

Community Awareness Briefing

Scene Setter: *The presentation's goal is to inform the audience how violent extremists get their message out (including by the internet), and how government and communities can work together to prevent youth from being tricked by this recruitment. We present the information to help communities understand the phenomenon of radicalization to violence and mobilization, but we can only hope to get to a discussion on solutions through audience participation. We encourage the audience to stop the briefer at any point to ask questions, raise points, or do whatever to help the group arrive at the best way to work on this problem before another person is lost to violent extremism.*

Why are we here?

We want to talk about violent extremism, which takes many forms

We want to build awareness of how people become radicalized to violence

We want to ensure our communities are protected

And, most importantly, we need your help

Scene Setter: *In this slide, we talk about how we are here to raise awareness of how violent extremist groups ensnare vulnerable individuals to commit violent or illegal acts, thereby negatively impacting the lives of these individuals, their families and communities. The 2011 Domestic Countering Violent Extremism Strategy emphasizes that communities are invaluable partners in prevention, and government's role is to empower and catalyze communities to take action. We have seen there is often a time period, before law enforcement gets involved, in which parents, friends, community/religious leaders, and teachers see signs of someone being radicalized to violence, creating a window of opportunity for them to act to protect their communities.*

Violent Extremism

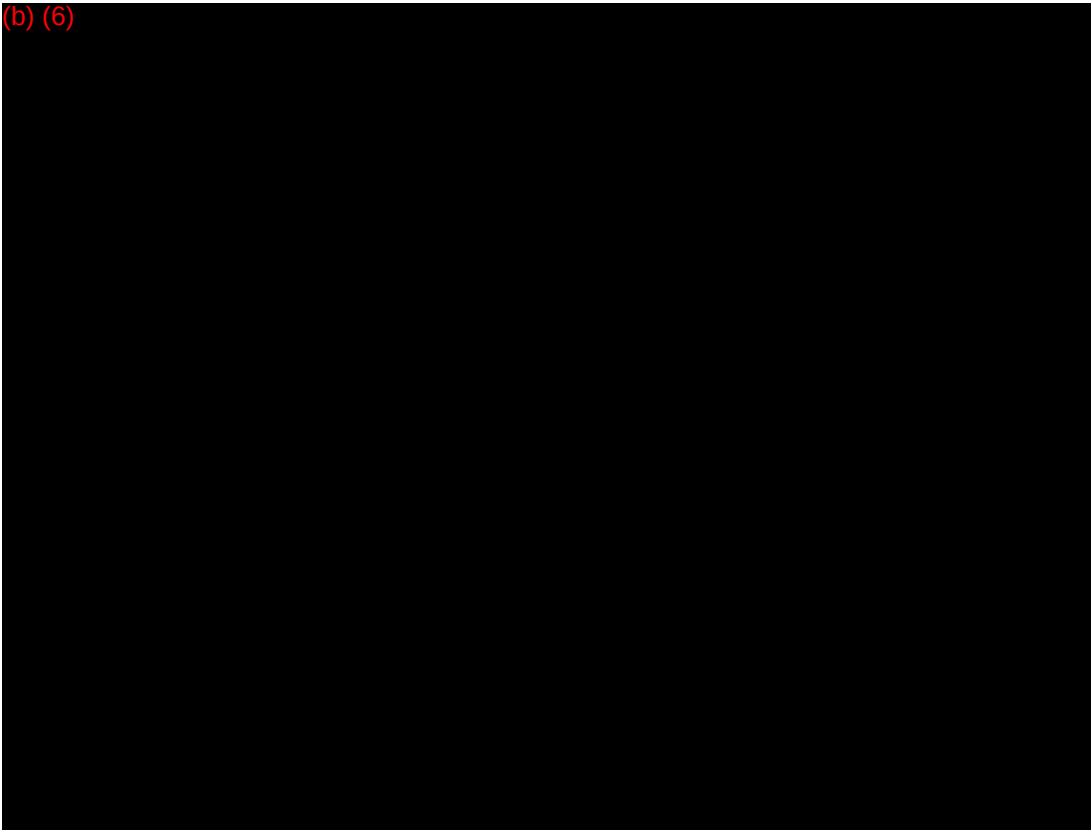
A wide range of threats...

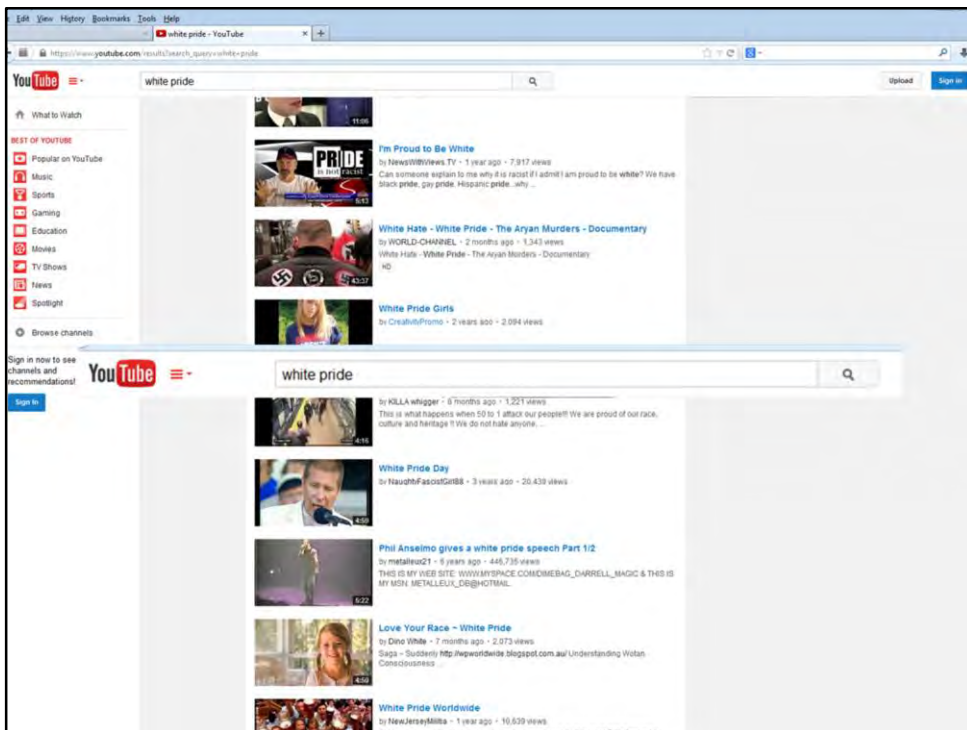
- White Supremacists
- Eco-terrorists
- Neo-Nazis
- Gangs
- Al-Qa'ida or ISIL-inspired groups



Scene Setter: In this slide, we provide background on violent extremism, which comes in all forms, whether it is neo-Nazis, sovereign citizens, etc. We explain that the absolutist mindset appeals to adolescents searching for meaning and identity. It is very important to demonstrate to the audience that the government understands there is a range of threat and ensure them that our government's concern is not solely on al-Qaeda or ISIL-inspired terrorism. In terms of relating to the audience, it is important to continue to portray, within reason, some of the youth involved as victims of recruiting.

(b) (6)





Why would someone join a violent extremist group?

Ideological

Personal

Sociopolitical

Group

Community

No single factor leads to radicalization

Someone could have some or all of these factors and
not radicalize to violence

In the United States, thoughts are protected,
no matter how extreme,

All Violent Extremist Groups

- Look for vulnerabilities
- Focus on grievances
- Provide a community of interest (in-person or online)
- Promote violent action as solution
- See everything as black and white

Forming the Black and White Narrative

<u>Element</u>	<u>Generic Message</u>	<u>Al-Qa'ida's Version</u>
Decline	My world has gone wrong...	Islam has been brought to ruin and Muslims exploited and oppressed...
Two Camps	... because of the actions of a villain.	... by a global conspiracy against us
Crisis Point	Now is the time...	Now is the time...
Method	... when using violence will prevent total catastrophe for us.	... only violence will work to end their war on against us.
Danger of Contamination	If we let no one dissuade us...	If we do not let anyone dissuade us from our righteous course...
Reward	... we will prevail.	... we will liberate our followers and reestablish a pious society.

Scene Setter: *This slide outlines the six elements of any violent extremist narrative, and highlights how they apply to Al-Qa'ida's narrative. Also highlighted are ways to weaken the narrative by deconstructing one or more of its elements.*

Example of the Narrative

Foreign Fighters: Then

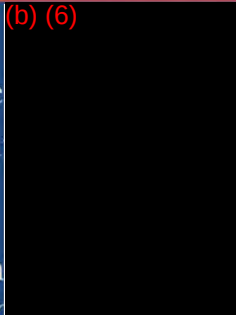
- US citizens or residents traveling to foreign countries to fight in Somalia
- Between September and October 2009, approximately 20 young men left the Minneapolis area to fight for al-Shabaab, an al-Qa'ida affiliated group in Somalia.



Ibrahim Ali Hassan



Abdisalan Hussein Ali



Jamal Bana



Ibrahim Hassan



Troy Kastigar

Recent Trends



Abdullah Elmir



Sabina Selimovic



Salma Halane



Samra Kesinovic

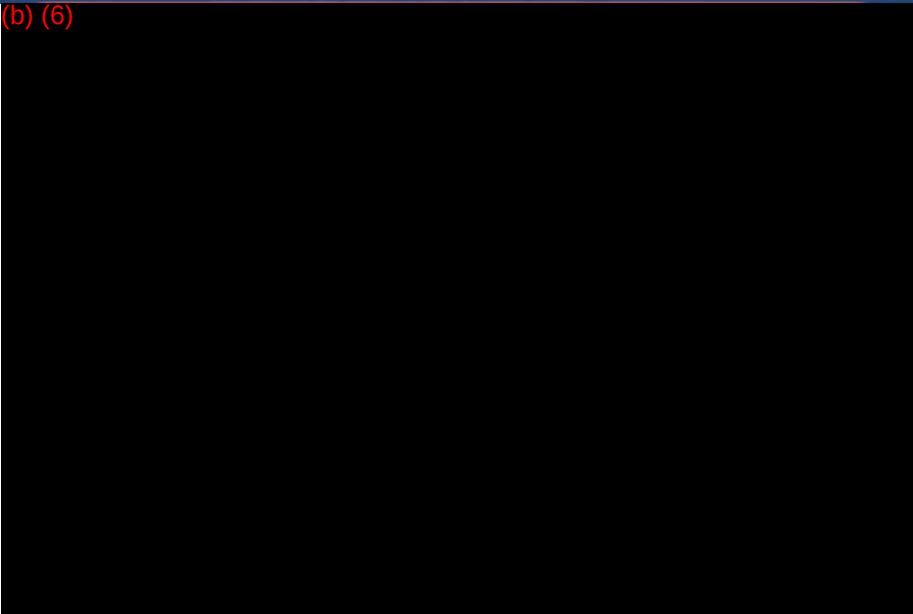


Zahra Halane

Example of the ISIL Narrative

Foreign Fighters: Now

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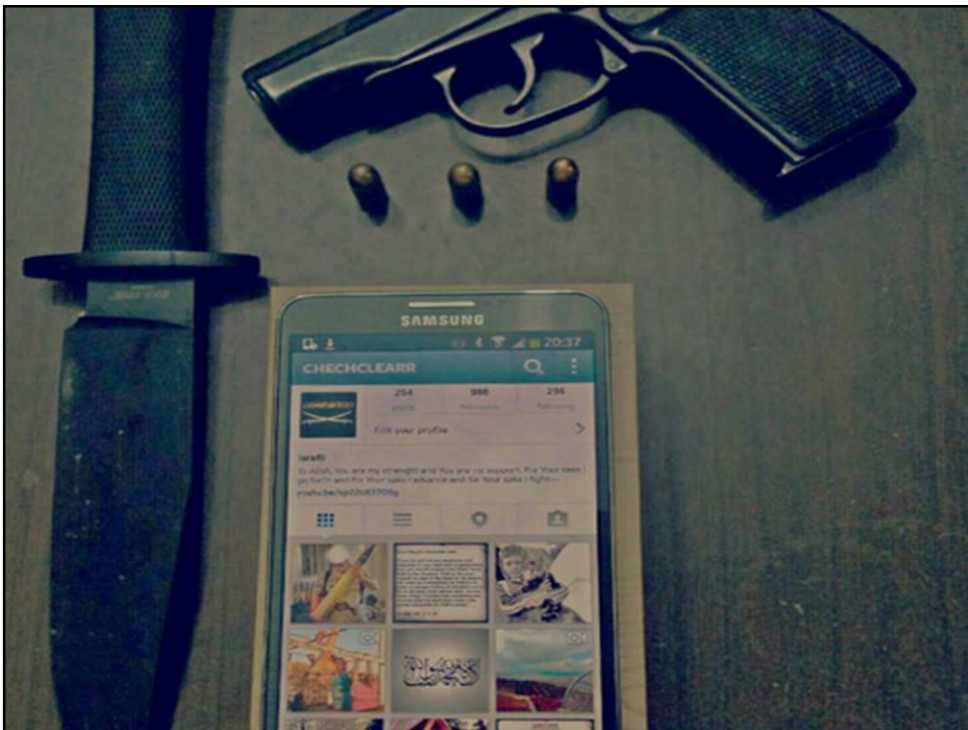
Pictures:

1. [Reuters] Devastation of barrel-bombing Aleppo.
2. [UN] Zaatari, now Jordan's 4th largest city with approximately 145,000 people, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
3. [Reuters] Refugees from the Yarmouk Camp, in Syria, waiting in a line to receive essentials.
(<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/tehis/vtx/home/pendocPDFViewer.html>)

Sources:

<http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/world/timeline-unrest-in-syria/207/>
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/20/world/syria-torture-photos-amanpour/index.html?sr=tw012014syria2p>





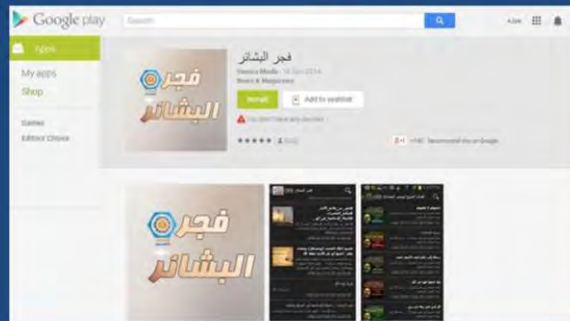
ISIL's Use of Social Media

- Tailored messaging to Americans in English
- Sophisticated use of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Kik, Ask.fm, WhatsApp, Tumblr, Flickr, Snapchat

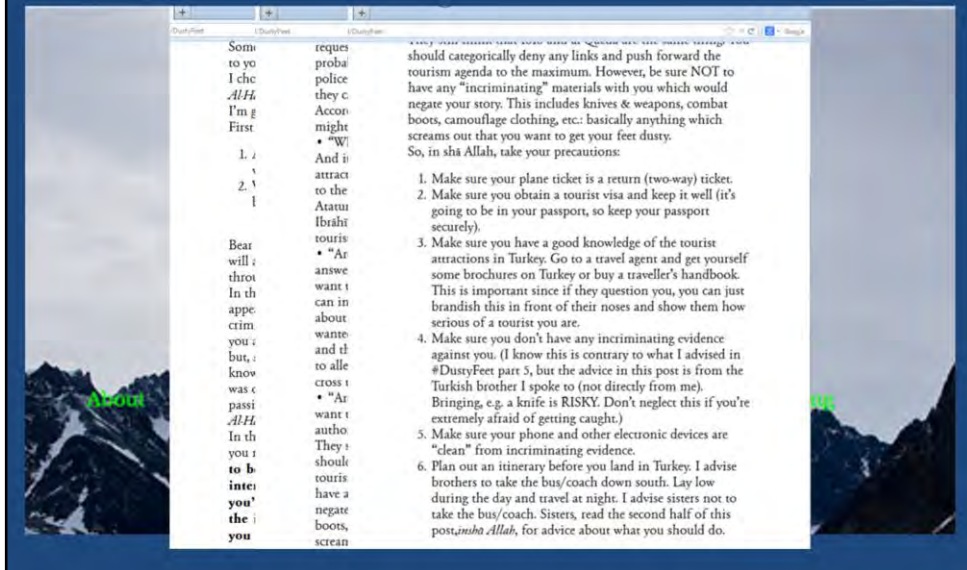


“Dawn of Glad Tidings” App

- App allowed ISIL to tweet on others accounts
- 40,000 tweets per day by ISIL
- 72 retweets of every tweet
- 10,000 uses of ISIL hashtag per day by others



Operational Instructions Online





Abu Fulan al-Muhajir @Fulan2weet
Bilad al-Sham
A stranger. Currently fighting in Syria, to make the word of Allah the highest

673 answers
673 likes
0 gifts

[Follow](#)

 [Make a gift](#)

Ask me a question

300

[Ask](#)

answers

 [Report](#)  [Plus](#)

R the bathrooms clean
Yes. But they don't become clean by themselves. We need to clean them
2 days ago
4 people like this

How can I convince my family please help me
daawa. Talk to them. Tell them to imagine them being in Syria and nobody wanted to help them
2 days ago
3 people like this

are martyrdom operations allowed in islam
Yes. But of course there are certain conditions
2 days ago
1 person likes this

Moner Mohammad Abusalha

- Grew up in a gated community in Florida
 - *“He was a nice kid ... Everyone got along with him.”*
- Outgoing and funny, loved basketball
 - *“He’d play basketball with any hoop anywhere he could find one.”*



Moner's Last Words

How does this happen?



Community Responses

Minnesota's Somali community acts to counter ISIL recruiters

Program developed with Justice Department aims to encourage vulnerable teens to stay in school and reject extremism

December 3, 2014 11:45AM ET | Updated 8:06PM ET

by [Hilary Brueck](#) - [@Hilarx](#)

Somali community leaders in Minneapolis are working with U.S. authorities to develop a program inspired by gang-prevention methods to steer disaffected youths away from extremist groups overseas.

The program — a mix of mentorship, psychological care and after-school programs — has been developed to give more opportunities to mostly young Somali-American men in Minnesota, home to the largest population of Somalis in the United States.

What can you do?

- **Stay safe online**
 - Know who your kids are talking to online and what sites they are visiting
- **Have open communication**
 - Talk with your kids about what is happening in the world
- **Look for behavior changes**
 - Have a conversation with your loved ones; find out what might be triggering their changes