit, to disseminate messaging and to plan attacks. We have seen each of these borne out in the United States.

A young Mississippi couple – just 20- and 22-years-old – recently attempted to travel to Syria to join ISIL. They used social media to communicate with an individual they believed was an ISIL recruiter and researched their trip online.

A 17-year-old resident of Virginia used Twitter to provide instructions on how to use Bitcoin, a virtual currency, to mask providing funds to ISIL. He also facilitated travel for an 18-year-old who traveled to Syria to join ISIL.

We know that ISIL used Twitter to terrorize Mosul before their attack. ISIL also uses social media to make public calls for lone offender attacks in the West.

Millions of social media users simply reject ISIL's propaganda. Although only a tiny percentage of susceptible, and often young, people have been influenced by ISIL online, that number is still too large. Even one is too many. Social media creates for this segment a sort of "radicalization echo chamber," where social media followers reinforce for each other ISIL's propaganda.

In the U.S., we have identified new trends in our investigations and prosecutions, seemingly driven in part by the influence of social media. Here, the threat is not confined geographically or ethnically.

First, youth. ISIL continues to target the young, including children, in its recruiting efforts, and its message is getting through. In the United States, over 55 percent of defendants in foreign terrorist fighter cases are under 25-years-old. Over a third are 21 or younger. Last October, three juvenile girls from Colorado attempted to travel to Syria to join ISIL. They were diverted in Frankfurt and returned to the United States, thanks to the efforts of our German partners, but they were not the first nor will they be the last.

Second, and perhaps most alarming, we are witnessing a surge in what we call homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) – individuals inspired by this extremist ideology to conduct attacks inside the United States. ISIL and its supporters have repeatedly called for attacks right where potential attackers live. Terrorism with the reach of mass, global marketing. No passport or travel required.

To prevent tragedy, we must prevent people from answering that call, both in the United States and across the globe. In April of this year, a man inspired by ISIL attempted to detonate what he believed was a fully functional bomb just outside a military installation in Kansas. He intended to kill as many military personnel as he could.

And, just this month, a man inspired by ISIL was arrested for distributing information on how to construct a WMD (weapon of mass destruction). He hoped that the accurate information he provided would be used to conduct an attack against a Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> memorial ceremony in Missouri. The list, unfortunately, goes on. Law enforcement techniques and strategies are needed.

### **The Need for a Comprehensive Approach**

So what do we do together to counter ISIL and address these alarming trends?



Law enforcement is a powerful tool, but it cannot be our only tool. In addition to a strong and enforceable counterterrorism legal regime, we must also develop ways to reach individuals early on their path toward radicalization. Before they respond to ISIL's siren song.

This group and our many partners dedicated to countering violent extremism are critical to doing just that.

Much of what we do on this front echoes the practices set out in the GCTF's (Global Counterterrorism Forum's) *Hague-Marrakech Memorandum*.

First, we must do more to empower those who are best-placed to affect change – especially parents and those who know their communities best. Our efforts are most successful when we partner with all communities to uphold the law.

Local communities, including faith communities, form the fabric of our nations and community members are often best-positioned to identify and relate to individuals who have begun on a path to violent extremism.

Recognizing the key role of communities in combating violent extremism and the need for more than a top-down approach to CVE, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch will open tomorrow's Strong Cities Network meeting. The Strong Cities Network is the first ever global network of municipal leaders involved in building community resilience. It is a powerful example of our integrated strategy in this area – ensuring well informed and equipped families, community leaders and institutions.

Because community members see things that law enforcement agencies do not. Here in the United States, one study found that in more than 80 percent of cases involving homegrown violent extremists, third-party bystanders observed activities or behaviors suggesting radicalization or violent intent. However, more than half of the witnesses discounted or downplayed their observations. So community members are not only best positioned to intervene with those on a path towards violent extremism, they also may be the first to see potential steps towards radicalization.

Recognizing the importance of community engagement in early intervention, the Department of Justice has developed three community-based pilot programs – in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; the greater Boston area; and Los Angeles. Government, academic and community leaders are working together to develop counter narratives, youth programming and constructive dialogue on disengagement. Strong outreach programs for communities and training for law enforcement have led to a relationship of trust and increased cooperation on everything from civil rights to radicalization-to-violence.

The Department of Justice is also exploring options to intervene with would-be violent extremists before violence occurs, and to address disengagement and rehabilitation, including “off ramps” to prosecution.

CVE will require community engagement, but it will also require, as recognized in the *Hague-Marrakech Memorandum*, countering ISIL's use of online tools and social media.

First, although ISIL uses social media and open platforms for recruitment, they also conduct their operational planning through communications, sometimes encrypted, using mainstream technology. Those providing the services must take responsibility for how their services can be abused. Responsible providers need to understand what the threats are and to take action to prevent terrorist groups from abusing their services to induce recruits to commit terrorist acts.

Beyond that, we need to use social media to reveal ISIL for what it is – a group that beheads and kills Muslims and non-Muslims with the same impunity; rapes and sells women into sexual slavery; and pillages and destroys historical artifacts. We must strip away the slick propaganda and the glossy images and lay bare the truth.

We also must harness social media's power to provide a positive vision for young people. We commend the efforts of the Sawab Center and others who partner with us to do just that. Social media is a powerful platform for amplifying the stories of ISIL defectors, broadcasting the misery of life under ISIL and displaying the damage they are doing to Muslim communities and to the causes they claim to defend.

And importantly, social media allows us to amplify the stories of young people who are overcoming difficult circumstances – channeling their talent and energy to produce positive change in their societies.

To succeed, we must work together. We must take the lessons learned in each of our countries and put them to use globally. We must confront the violent extremist threat on all fronts.

Law enforcement will remain a strong tool in this battle. But it alone is not enough. Our first goal ought to be to dissuade would-be foreign fighters from joining ISIL in the first place. That requires us to engage with our communities and support efforts to identify possible interventions at every step of the foreign terrorist fighter development cycle, from recruitment and radicalization, to mobilization and return. We must work together to disrupt and detain those who have already gone, while simultaneously deterring those who seek to follow that path.

We look forward to hearing how our international partners address prevention, rehabilitation and reentry in the panels to come. Thank you.

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**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 7:17 PM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** LAUNCH OF STRONG CITIES NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM



## Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015  
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(202) 514-2007  
TTY (866) 544-5309

### **LAUNCH OF STRONG CITIES NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

WASHINGTON – Cities are vital partners in international efforts to build social cohesion and resilience to violent extremism. Local communities and authorities are the most credible and persuasive voices to challenge violent extremism in all of its forms and manifestations in their local contexts. While many cities and local authorities are developing innovative responses to address this challenge, no systematic efforts are in place to share experiences, pool resources and build a community of cities to inspire local action on a global scale.

“The Strong Cities Network will serve as a vital tool to strengthen capacity-building and improve collaboration,” said Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch. “As we continue to counter a range of domestic and global terror threats, this innovative platform will enable cities to learn from one another, to develop best practices and to build social cohesion and community resilience here at home and around the world.”

The Strong Cities Network (SCN) – which launches September 29<sup>th</sup> at the United Nations – will empower municipal bodies to fill this gap while working with civil society and safeguarding the rights of local citizens and communities.

The SCN will strengthen strategic planning and practices to address violent extremism in all its forms by fostering collaboration among cities, municipalities and other sub-national authorities.

“To counter violent extremism we need determined action at all levels of governance,” said Governing Mayor Stian Berger Røsland of Oslo while commenting on their participation in the SCN. “To succeed, we must coordinate our efforts and cooperate across borders. The Strong Cities Network will enable cities across the globe pool our resources, knowledge and best practices together and thus leave us standing stronger in the fight against one of the greatest threats to modern society.”

The SCN will connect cities, city-level practitioners and the communities they represent through a series of workshops, trainings and sustained city partnerships. Network participants will also contribute to and benefit from an online repository of municipal-level good practices and web-based training modules and will be

eligible for grants supporting innovative, local initiatives and strategies that will contribute to building social cohesion and resilience to violent extremism.

The SCN will include an International Steering Committee of approximately 25 cities and other sub-national entities from different regions that will provide the SCN with its strategic direction. The SCN will also convene an International Advisory Board, which includes representatives from relevant city-focused networks, to help ensure SCN builds upon their work. It will be run by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), a leading international “think-and-do” tank with a long-standing track record of working to prevent violent extremism:

“The SCN provides a unique new opportunity to apply our collective lessons in preventing violent extremism in support of local communities and authorities around the world”, said CEO Sasha Havlicek of ISD. “We look forward to developing this international platform for joint innovation to impact this pressing challenge.”

“It is with great conviction that Montréal has agreed to join the Strong Cities Network founders,” said the Honorable Mayor Denis Coderre of Montreal. “This global network is designed to build on community-based approaches to address violent extremism, promote openness and vigilance and expand upon local initiatives like Montréal’s Mayors’ International Observatory on Living Together. I am delighted that through the Strong Cities Network, the City of Montréal will more actively share information and best practices with a global network of leaders on critical issues facing our communities.”

The Strong Cities Network will launch on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT, following the *Leaders’ Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism*. Welcoming remarks will be offered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein and Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City, who will also introduce a Keynote address by U.S. Attorney General Lynch. Following this event, the Strong Cities International Steering Committee, consisting of approximately 25 mayors and other leaders from cities and other sub-national entities from around the globe, will hold its inaugural meeting on Sept. 30, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT.

For more information, please visit [www.strongcitiesnetwork.org](http://www.strongcitiesnetwork.org) or contact Sabine Barton via email at: [info@strongcitiesnetwork.org](mailto:info@strongcitiesnetwork.org) or telephone: +44 207 493 9333.

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15-1191

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**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:34 AM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 2015



# Department of Justice

## PRESS GUIDANCE

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

**4:00 p.m. EDT** Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch will announce the launch of the Strong Cities Network at the United Nations General Assembly.  
United Nations Headquarters  
Trusteeship Council Chamber  
46<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
**OPEN PRESS**

**NOTE: All media must present valid U.N. credentials in order to cover this event.** Click the following links for more information on the [U.N. credentials process](#) and [media instructions](#) for attending U.N. special events. Press inquiries regarding logistics should be directed to Tal Mekel with the United Nations' Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit at 212-963-6934, Kevin Lewis at [Kevin.S.Lewis@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kevin.S.Lewis@usdoj.gov) and [press@usdoj.gov](mailto:press@usdoj.gov).

Non-Responsive Record



Non-Responsive Record



Non-Responsive Record



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**From:** White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:40 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** Fact Sheet: Leaders' Summit to Counter ISIL and Violent Extremism

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2015

**FACT SHEET: Leaders' Summit to Counter ISIL and Violent Extremism**

President Obama today is hosting a Summit highlighting the international community's efforts to counter ISIL, address Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), and Counter Violent Extremism (CVE). The President has made clear that ISIL poses a threat to the United States and the international community, and that we will use all instruments of power to defeat it. He has also made clear that this fight will not be won quickly, solely through military means, or by the United States alone. This is a long-term struggle that will be won with a comprehensive approach in concert with state and nongovernmental actors across the globe – which is exactly what we are doing. This Summit, also hosted by Vice President Biden, built on progress achieved the last year and provided the participants the opportunity to announce new initiatives. Today the international community demonstrated its resolve to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL and break the lifecycle of terrorism – from radicalization to conflict zones and everywhere in between.

**Countering ISIL**

The United States established and is leading a Coalition of more than 60 partners committed to degrading and ultimately destroying ISIL, and today welcomed new Coalition members Malaysia, Nigeria, and Tunisia to join those efforts. While military power rolled back some of the group's territorial gains and improved local partner forces' capabilities, Coalition efforts to begin countering ISIL's messaging, disrupting its finances and countering the FTF threat continue to be equally important. And through humanitarian assistance and stabilization programs, the Coalition is helping those who have survived ISIL's barbarity. Yesterday the Coalition released a statement outlining the breadth and depth of counter-ISIL efforts in the past year.

As part of our counter-ISIL efforts, the Coalition is **supporting the Iraqi government's progress toward effective governance**. Under Prime Minister Abadi, Baghdad has approved a comprehensive program to foster inclusive governance and reconciliation, and taken initial steps to rein in corruption, streamline the bureaucracy and decentralize responsibilities to provincial and local leaders. The U.S. and our Coalition partners will work with the Iraqi Government to help ensure these and many other steps are fully implemented.

The challenge of establishing effective governance is even greater in Syria, where the regime is conducting a brutal campaign that has fractured the country and allowed ISIL to flourish. With our



allies, we are **pursuing a negotiated political transition that removes Asad** from power and establishes a transitional government uniting the Syrian people.

More than two dozen Coalition partners, led by the United States, have **contributed to the military campaign in Iraq and Syria**, conducting over 7,200 air strikes to date and training and providing equipment and ammunition to local partners. As a result, ISIL has lost the ability to operate freely in 20-25 percent of the populated territory it held one year ago in Iraq and Syria. In Syria, Kurdish and Arab partners – with Coalition support – have cut off ISIL’s access to all but 68 miles of the 600-mile long Syria-Turkey border, which is an important step toward preventing FTF travel and squeezing ISIL supply lines.

- In Iraq, 18 Coalition members have trained more than 13,000 Iraqi and Peshmerga soldiers. The Coalition has also facilitated training for thousands of Sunni tribal fighters, supporting Baghdad’s efforts to recapture Ramadi and liberate Anbar Province.
- In Syria, the Department of Defense is training and equipping appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian armed opposition to counter ISIL and create the conditions for a political settlement. Training sites were established in Turkey and Jordan, and sites in Qatar and Saudi Arabia will open shortly. Coalition strikes and nonlethal assistance have also helped a variety of other forces in Syria, many of whom played critical roles clearing ISIL from all but approximately 68 miles of the Turkey-Syria border.

The Coalition is working to **squeeze ISIL financially**. Early this year, the Coalition’s Counter ISIL Financial Group (CIFG), co-chaired by the United States, Italy and Saudi Arabia, developed an action plan to disrupt ISIL’s financial activity and ability to raise, move and use funds. This week, the United States designated over 30 ISIL officials, facilitators and supporters and announced a State Department Rewards for Justice offer of up to \$5 million for information leading to the significant disruption of the sale of oil or antiquities benefiting ISIL. Additionally, the UN added key ISIL facilitators to the UN al-Qa’ida Sanctions List, effectively freezing their assets and preventing them from using the international financial system as well as prohibiting their travel in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1267.

The Coalition is also working to **erode ISIL’s appeal** by strengthening capabilities to counter the group’s messages of hate. The State Department’s Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications operationalized an Interagency Counterterrorism Communications cell to improve cross-government collaboration on countering ISIL’s online messaging. And the UAE-based Sawab (“the right path”) Center is increasing online debate to undermine ISIL’s claims to legitimacy and strategic success.

The United States and its partners are **responding to the humanitarian impact** of the conflict and ISIL’s depravity. In Syria, ISIL has contributed to the crisis that has forced nearly 12 million people from their homes, including more than 4 million refugees, 7.6 million internally displaced persons and 5.5 million children. The United States is the single largest humanitarian aid donor for those impacted by the Syria crisis, contributing \$4.5 billion since the crisis began. Since 2014, 3.2 million Iraqis have also become internally displaced, and the United States has contributed more than \$477 million in humanitarian assistance to address this and the needs of other vulnerable populations. Additionally, on September 15, the Department of Defense approved up to \$75 million

for relief supplies to help address immediate lifesaving needs for displaced Iraqis. Our joint efforts with Coalition partners, including financial contributions to the United Nations Development Program's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization, have begun yielding positive results near Tikrit, where approximately 100,000 civilians displaced by ISIL's violence have returned.

### **Countering the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Threat**

ISIL is a unique threat in large part due to its ability to attract FTFs, and the United States is leading global efforts to address this challenge. **Last year, President Obama chaired a UN Security Council summit at which UNSCR 2178 was adopted.** The binding resolution, which has improved the international community's ability to counter the FTF threat, requires countries to prevent suspected individuals from entering or transiting their countries; disrupt financial support to FTFs; implement UNSCR 1267 sanctions obligations and propose sanctions against those supporting ISIL and affiliates or derivatives of al-Qaida; and implement legislation to enable prosecution. UNSCR 2178 also underscores the centrality of efforts to counter violent extremism to suppress the FTF threat, a theme amplified at today's summit.

Since the adoption of UNSCR 2178, **22 countries have passed legal frameworks to better address the threat posed by FTFs, 34 countries have arrested FTFs, and 12 have successfully prosecuted at least one foreign terrorist fighter.** The United States has supported several of our partners' development and implementation of laws addressing the FTF threat while respecting fundamental human rights and civil liberties.

The United States continues to help partners improve border security to better identify, restrict and report suspected FTF travel, including encouraging partners to participate in multilateral information sharing mechanisms. Today, **through [INTERPOL's Counterterrorism Fusion Center \(CTFC\)](#), 52 countries now share foreign terrorist fighter profiles.** Bilaterally, the United States has concluded arrangements with over 40 international partners to provide a mechanism for sharing terrorist travel information.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is **encouraging additional countries to join the U.S. and more than 60 other countries that use travel information, like Advanced Passenger Information (API), to more effectively identify known and previously unknown FTFs.** In May, DHS and the State Department drove an unprecedented meeting of Interior Ministers of UN Security Council nations to advocate for strong implementation of UNSCR 2178 principles. The ministerial focused on border controls particularly. DHS also announced the creation of an open-source tool for strengthening border security. At a July meeting in Spain, DHS, State and partner nations made key financial commitments to strengthening border security.

**At home, we are employing a whole-of-government approach, leveraging homeland security, law enforcement, justice sector, intelligence, diplomatic, capacity building, and information sharing tools to counter FTFs.** DHS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) disseminate Joint Intelligence Bulletins to share threat information with state, local and tribal law enforcement. Additionally, in recent months DHS announced changes to security partnerships required under the Visa Waiver Program to align with UNSCR 2178 and enhanced the Electronic system for Travel Authorization (ESTA). These efforts enhance security while continuing to encourage legitimate trade and travel.

## **Building Global Movements to Counter Violent Extremism**

As President Obama has said, “ideologies are not defeated with guns; they’re defeated by better ideas – a more attractive and more compelling vision.” That is why President Obama convened the February 2015 White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism, where the international community came together to expand efforts against violent extremism. Since then, driven by U.S. leadership, the global CVE movement has grown rapidly.

### **Global Progress**

Today, the United States announced the launch of the **International CT and CVE Clearinghouse Mechanism (ICCM)** to improve capacity-building coordination among key partners in several pilot countries. The ICCM will identify programming gaps, and mobilize and coordinate donor resources to address identified needs.

We also highlighted new initiatives and progress on a number of key initiatives announced at the February 2015 White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism:

***Strong Cities Network:*** Today, Attorney General Loretta Lynch will keynote the launch the first [global network of municipal](#) and other sub-national leaders to support the development of effective rights-based community focused programs and training to build resilience against violent extremism.

***The Global Youth Summit to Counter Violent Extremism:*** Yesterday, Lisa Monaco, the President’s Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor, kicked off a summit that brought together more than 80 global youth leaders and organizations from more than 45 countries to build support for innovative youth-led initiatives. The development of global virtual platforms will allow participating youth leaders and youth-oriented organizations to remain connected and share best practices.

***Peer-to-Peer Global University Challenge:*** Spanning both domestic and international CVE efforts, the United States Government recently launched this initiative to empower university students in the United States, Canada, North Africa, Middle East, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Their objectives were to design and implement a social or digital initiative, product, or tool to motivate and empower their peers to join the movement in countering violent extremism. The spring 2015 winner of the of Peer-to-Peer Challenge, One 95.org from Missouri State University, was showcased yesterday at the Global Youth Summit.

***RESOLVE (Research and Solutions for Violent Extremism):*** This international CVE research network, which was launched last week, will provide grants to local researchers and serve as a platform to facilitate information sharing and mentoring. It will be managed by a consortium of organizations that will include the Geneva Centre on Security Policy, Hedayah, the Institute for Security Studies, the Africa Policy Institute, and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

***Balkans Regional CVE Initiative:*** The Government of Albania will lead a Western Balkans regional CVE initiative to build regional capacity and cooperation on CVE issues, in particular through supporting front-line CVE practitioners, civil society, and local communities, developing national CVE strategies, and promoting research, education, and counter-messaging.

***East Africa CVE Center of Excellence and Counter-Messaging Hub:*** The Government of Djibouti will host an Intergovernmental Authority on Development center to provide dedicated support, training,

and research related to CVE, and serve as a resource for governments and civil society from across the region.

*Guidelines and Good Practices for Developing Inclusive National CVE Strategies:* Hedayah, in collaboration with the Global Center on Cooperative Security and the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, produced a set of [guidelines](#), good practices and principles for the development of national CVE strategies/action plans that promote a “whole of society” approach to CVE.

## Domestic Progress

The federal government has partnered with local governments, public safety officials, educators and social service providers in **greater Boston, Los Angeles and the Twin Cities** to implement strategic prevention frameworks that address the unique issues facing their local communities. Since February, federal officials and local partners have advanced and expanded their prevention frameworks to include the addition of new community stakeholders, developed private sector partnerships, and developed a new series of youth-focused programs.

In September, the Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS), in partnership with the Police Executive Research Forum, [convened law enforcement executives](#) and community partners from over a dozen cities to explore how to **adapt best practices and lessons learned from Boston, Los Angeles, Montgomery County, Md. and the Twin Cities to regions around the country**. Participants discussed how to identify and build relationships with key stakeholders and methods to develop, implement and assess community engagement, prevention and intervention programs. The COPS Office and Police Executive Research Forum will develop a series of case studies for local law enforcement seeking to replicate these programs.

DHS, in partnership with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), continues to lead, improve and expand its community engagement work including **Community Engagement Roundtables, Town Hall Meetings, Community Awareness Briefings and Community Resilience Exercises in cities all across the country**. Enhanced efforts will expand opportunities to reach more diverse communities; help develop the necessary understanding of terrorism and terrorist recruitment tactics; and to collectively and holistically explore ways to address these threats before they become a challenge at the local level.

In order to enhance training for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement, DHS and DOJ work cooperatively with its federal partners to **update CVE-relevant training programs based on current threat assessments** through programs such as the Uniformed Police Training Program, Criminal Investigator Training Program, Land Management Police Training Program, and the Rural Police Officer Training.

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**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:55 AM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** EXCERPTS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH AT THE LAUNCH OF THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK TO COMBAT VIOLENT EXTREMISM



## Department of Justice

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### **EXCERPTS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH AT THE LAUNCH OF THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK TO COMBAT VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

WASHINGTON – In her first address at the United Nations General Assembly, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch will join other leaders from around the world to launch the Strong Cities Network to combat violent extremism.

Copied below are excerpts from her prepared remarks about how these collaborative efforts will improve social cohesion and resilience to violent extremism:

“Some [violent extremists] aspire to travel overseas to train or to fight. Others plot attacks on targets within their homelands. But all are antithetical to the shared vision and common cause that joins us here today in this renowned international forum: commitment to collaboration; dedication to peace; and devotion to the cause of justice within our nations and throughout the world.”

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“It is clear that the challenge of building resilience against violent extremism – a challenge that spans vast oceans and borders while impacting our most tightly-knit cities and towns – requires a response that is both wide-ranging and highly focused.”

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“As residents and experts in their communities, local leaders are often best positioned to pinpoint sources of unrest and discord; best equipped to identify signs of potential danger; and best able to recognize and accommodate community cultures, traditions, sensitivities, and customs. By creating a series of partnerships that draws on the knowledge and expertise of our local officials, we can create a more effective response to this virulent threat.”

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“Through the Strong Cities Network that we have unveiled today, we are making the first systematic effort in history to bring together cities around the world to share experiences, to pool resources, and to forge partnerships in order to build local cohesion and resilience on a global scale. Today we tell every city, every town, and every community that has lost the flower of its youth to a sea of hatred – you are not alone. We stand together, and we stand with you.”

\*\*\*

“Our experience tells us that partnering with city-level officials and the communities they represent extends the reach and deepens the perspective of national governments and international alliances. And connecting those localities to one another – as the Strong Cities Network is doing – is not only a powerful way to lift up our communities worldwide. It also sends a message about who we are and what we aspire to be – as an alliance of nations and as a global community. When the representatives of the Strong Cities Network join together for their first Annual Summit in Paris in Spring 2016, they will be making a strong and clear statement to their citizens and to the world: we stand united against violence, united against fear, and united in the pursuit of a better and brighter future.”

\*\*\*

"By connecting municipal leaders, facilitating information-sharing and providing training and other assistance where appropriate, the Strong Cities Network will help to fashion a global response to a global issue, without losing sight of its inherently local roots. It will offer city leaders a way to learn from one another about successful initiatives and productive programs. It will provide a platform for discussing community policing and prevention strategies that safeguard the individual rights of citizens. And it will support the practical delivery of community resilience programs in cities that are taking a new look at this evolving issue."

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**From:** White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 3:28 PM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism

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Office of the Press Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2015

**Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism**

**September 29, 2015**  
**New York City**  
**Chair's Statement**

Leaders from more than 100 countries, 20 multilateral bodies, and 120 civil society and private sector organizations met today in New York City to review progress in countering ISIL, addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), and countering and preventing violent extremism. Participants took note of the efforts of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL since its founding one year ago, expressing support for the work of ministers guiding the Coalition and reaffirming the Coalition's support for the Government of Iraq in its fight against ISIL. They also expressed support for efforts to further implement UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) on preventing the travel of, and support to, foreign terrorist fighters. Participants welcomed progress on the comprehensive, multi-stakeholder action agenda against violent extremism developed at the February 2015 White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), which catalyzed a global movement to address the drivers of existing terrorist threats and prevent future ones from emerging. Participants underscored the central role that the United Nations should continue to play in addressing these challenges, while ensuring respect for international law. Most importantly, participants announced new initiatives on ISIL, FTFs and CVE, demonstrating the international community's resolve to address these issues.

**Countering ISIL**

Leaders emphasized their enduring commitment and common mission to degrade and ultimately destroy the terrorist group ISIL. Over the past year this broad and multifaceted campaign has harnessed a range of tools, including superior military strength, to roll back some of the group's gains in Iraq and Syria and build increasingly capable local partner forces. Also critical has been the Coalition's work to organize efforts to disrupt ISIL's finances, counter the group's messaging, and help those who have borne the brunt of ISIL's brutality to return safely home. This is a long-term campaign that will continue to see periods of both progress and challenge as we advance toward our shared objective of degrading and ultimately destroying ISIL in the interests of regional and global security.



Countries leading the Coalition Working Groups on Stabilization Support, Foreign Terrorist Fighters, Counter-ISIL Messaging and Counter-ISIL Finance thanked members for their intensive efforts over the past year, and welcomed new Coalition members Malaysia, Nigeria, and Tunisia. Others contrasted the military situation a year ago – when ISIL was rapidly advancing and threatening Baghdad and Erbil – to the still challenging but improved situation today. While much remains to be done in this multi-year campaign, the Coalition has begun to make progress against ISIL.

Many speakers noted the dedication and sacrifices of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), including Kurdish Peshmerga and tribal forces, and the Syrian moderate opposition and Kurdish forces. In coordination with international partners, these forces defeated ISIL in Kobane in January, in Tikrit in March, in Tal Abyad in June, and in Hasakah in August. All told, ISIL has lost the freedom of movement in approximately 20-25 percent of the populated territory in Iraq and Syria that it held one year ago.

Participants commended the more than 5,000 personnel from 18 countries now in Iraq supporting the Iraqi government's efforts to strengthen and develop local security forces. Coalition members have trained more than 13,000 ISF and Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraq; in addition, the U.S.-led advise and assist mission at Taqaddum Airbase (al-Habbaniyah) has facilitated training for thousands of Sunni tribal recruits in Anbar under the auspices of the Iraqi government. The Iraqi government has also taken important steps to equip these fighters. Separately, Coalition personnel are supporting the Syrian train and equip mission. More than two dozen Coalition partners, led by the United States, have contributed in some way to the military campaign, with more than 7,200 strikes in Iraq and Syria to date. Turkey's opening of its bases to the Coalition and committing its own aircraft have improved Coalition operations.

Steps are also being taken to stabilize liberated areas of Iraq so displaced residents can return to their homes. Participants welcomed the Iraqi government's partnership with local leaders and the United Nations to help stabilize areas liberated from ISIL, and the Coalition is committed to working within this framework to help Iraq ensure that returnees have services to meet basic needs in a safe environment. Quick, targeted infusion of stabilization support in Tikrit has contributed to the return of more than 100,000 civilians, supported by the United Nations Development Program's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization. More than half subscribed already and the Fund is on track to meet its target of \$60-70m by the first quarter of 2016.

Italy is leading the police training aspect of stabilization efforts: more than 100 Carabinieri are working to train Iraqi police, and Coalition members are working to provide trainers, equipment and funding to expand this effort. And Canada is leading Coalition efforts to improve the integration of women and gender perspectives into decision-making, including on stabilization and protection.

Members of the Coalition's Counter-ISIL Finance Group (CIFG) highlighted efforts to disrupt ISIL's financial activities, including its ability to raise, move, and use funds. Earlier this year, the CIFG agreed to implement an action plan to disrupt ISIL's financial activities and as a result, are developing enhanced mechanisms to share information and develop tailored countermeasures to address the problem. Today, the UN added key ISIL facilitators to the al-Qaida Sanctions List – an action that underscores the international community's unity and commitment to disrupting ISIL's

financial activities. The further development of an informal Public-Private Partnership to help protect antiquities in Syria and Iraq was also announced.

Participants highlighted efforts to coordinate strategic communications to de-legitimize ISIL and diminish its influence. The new Sawab Center in the UAE is a first step toward creating a series of networks to facilitate rapid communications and empower web-savvy practitioners in effectively conveying their individual messages. Participants also noted how the private sector is working with Coalition governments and took note of a new testimonial campaign focused on individuals who have defected from ISIL.

Many speakers drew attention to the plight of refugees and displaced persons who are victims of the conflict in Syria and Iraq, and to the pressing unmet humanitarian situation. A number of speakers announced new contributions to the UN humanitarian appeals for Syria and Iraq as well as other mechanisms to help relieve the situation.

### **Countering the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Threat**

Coalition members outlined efforts to help counter the FTF threat, to include strengthening counterterrorism legislation in their own countries and expanding information sharing on terrorist identities. The FTF Working Group has established strong coordination with other international fora, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

Participants underscored the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2178, which created a policy and legal framework to address the FTF threat. Participants welcomed progress made since the adoption of the resolution last September, including legislative and judicial efforts. They noted that since the passage of UNSCR 2178, 22 countries have passed or updated existing laws to deal with FTFs; 34 countries have arrested FTFs or aspirants; at least 22 countries have brought cases against FTFs; and 12 countries have prosecuted at least one FTF case, resulting in a conviction or sentencing.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to increase and enhance border security to identify, restrict and report travel of suspected FTFs by sharing passenger name records and advanced passenger information and taking greater advantage of INTERPOL's resources, such as screening passengers against its Foreign Terrorist Fighters database and its Stolen and Lost Travel Documents system. In this regard, participants welcomed INTERPOL's announcement of an action agenda that will seek to improve data sharing agreements and international cooperation.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of bilateral agreements to share information on known and suspected FTFs for use by law enforcement, border authorities and security services.

Participants welcomed the efforts of UN bodies, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the 1267/1989 Al-Qa'ida Sanctions Committee, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to strengthen global actions against FTFs.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and welcomed recent efforts at the international, regional and subregional levels on FTFs, including the Government of Spain's

Ministerial Meeting on Stemming the Flow of FTFs in Madrid on July 28. They reaffirmed the importance of initiatives to develop good practices such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum's *Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon*. Participants also noted the announcement of the GCTF Cross-Working Group Initiative to Address the Full Life-Cycle of Radicalization to Violence, which will reinforce many of the key elements of Coalition efforts and the CVE Summit Action Agenda that emerged from February's White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism and was adopted in Rome.

Participants reaffirmed their resolve to continue to take further concrete steps to address and mitigate the FTF threat, to include strengthening counterterrorism legislation, enhancing border security, improving information sharing and adopting new programs to prevent radicalization to violence. They also urged States, if they are able, to assist in the delivery of urgent capacity building and other technical assistance needed by the most affected States, and to adopt holistic approaches to responding to emerging trends and challenges, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of former foreign terrorist fighters.

### **Countering and Preventing the Spread of Violent Extremism**

Participants underscored that the February 2015 White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism catalyzed a global movement to embrace a proactive, positive approach to the urgent challenge of violent extremism in all of its forms and manifestations, that involves contributions from national and local governments, civil society, local communities, the private sector, and multilateral bodies.

They highlighted how this approach must complement rule of law-based, rights-respecting, military, intelligence, and law enforcement efforts. They stressed the importance of continuing to expand the set of CVE stakeholders, initiatives, and interventions that are necessary both for confronting ISIL and other existing terrorist threats, as well as preventing future threats from emerging.

Participants expressed gratitude to the governments and organizations that hosted regional CVE summits and other related events following February's CVE Summit, which were essential for expanding participation in and sustaining the global movement against violent extremism.

Participants welcomed the progress made on the implementation of the CVE Summit's Action Agenda, including new CVE strategies, policies, programs, and partnerships being developed across the Agenda's several pillars, and pledged to redouble implementation efforts. Progress has included:

- new, inclusive national CVE strategies and programs that place increasing emphasis on the role of local communities;
- new initiatives involving women, youth, scholars, and clerics discrediting – both on-line and off-line – hateful ideologies and build community resilience against violent extremism;
- business leaders investing in community-based solutions;
- mayors and municipal leaders developing engagement programs that lift up and support ethnic and religious minority communities;
- additional funding and other support for practical multilateral CVE efforts, including those of the UN, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Hedayah, and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund; and

- the United Nations and other multilateral bodies intensifying their own CVE efforts, including by developing action plans, programs, and initiatives that will help sustain the global CVE movement.

Participants welcomed the update from the UN Secretary-General on the development of his plan of action to prevent violent extremism, which he will present to the UNGA in November. They encouraged the UN to play a central role in sustaining the CVE Summit Action Agenda in 2016 and beyond.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to championing the global CVE movement following the Leaders' Summit, underscoring the need for government and non-government actors to collaborate to make progress on several priority issues, including:

- better understanding the drivers of violent extremism at the local and regional level;
- countering the narratives of violent extremists who glorify violence and attempt to recruit and radicalize young men and women;
- strengthening protections for members of all communities, in particular ethnic and religious minorities;
- preventing radicalization in prisons and facilitating the rehabilitation and reintegration of former violent extremists, including by expanding diversion programs;
- addressing political, social and economic grievances that terrorists exploit, including by working together to advance human rights, improving the rule of law, expanding social services and strengthening security in communities that are at risk; and
- ensuring the inclusion of local communities, civil society, religious leaders, and the private sector in addressing the underlying drivers of violent extremism, recognizing that they are often more capable and credible than national governments.

Participants pledged to make progress on these priority issues, including by supporting the new sub-national networks announced during the Summit, such as those involving cities (i.e., the Strong Cities Network), civil society, and researchers (RESOLVE), new regional CVE hubs and hubs, initiatives aimed at strengthening CVE capacities and cooperation across East Africa and the Western Balkans, as well as supporting the youth-driven Action Agenda that emerged from the first-ever Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism.

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**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 4:21 PM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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### **ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Remarks as prepared for delivery*

NEW YORK

Thank you, Mayor [Bill] de Blasio, for those kind words; for your dedication to promoting equality and expanding opportunity; and for your service to the people of this great city – the city I call home. I would also like to recognize High Commissioner for Human Rights [Prince Zeid Ra'ad] Al Hussein and the UN-Habitat program for their inspiring work and bold leadership as we work to create a future of sustainable peace, development and opportunity. And I'd like to thank all of the mayors and other municipal leaders who are helping to ensure safe and prosperous futures for our communities and our world by serving on the Steering Committee of the Strong Cities Network. It's a pleasure to join such a distinguished group of world leaders on this historic occasion and it's a privilege to represent the Obama Administration and the United States as we inaugurate this innovative, collaborative and critically important global effort.

We gather today at a crucial moment of challenge and opportunity for the security of our nations and the well-being of humankind. Fourteen years ago, not far from where we stand today, terrorists carried out a vicious assault on democratic values and inclusive societies everywhere. Their brutal attack claimed the lives of thousands of innocent victims – including citizens from 90 nations. And in the years since that morning when terror rained from the sky, we have continued to see violent extremists emerge from within our own communities – from terrorists inspired by groups like ISIL to fanatics motivated by hatred against religious or ethnic factions. Some aspire to travel overseas to train or to fight. Others plot attacks on targets within their homelands. But all are antithetical to the shared vision and common cause that joins us here today in this renowned international forum: commitment to collaboration; dedication to peace; and devotion to the cause of justice within our nations and throughout the world.

It is clear that the challenge of building resilience against violent extremism – a challenge that spans vast oceans and borders while impacting our most tightly-knit cities and towns – requires a response that is both wide-ranging and highly focused. National governments have a crucial role to play in ensuring the safety and



security of the nations they serve – and here in the United States, it is our highest priority. Neither the Justice Department I lead nor the administration in which I serve will ever back down from our commitment and our responsibility to safeguard our citizens and defend our homeland. But as a lifelong prosecutor and as a former United States Attorney here in New York, I have also seen firsthand how local authorities can serve as the front lines of our defense against violent extremism. As residents and experts in their communities, local leaders are often best positioned to pinpoint sources of unrest and discord; best equipped to identify signs of potential danger; and best able to recognize and accommodate community cultures, traditions, sensitivities and customs. By creating a series of partnerships that draws on the knowledge and expertise of our local officials, we can create a more effective response to this virulent threat.

The government of the United States is fully invested in this collaborative approach and we have seen the value of empowering local communities by promoting initiatives they design and lead themselves. Through our Model Regions program, federal officials have partnered with a wide array of local stakeholders – including government and public safety officers, social service providers, educators, businesses and nonprofits – to build and implement community resilience frameworks tailored to the unique needs of residents. In Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota, for example, government officials, private partners and civic leaders have come together to create a mentorship program for Somali youth; to build an “opportunity hub” that provides educational resources and job training; and to contribute to a program called Youthprise that is forging connections between community organizations, investors and young people. At the same time, officials in the Greater Boston region are exploring the connection between criminal justice and public health by partnering with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services to tap their experience with violence prevention and intervention. And in the Denver area, the United States Attorney’s Office has led a multifaceted community engagement and education effort involving all levels of government. These initiatives and others like them were the subject of a convening just two weeks ago, organized by our Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, in conjunction with the Police Executive Research Forum, which brought together law enforcement executives and community partners from over a dozen cities to plan ways to translate these cutting-edge programs into new regions.

These efforts have shown us the power of harnessing local expertise and leveraging local leadership to create targeted and effective approaches to eradicating violent extremism in any community. We have learned that open dialogue and consistent engagement with a wide range of constituents is essential to crafting strategies and forging partnerships that will address the full scope of the threats we face. We have seen that communities must be empowered to take these steps themselves so that the prevention approaches they design are crafted for their unique situations. And we have observed the need for a mechanism that will expand the most effective efforts to reach more people around the globe – a way to highlight the best local ideas so that they can be adapted for use in other communities.

Until now, we have lacked that mechanism. We haven’t had the benefit of sustained or coordinated cooperation among the growing number of cities and municipalities that are confronting this ongoing challenge. Communities have too often been left isolated and alone. But through the Strong Cities Network that we have unveiled today, we are making the first systematic effort in history to bring together cities around the world to share experiences, to pool resources and to forge partnerships in order to build local cohesion and resilience on a global scale. Today we tell every city, every town and every community that has lost the flower of its youth to a sea of hatred – you are not alone. We stand together and we stand with you.

This is a truly groundbreaking endeavor. By connecting municipal leaders, facilitating information-sharing and providing training and other assistance where appropriate, the Strong Cities Network will help to fashion a global response to a global issue, without losing sight of its inherently local roots. It will offer city leaders a way to learn from one another about successful initiatives and productive programs. It will provide a platform for discussing community policing and prevention strategies that safeguard the individual rights of

citizens. And it will support the practical delivery of community resilience programs in cities that are taking a new look at this evolving issue.

I want you to know that the Obama Administration is deeply committed to ensuring that the Strong Cities Network is as strong, vibrant and resilient as the cities it unites – because we know this model works. Here in the United States, we have joined with local partners to bring down far-flung human trafficking rings, to strengthen trust in law enforcement, to thwart cybersecurity threats and to combat official and international corruption. Our experience tells us that partnering with city-level officials and the communities they represent extends the reach and deepens the perspective of national governments and international alliances. And connecting those localities to one another – as the Strong Cities Network is doing – is not only a powerful way to lift up our communities worldwide. It also sends a message about who we are and what we aspire to be – as an alliance of nations and as a global community. When the representatives of the Strong Cities Network join together for their first Annual Summit in Paris in Spring 2016, they will be making a strong and clear statement to their citizens and to the world: we stand united against violence, united against fear and united in the pursuit of a better and brighter future.

This work will not be easy. There will be difficult days for us all. But the spirit of collaboration I see before me today – the devotion to partnership and mutual support – gives me confidence in our effort and hope for the journey ahead. Thank you, once again, for your outstanding service. Thank you for your visionary leadership on a project without precedent. And thank you for your commitment to the mission of our time.

At this time, I would like to turn things over to Sasha Havlicek, the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

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**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 10:11 AM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN P. CARLIN DELIVERS REMARKS ON DOMESTIC TERRORISM AT AN EVENT CO-SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER AND THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CYBER AND HOMELAND SECURITY'S PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM



# Department of Justice

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**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN P. CARLIN DELIVERS REMARKS ON DOMESTIC TERRORISM AT AN EVENT CO-SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER AND THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CYBER AND HOMELAND SECURITY'S PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM**

*Remarks as prepared for delivery*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you, Lorenzo [Vidino], for that kind introduction.

It is an honor to be at this event, co-hosted by the George Washington University's new Program on Extremism and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The partnership between SPLC and GW serves as a reminder that violent extremism is neither a new phenomenon, nor one that is limited to any single population, region or ideology.

Since its creation in 1971, SPLC has been an important voice on the wide range of extremist groups throughout this country. And over the past four decades, the existence of hate, violence and extremism has remained unfortunately all too constant. Earlier this year, we honored and remembered the victims of the horrific Oklahoma City bombing on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that devastating attack. Less than two months after the anniversary, we again saw unimaginable violence motivated by hate. A young man killed nine African-American men and women attending a bible class in Charleston, South Carolina. A senseless, racist act. The list goes on, past and present.

But as we gather today, new and disturbing trends loom over the horizon – trends we must understand to defeat.



New initiatives, like GW's program, which focus on empirical research and analysis, are critical to policymakers and the interested public alike.

So although the problem set is by no means new, it is changing, and we must take lessons learned in the past and couple them with trend analysis to understand these shifts.

Today's event is a good start to that conversation. We are here to talk about combating domestic terrorism, which the FBI has explained as "Americans attacking Americans based on U.S.-based extremist ideologies."

Much attention has focused on those inspired by Al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's (ISIL) message of hate and violence spreading worldwide and reaching homes here in America through the group's unprecedented social media recruitment efforts. And rightly so.

But today is a good opportunity to focus the conversation broadly on violent extremism here in America. The threat ranges from individuals motivated by anti-government animus, to eco-radicalism, to racism, as it has for decades.

The full spectrum of violent extremism shares a number of common elements, and our approach to disrupting them must recognize these connections.

As just one example, earlier this year, two women were charged in New York with conspiring to build a bomb to conduct an attack in the United States. While these women were motivated by Islamic extremist ideology, they allegedly conducted research into the type of bomb used in the Oklahoma City bombing, demonstrating the continuing resonance of that attack.

## **The Threat**

The Department of Justice's highest priority is combatting terrorism, both international and domestic, and other threats to our national security in order to protect the American public, and we strive to remain nimble so we can adjust to current threats as they evolve and new threats that emerge.

The range of national security threats is staggeringly broad. We work every day to adapt and improve our approaches to address the dangers posed by ISIL, Al Qaeda, AQAP and other terrorist groups; the threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters intent on waging Jihad abroad; and the threat of fighters who may seek to return home, trained and willing to die for their extremist cause.

Yet, while we continue to address this evolving international threat of violent extremists, we have not lost sight of the domestic terrorism threat posed by other violent extremists. Terror and extremism do not always originate elsewhere or take place outside our borders. Homegrown violent extremists can be motivated by any viewpoint on the full spectrum of hate. Anti-government views, racism, bigotry, anarchy and other despicable beliefs. When it comes to hate and intolerance, no single ideology governs.

In America, harboring extremist views is not itself a crime, nor is the expression of even a hateful ideology or association with a hateful group.

But the line between speech and violence is crossed too often, resulting in heartbreaking tragedy. The list includes:

- Plots and attacks on government buildings, synagogues and mosques, businesses and public infrastructure;

- Assassinations and planned assassinations of police officers, judges, civil rights figures, doctors and others;
- Stockpiles of illegal weapons, explosives and biological and chemical weapons; and
- Killing sprees that have terrorized local communities.

Looking back over the past few years, it is clear that domestic terrorists and homegrown violent extremists remain a real and present danger to the United States. We recognize that, over the past few years, more people have died in this country in attacks by domestic extremists than in attacks associated with international terrorist groups.

First, as our SPLC colleagues can attest, racial hatred motivates many of the violent extremist attacks. The Attorney General noted this summer that these kinds of hate crimes are the original domestic terrorism. Among domestic extremist movements active in the United States, white supremacists are the most violent. The Charleston shooter, who had a manifesto laying out a racist worldview, is just one example. His actions followed earlier deadly shooting sprees by white supremacists in Kansas, Wisconsin and elsewhere.

For example, in January 2011, Kevin William Harpham, a man with ties to a neo-Nazi organization, planted a radio-controlled pipe bomb along the route of a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade, intent on inflicting mass casualties. Luckily, parade workers spotted the bomb and law enforcement officials were able to defuse it before anyone was harmed. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 32 years in prison.

We are not always so fortunate. In August 2012, Wade Michael Page, who also espoused white supremacist and neo-Nazi views, fatally shot six people and wounded four others, including a responding police officer, at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. He acted alone and died in the course of the attacks from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

We also see anti-government views triggering violence throughout America. As just one example, three militia members were recently sentenced in Georgia for conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction in attacks against federal government buildings. They attempted to acquire explosives in early 2014, with the goal of destroying U.S. government infrastructure as part of a guerilla warfare strategy to undermine the U.S. government.

More broadly, law enforcement agencies nationwide are concerned about the growth of the “sovereign citizen” movement. According to one 2014 study, state, local and tribal law enforcement officials considered sovereign citizens to be the top concern of law enforcement, ranking above ISIL and Al Qaeda-inspired extremists.

Adherents to the sovereign citizen ideology believe they don’t have to answer to any government authority, including courts, taxing entities or law enforcement. And although most sovereign citizens peacefully espouse these views, some sovereign citizen extremists resort to violence.

- Terry Nichols, convicted accomplice in the Oklahoma City bombing, may have viewed himself as a member of the sovereign citizen movement.
- In 2010, Jerry and Joseph Kane, a father and son who identified with the sovereign citizen movement, killed two police officers and were themselves killed in the ensuing shootout with police after a routine traffic stop.
- And in June 2014, Jerad and Amanda Miller, likely motivated by the sovereign citizen anti-government ideology, killed two Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers at a restaurant in

Las Vegas. Then they went to a nearby Walmart and killed another innocent person. During their attacks, they declared the beginning of a so-called revolution.

These attacks and many others cause us to rededicate ourselves to identify, disrupt and prevent domestic threats.

### **The Common Challenges**

No single ideology governs hate and extremism – nevertheless, we see commonalities among those who wish to do us harm. This gives us important information as we shape our deterrence and disruption strategies.

Across the spectrum of extremist ideologies, two related traits emerge: first, the prevalence of lone offender attacks that do not require a terrorist network; and second, the increasing number of disaffected people inspired to violence who communicate their hate-filled views over the Internet and through social media.

Both of these traits are present in the threat posed by ISIL.

Over the past year, foreign terrorist fighter arrests in this country increased from about a dozen to more than 60. But as we disrupt travel and make it harder for potential ISIL recruits in this country to get to Syria and Iraq, ISIL adapts, increasingly encouraging individuals in the West to conduct terrorist attacks at home. No passport or travel required.

As a result, in 2015, we have witnessed a surge in individuals inspired by this extremist ideology who want to conduct attacks inside the United States. Unlike Al Qaeda, which had been a tightly controlled organization that carefully planned large-scale attacks, ISIL encourages lone offenders.

This diffused approach may be new in international terrorism, but it bears striking similarity to other violent extremism here in America – whether you label it domestic terrorism, hate crime or plain murder. As was the case with McVeigh and Nichols and the Charleston shooter, lone offenders or small groups often plan and carry out attacks on their own or with limited assistance. In these cases, few others know of their violent plans, making their plotting more difficult to disrupt.

Second, across the spectrum of extremist ideologies, we see an alarming new trend – an increasing number of disaffected people linked together in their adherence to violence over the Internet and through social media.

As the ISIL threat reveals, new communications technologies, including social media and the widespread use of encryption, pose tremendous challenges to public safety and national security and these are challenges everyone with a stake in the matter must continue to work together to address.

The same is true for domestic terrorism and extremism. Sovereign citizens continue to communicate and recruit through the use of YouTube and Twitter. White supremacists post to social media, and studies now posit that mass killings are contagious. Violence begets violence, and through the power of the internet, a meeting hall is no longer needed. Formal organizational structures are unnecessary. Connections are made, and messages spread, through the push of a button.

### **The Department of Justice's Response**

Fortunately, by recognizing common patterns we can craft a common response. No matter who is behind the violence and intimidation, we will continue to use every tool at our disposal to deter and disrupt the threat.

We will do all we can to identify, track and defuse those who would engage in large-scale acts of violence. To achieve these objectives, we are:

1. Improving coordination between investigations and prosecutions;
2. Utilizing the same all-tools approach we leverage against all national security threats; and
3. Actively exploring options to address the sources of violent extremism.

### **Ensuring Coordination**

Success in disrupting domestic terrorism requires close coordination, as extremist conduct ranges widely in ideology and knows no jurisdictional bounds. At the Department of Justice, our goal is to ensure that coordination is as effective and efficient as possible.

Our Counterterrorism Section within the National Security Division (NSD) maintains connectivity with the U.S. Attorney community around the country for purposes of all terrorism matters and also maintains expertise on a variety of statutes frequently used in domestic terrorism prosecutions. In addition, NSD, along with the FBI and a representative from the U.S. Attorney community, co-chairs the Attorney General's Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee (the DTEC).

The DTEC was originally launched by Attorney General Janet Reno in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing with the goal of ensuring that those combating domestic terrorist activity had a forum to share information and coordinate efforts. It met regularly and it was scheduled to meet on Sept. 11, 2001, but due to the events of that day, that meeting never took place.

Fortunately, in recognition of the importance of combating domestic terrorism, the department re-established the DTEC last June. Today, the DTEC consists of senior officials from NSD, the FBI, the U.S. Attorney community, the Civil Rights Division and the Tax Division, among others, as well as other federal law enforcement agencies who work on domestic terrorism matters. As it did many years ago, it provides a national-level forum for information sharing at the department's leadership level and within the federal law enforcement community.

The DTEC helps to ensure national-level coordination. But our local U.S. Attorney's offices, FBI field offices and Joint Terrorism Task Forces, working closely with our nation's police officers, district attorneys and local community officials, are the country's eyes on the ground.

At NSD, in order to ensure that we are gaining the benefits of the information and input from those eyes on the ground from around the country, and in recognition of a growing number of potential domestic terrorism matters around the United States, we have created a new position to assist with our important work in combatting domestic terrorism. Just this week, we appointed a new Domestic Terrorism Counsel to serve as our main point of contact for U.S. Attorneys working on domestic terrorism matters. The new DT Counsel will not only help ensure that DT cases are properly coordinated, but will also play a key role in our headquarters-level efforts to identify trends to help shape our strategy, and to analyze legal gaps or enhancements required to ensure we can combat these threats. The new counsel will also play an important role with the DTEC by providing its members with insights from cases and trends from around the country.

### **Investigation and Prevention**

Working together, our collective objective is to disrupt and prevent attacks. To do that, we must aggressively use all the investigative tools at our disposal.

We do not investigate people for exercising their First Amendment rights, but we are obligated to investigate extremist groups and individuals when we have reason to believe they may be involved in the commission of a federal crime, including threatening violence.

And we utilize proactive enforcement tools and investigative techniques, including the use of undercover operations, to stay ahead of the threat. Undertaken with careful oversight and with appropriate respect for civil rights and liberties, these tools are highly effective. We have used them with success for many years, and now, they are recognized globally as invaluable in the fight against terrorism and organized crime.

But we can only track threats that we can see.

With the explosive use of social media and encrypted communications, those inspired to violence by messages of hate, we run the risk that we will see less as the bad guys see more.

Social media can create for an extreme segment of society a sort of “radicalization echo chamber” where followers reinforce for each other extremist propaganda and calls for violence.

Service providers must take responsibility for how their services can be abused. Responsible providers understand what the threats are and take action to prevent terrorist groups from abusing their services to induce recruits to commit terrorist acts.

## **Prosecution**

When we become aware of potential extremist criminal activity, prosecution is one powerful tool in our tool box.

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, Congress passed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, or AEDPA. That legislation is critical to the U.S. government’s efforts to protect the nation against international and domestic terrorism.

On the domestic front, the code book defines domestic terrorism as illegal activities that are dangerous to human life that take place primarily here in the United States and appear to be intended to “intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a government.”

However, what causes some confusion is that “domestic terrorism” is not an offense or a charge.

Instead, we have the whole criminal code at our disposal. Over the years, we have charged violent extremists with a variety of crimes, ranging from firearms or explosives offenses, to arson, threats or fraud, tax violations or hate crimes and murder. We will continue to increase our focus using the full range of our authorities to protect the public against these threats.

AEDPA provided enhanced sentences for certain terrorism-related offenses, and it created a new federal offense that prohibits the possession of stolen explosives. That statute continues to be significant in keeping dangerous explosives out of the hands of those who would use them for violent ends.

Additionally, through the leadership of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congress passed a statute that criminalizes teaching or distributing bomb-making information in support of federal crimes of violence.

This statute allows us to prosecute not only individuals who engage in terrorist attacks themselves, but also those who share their deadly skills so that others can engage in such attacks.

For example, in 2005, Daniel Schertz, a one-time member of the Ku Klux Klan, pleaded guilty to six offenses including a violation of this provision, for constructing seven pipe bombs and instructing a confidential informant on how to use the bombs to cause the most destruction. Schertz believed that the bombs would be used to attack Mexican and Haitian immigrants in Florida. He was ultimately sentenced to more than 14 years in prison.

### **Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)**

Although law enforcement is a powerful tool, it is not the only tool. We must also reach individuals early on their path towards radicalization. Programs like those associated with GW and SPLC will be particularly valuable on this front.

To counter violent extremism, we must begin by doing more to empower those who are best-placed to affect change – parents, teachers, coaches, mental health service providers and others who know their communities best. To that end, the Attorney General recently announced the launch of the Strong Cities Network, the first-ever network of city leaders from around the world involved in building community resilience. This network was created in recognition of the key role of communities in combating violent extremism and the need for more than a top-down approach.

And it takes a page from our integrated strategy in combating other types of violent extremism.

We have long known that our efforts are most successful when we partner with local communities to uphold the law. Local communities form the fabric of our nation, and community members are often best-positioned to identify and relate to individuals who have begun on a path to violent extremism.

Community members see things that law enforcement agencies do not. Here in the United States, one study found that in more than 80 percent of violent extremist cases with a connection to international terrorism, third-party bystanders observed activities or behaviors suggesting radicalization or violent intent. However, more than half of the witnesses discounted or downplayed their observations.

Similar evidence exists regarding bystanders in other cases of crime and extremism. So community members are not only best positioned to intervene with those on a path towards violent extremism, they also may be the first to see potential steps towards radicalization to violence.

Recognizing the importance of community engagement in early intervention, the Department of Justice has developed three community-based pilot programs – in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; the greater Boston area; and Los Angeles. Government, academic and community leaders are working together to develop counter narratives, youth programming and constructive dialogue on disengagement. Strong outreach programs for communities and training for law enforcement lead to a relationship of trust and increased cooperation on everything from civil rights to radicalization-to-violence.

The Department of Justice is also exploring options to intervene with would-be violent extremists before violence occurs, and to address disengagement and rehabilitation, including “off ramps” on the path of radicalization to violence.

CVE will require community engagement, and as we are learning in the international terrorism context, it will also require countering the message of hate online. Often, former extremists can be the most persuasive voices, and we should look for opportunities to harness social media’s power to provide a positive vision for young people.

SPLC has a long history of tracking and countering hate, and their efforts will continue to be critical. Social media allows us to amplify the stories of young people who are overcoming difficult circumstances and avoiding the hate-filled alienation that can lead to violence – channeling their talent and energy to produce positive change in their societies.

To conclude, in all of our work, we strive to honor those most directly affected by acts of terrorism – who were killed or injured, as well as the survivors, first responders and families who have been touched by these heinous acts. As we work to make our country safe, we welcome opportunities to discuss our work and share ideas at programs like this.

In our efforts to address violent extremism, we are aware of the grave challenges that we face. We must always seek new and innovative ways to protect our national security in the face of evolving threats, while preserving our civil rights and civil liberties.

We are grateful to have the Southern Poverty Law Center and the George Washington Program on Extremism on our side, working with us to tackle some of today's most pressing national security threats.

Thank you again for having me. I look forward to your questions.

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