

Community Awareness Briefing

Why Are We Here?

Today, we will focus on violent extremism inspired by al-Qa'ida

Violent Extremism Takes Many Forms, And Recruiters Use Similar Tactics

To Build Awareness of Recruitment Efforts by Violent Extremists So We Can Better Protect Our Communities



Bottom Line: We Need Your Help

Today, our goal is to help you understand the threat from violent extremism

- We want ensure you understand the threat from violent extremism, in all its forms
- We are going to review case studies to show you how individuals buy into radical violent thought
- And we are going to discuss ways we, the USG, and you, the Community, can work together to truly mitigate against this threat

VE takes many forms

- We recognize VE takes many forms, from international terrorist organizations to domestic neo-Nazi groups.
- These groups may have completely different agendas and beliefs, but they share similarities too.

We need your help

- Simply stated: We cannot address this threat without your help
- The USG has traditional roles it uses to address the threat from VE, but they only go so far and only address so much of the VE spectrum of activity
- You, the Community, are in a much better position to see early on when a threat may be materializing
- We hope this presentation will leave with the a better understanding of the threat, why it's important, and what you can do to help

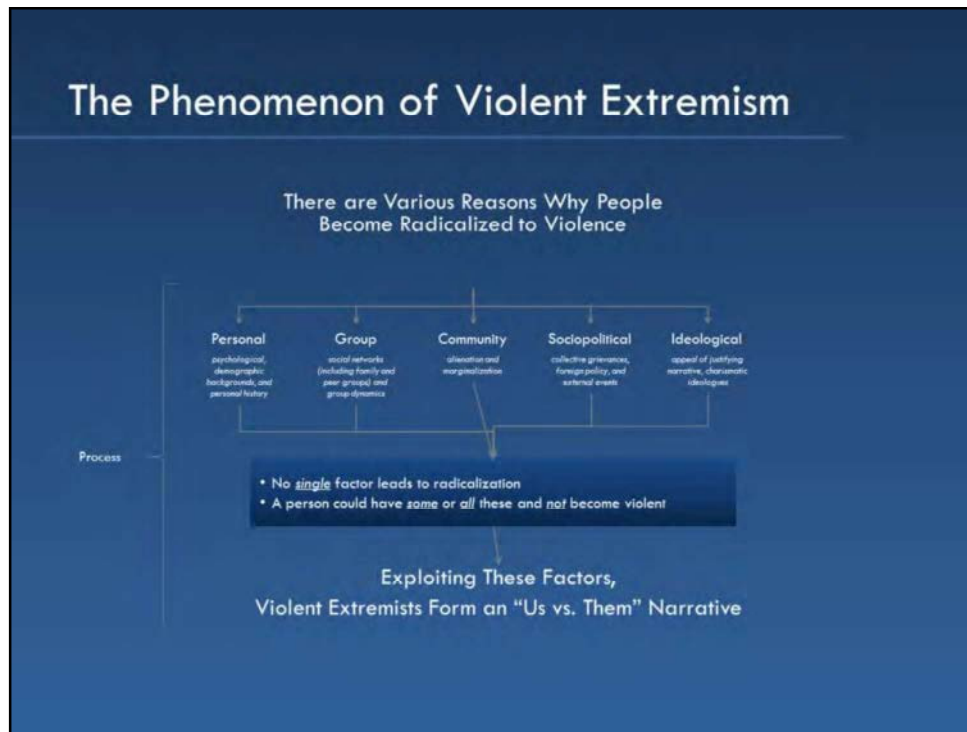


- Source: NCTC 2013 Terrorism Calendar http://www.nctc.gov/site/pdfs/ct_calendar_2013.pdf
- Source: 2011 NCTC Report on Terrorism http://www.nctc.gov/docs/2011_NCTC_Annual_Report_Final.pdf
- Part of the situation we are facing comes from terrorist organizations that have formally affiliated with al Qaida. That is, their leadership formally pledged allegiance to the al Qaida organization. They are now essentially holding a “franchise” in a specific area. This map shows some of these formal terrorist organizations.
- Part of the situation, though, comes from terrorist organizations that have NOT formally affiliated with al Qaida. But, they are “fellow travelers” – that is, they hold to the same philosophies and values.
- And then the final part of the picture are people or small groups who are not formally affiliated with al Qaida, but they are adherents to its ideology. That is, these small groups or individuals may have never met Osama bin Laden or been in one of his training camps. But, they have come to believe that his ideas are correct.
- Between the three, they continue to wreak havoc on communities all across the globe, even after UBL’s death



- Source: U.S. Criminal Complaints, Sentencing Memorandums. Indictments, DOJ Press Releases May 2, 2011 – Present
- Source: U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Terrorist Arrests and Plots Stopped in the United States 2009-2012, http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve/?File_id=adec6e10-68ed-4413-8934-3623edc62cef
- Source: Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, http://kurzman.unc.edu/files/2011/06/Kurzman_Muslim-American_Terrorism_Suspects_and_Perpetrators.xls

Note: (1) An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty and (2) all of this information is publicly available on U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, and Department of Defense websites.



Most individuals who become violent extremists did so through one or more factors:

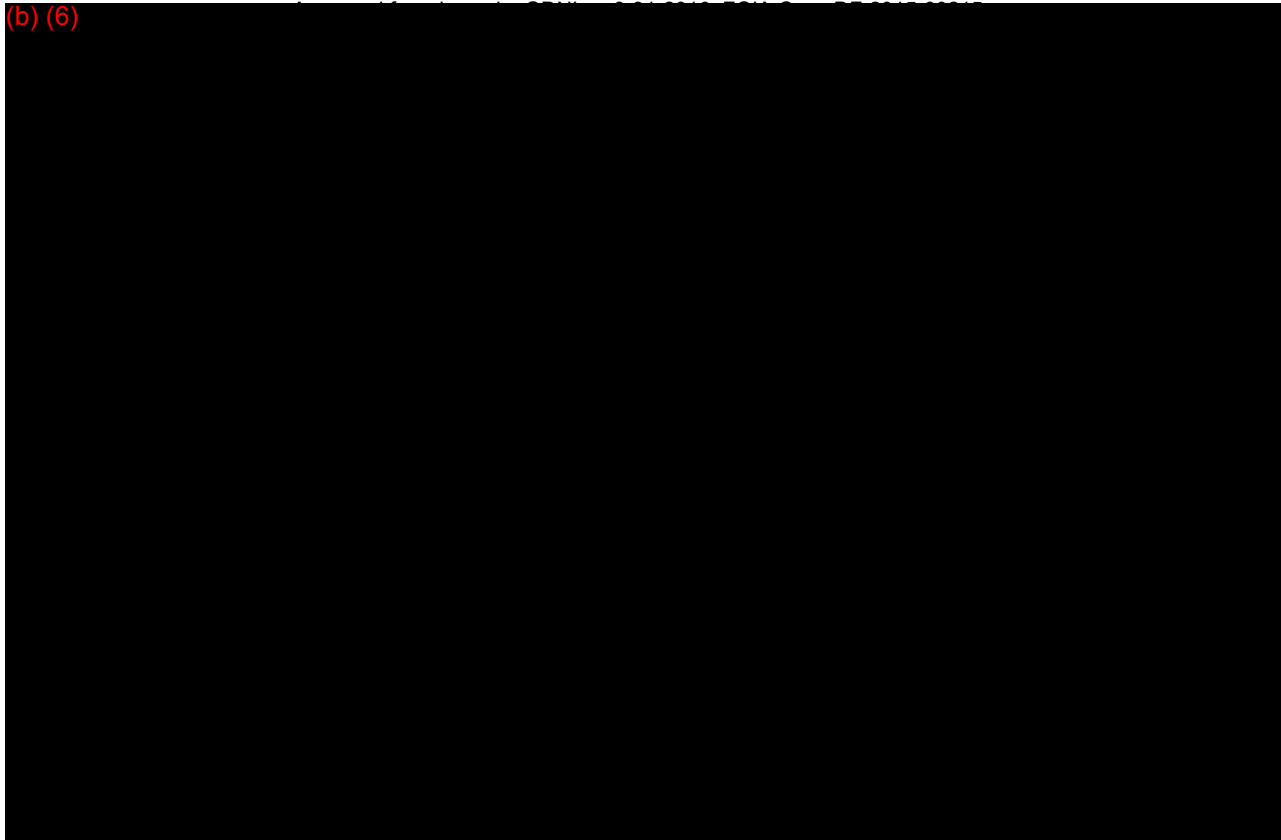
- Personal—
- Group—
- Community—
- Sociopolitical—
- Ideological—
- It's important to note two caveats: (1) no single factor leads to radicalization and (2) a person may have some or all of these factors and not become violent

VEs take this cognitive dissonance and begin to form a narrow-minded and self-righteous narrative, one that ultimately creates an "us vs. them" mentality

- This narrative creates and justifies the logic extremists use to continue espousing violence and hatred
- One of the goals in prevention is to break down this narrative, which is something both the USG, but most definitely, the Community can do

Source: NCTC Product, Radicalization Dynamics: A Primer, June 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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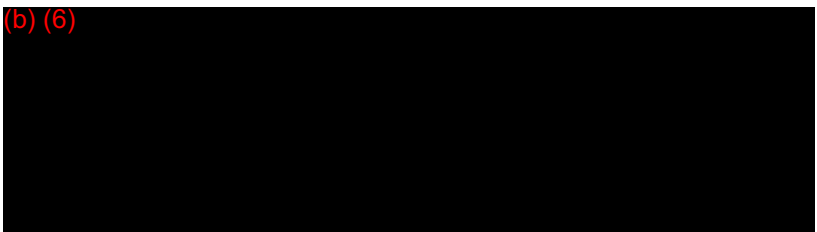


Current Threat

- Here you will see some of the faces of people who are from here in the States, who have been arrested for planning or carrying out acts of terror. Some of these people committed acts of terror here in our backyard, and some overseas.
- As you can see, the individuals involved in these plots vary in background, nationality, race, age, gender, and education.
- This shatters any lingering thought that we can spot a terrorist based on appearance. This shatters the idea that “racial profiling” is of any use whatsoever.
- This is not a comprehensive list. But it gives an illustration of some of the people who have been arrested for plotting attacks against their neighbors right here in the US.
- *Note:* (1) An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty and (2) all of this information is publicly available on U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, and Department of Defense websites.
- Source: U.S. Criminal Complaints, Sentencing Memorandums.
- Source: U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Terrorist Arrests and Plots Stopped in the United States 2009-2012, http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve/?File_id=a6ec6e10-68ed-4413-8934-3623edc62cef

From Top left, going right.

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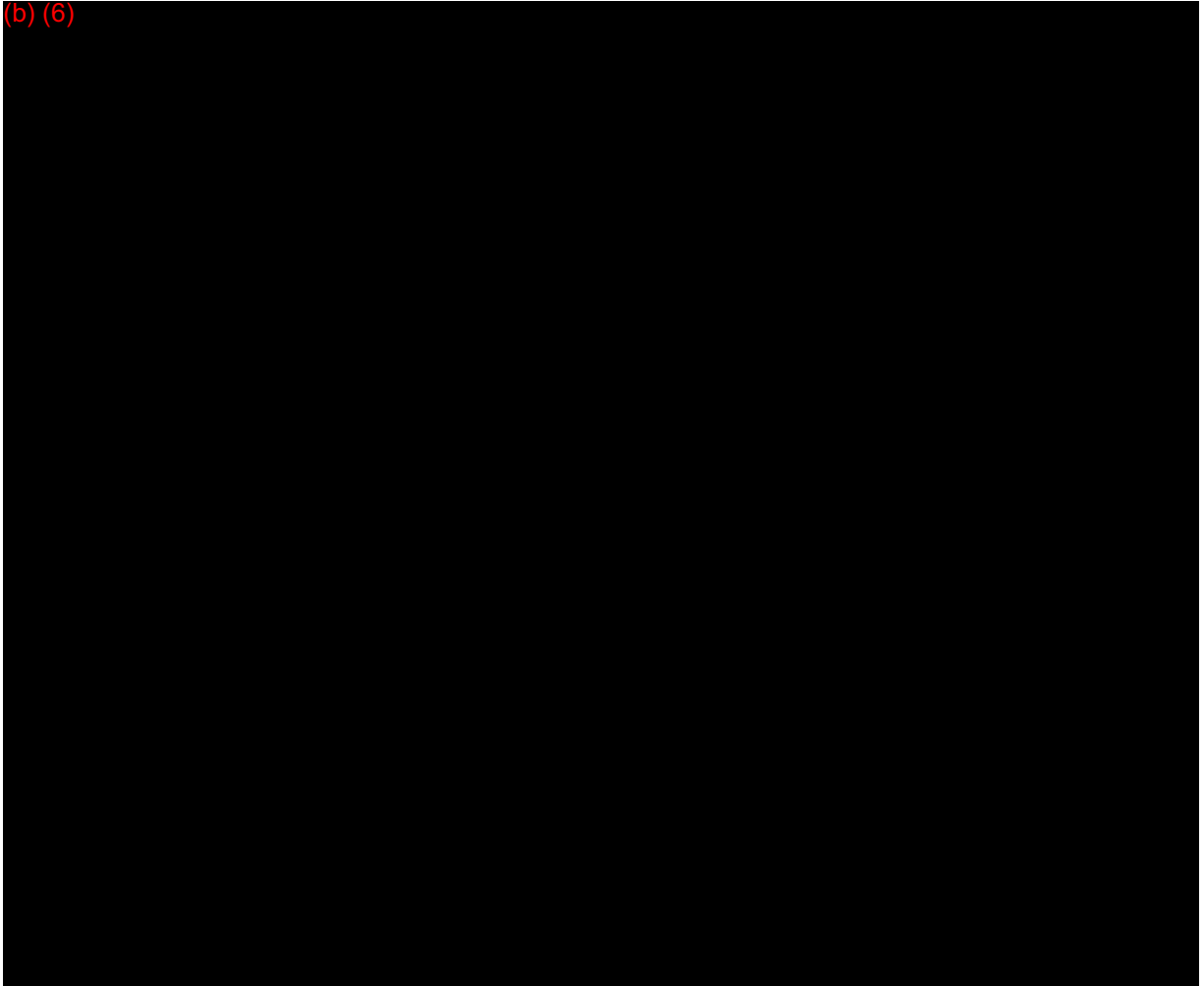


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Source: U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Zachary Chesser: A Case Study in Online Islamist Radicalization and Its Meaning for the Threat of Homegrown Terrorism
[www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CHESSER%20FINAL%20REPORT\(1\)2.pdf](http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CHESSER%20FINAL%20REPORT(1)2.pdf)

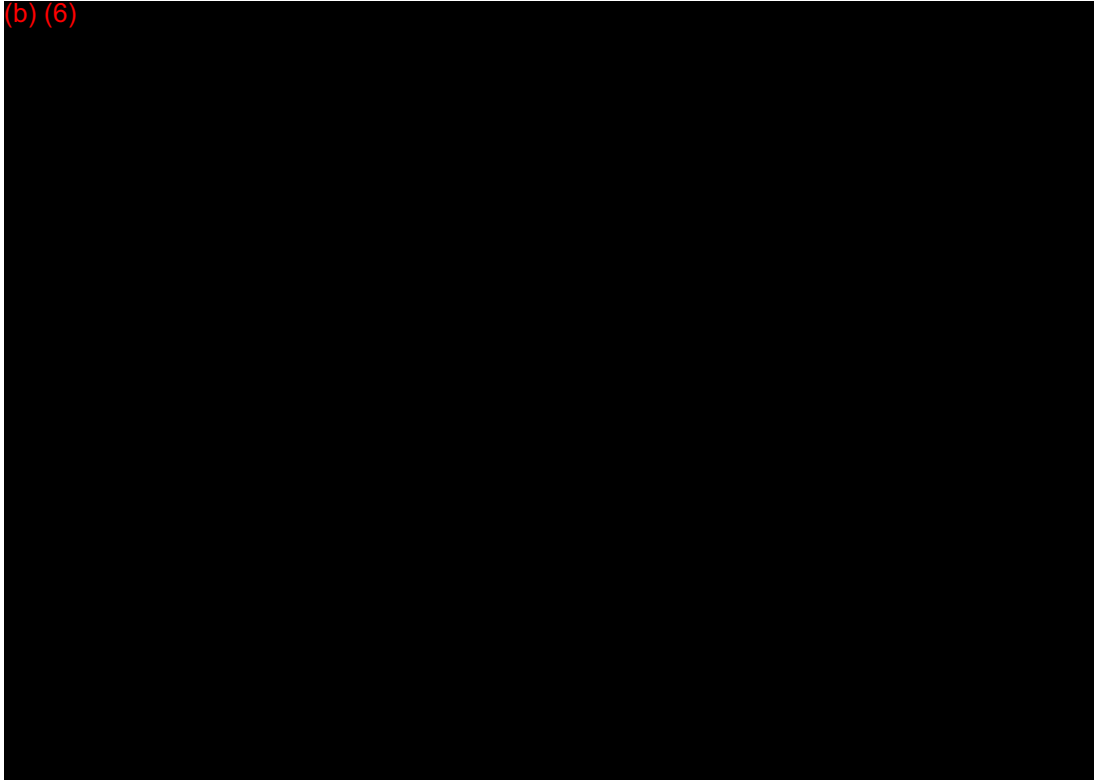
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•**Quote From Interrogation Report:** The young men “used to regularly visit the Internet page of YouTube. He used to praise the videos, which showed attacks on the US Army and Installations. This became a regular feature and Minni [part of the five guys], a registered user of YouTube, regularly praised such attacks. Soon after Minni was contacted by a person named ‘Saifullah’...” Saifullah encouraged the five men to travel to Pakistan and join the Taliban

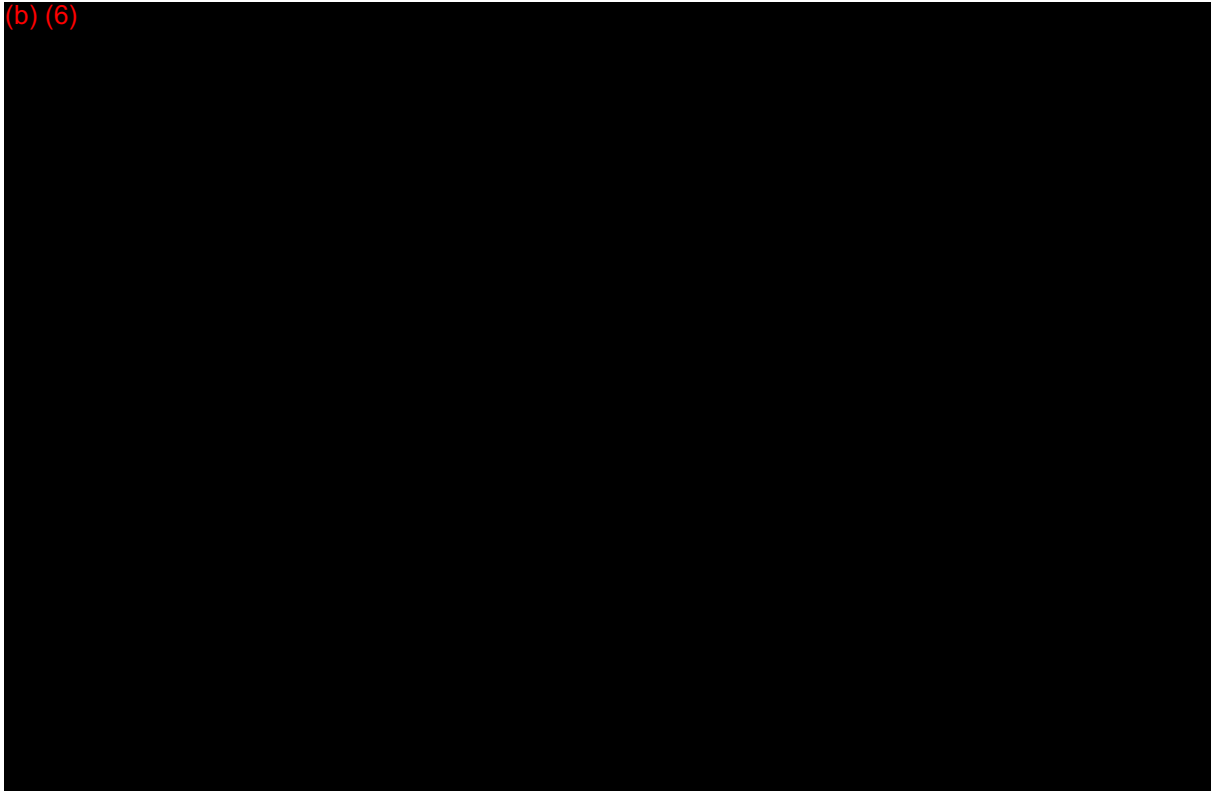
Image Source: ABC News, “Interrogation Report of Five American Terror Suspects in Pakistan”
http://a.abcnews.com/images/Blotter/ht_interrogation_report_091211.pdf

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Between 2007 and 2009, twenty young men, several of which are pictured here, left Minneapolis to fight for Al-Shabaab in Somalia, taking the Muslim community in Minnesota by surprise. According to various sources, at least half a dozen have been reported killed while at least ten have been indicted on terrorism-related charges.

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Source:

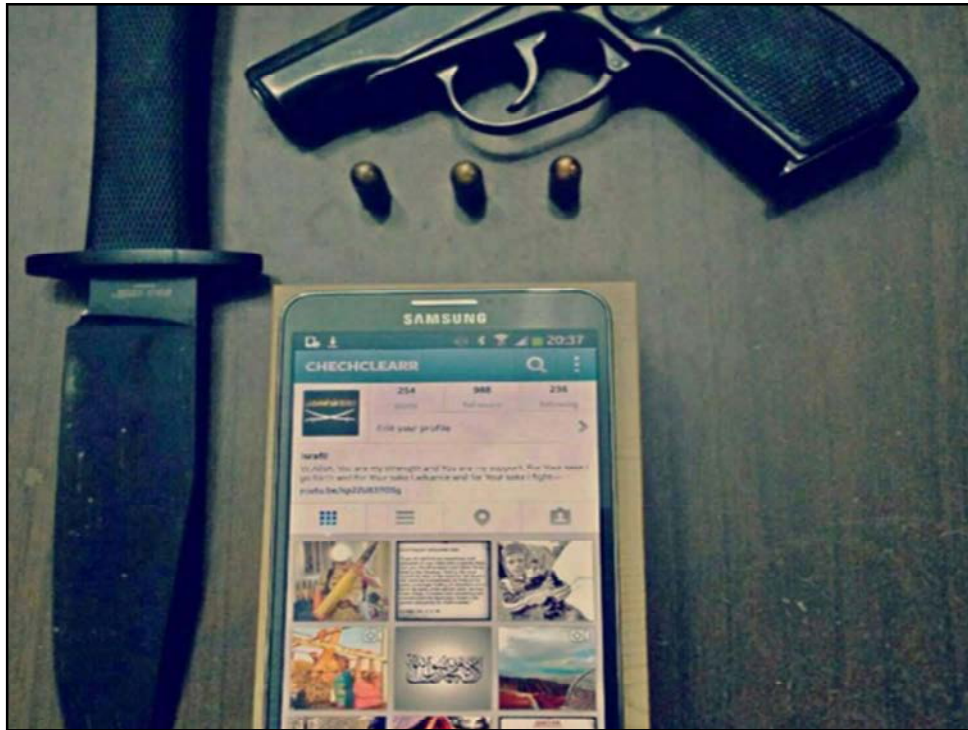
- DOJ Press Release, Terror Charges Unsealed in Minnesota Against Eight Defendants, Justice Department Announces, November 23, 2009 <http://www.fbi.gov/minneapolis/press-releases/2009/mp112309.htm>
- DOJ Press Release, 14 Indicted for Supporting Al-Shabaab, August 5, 2010 <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2010/august/al-shabaab>
- NYtimes, "A Call to Jihad, Answered in America", July 11, 2009 - http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/12/us/12somalis.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0
- CNN, Family Learned over Internet that Son Killed, July 24, 2010 <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/07/24/somalia.americans/>

Case Studies: al-Shabaab Recruitment





- In the past, the ideology of al-Qa'ida was limited to select web forums and pre-approved web videos.
- Recently there has been a marked shift in online recruitment and radicalization. Previously, extremist web sites were primarily restricted from the general public. As a result, a potential recruit had to search out and befriend members of radical forums in order to be accepted and subsequently gain access to the full functionality of the sites.
- Today, however, with the popularization of social networking sites, individuals who are becoming radicalized have the ability to find like-minded individuals more easily. In addition, these social networking sites allow for a level of interaction and information sharing that was not feasible even a few years ago.
- Incendiary materials – including videos and lectures – are increasingly found not only on obscure web sites but also on some of the most widely accessed sites in the world – including Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. The result has been a pronounced increase in the volume of extremist material online, and a corresponding increase in the number of individuals who are viewing this material.
- Source: U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Zachary Chesser: A Case Study in Online Islamist Radicalization and Its Meaning for the Threat of Homegrown Terrorism
[www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CHESSER%20FINAL%20REPORT\(1\)2.pdf](http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CHESSER%20FINAL%20REPORT(1)2.pdf)



Slide images to reinforce that FTOs see media as important as weapons.

According to the International Centre for the Study of Radicalism report, foreign fighters are using social media to document their activities in real time.

- The official Twitter accounts of FTOs are less important as sources of info than "disseminator accounts" run by sympathetic individuals who lend moral and political support to those involved in the conflict. These accounts spread real-time information from the battlefield, publish links to new videos and official statements, and share photographs of battles, equipment and meetings.
- There are question-and-answer sessions, chats, pictures and videos on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, AskFM, and apps such as Whatsapp and Kik. Youngsters post pictures of themselves in the desert or in hotel courtyards in Syria, in shades, brandishing Kalashnikovs and inviting friends to join them.

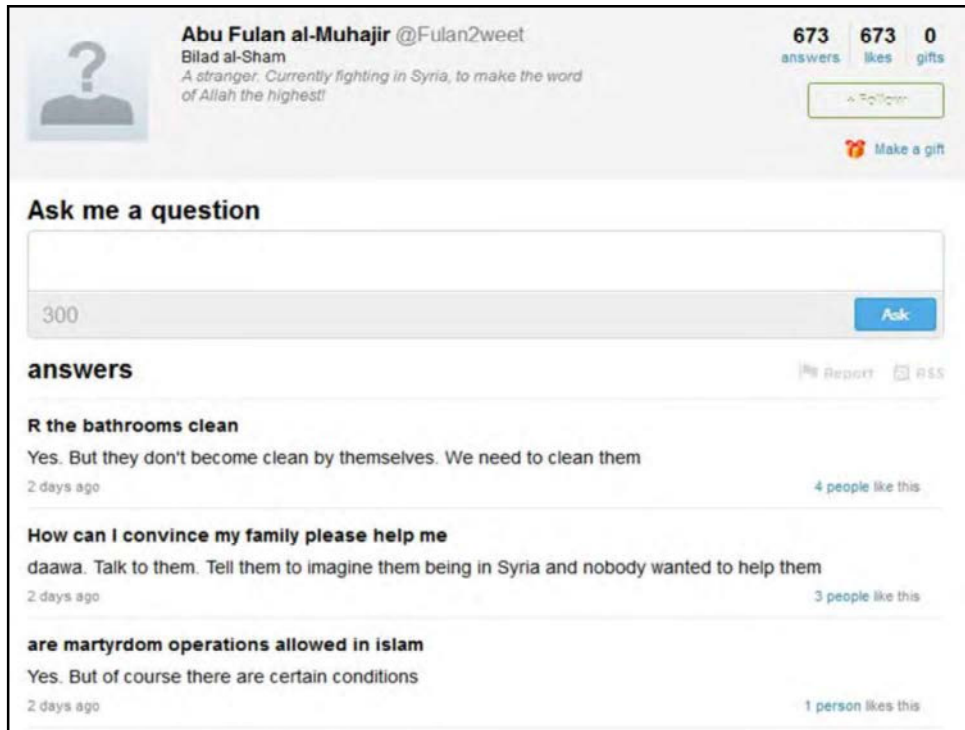
Sources:

<http://icsr.info/2014/04/icsr-insight-inspires-syrian-foreign-fighters/>

http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/29/a-dutch-jihadist-in-syria-speaks-and-blogs/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=1

EUR2014041645611269 London *BBC Online* in English 15 Apr 14 Middle East

Image Source: <http://checkclear.tumblr.com/>



Ex's of postings on Ask.fm

- Is it possible to do jihad half a year?" asks one would-be recruit, apparently seeking to join a rebel group in Syria on a short-stay basis. The question is directed at a man on the Ask.fm website who describes himself as "a stranger currently fighting in Syria." He advises that it is still possible to cross the border from Turkey "but tougher than earlier". He deals, too, with a proposal of marriage, saying he is not looking for a wife.
- Other questioners seek advice on how easy it is to cross the border into Syria from Turkey and the best way to persuade parents to allow them to go.
- They also want to know: "How much is a Glock pistol?" "Which is the best rebel group to join?" "Is there training in jujitsu?"
- One of the key questions is his motivation. "What keeps you motivated to fight and go on?" Referring to barrel bombs widely used in Syria, he replies: "When you see a little girl killed by barrels or an old man crying cuz his house was bombed."

Sources:

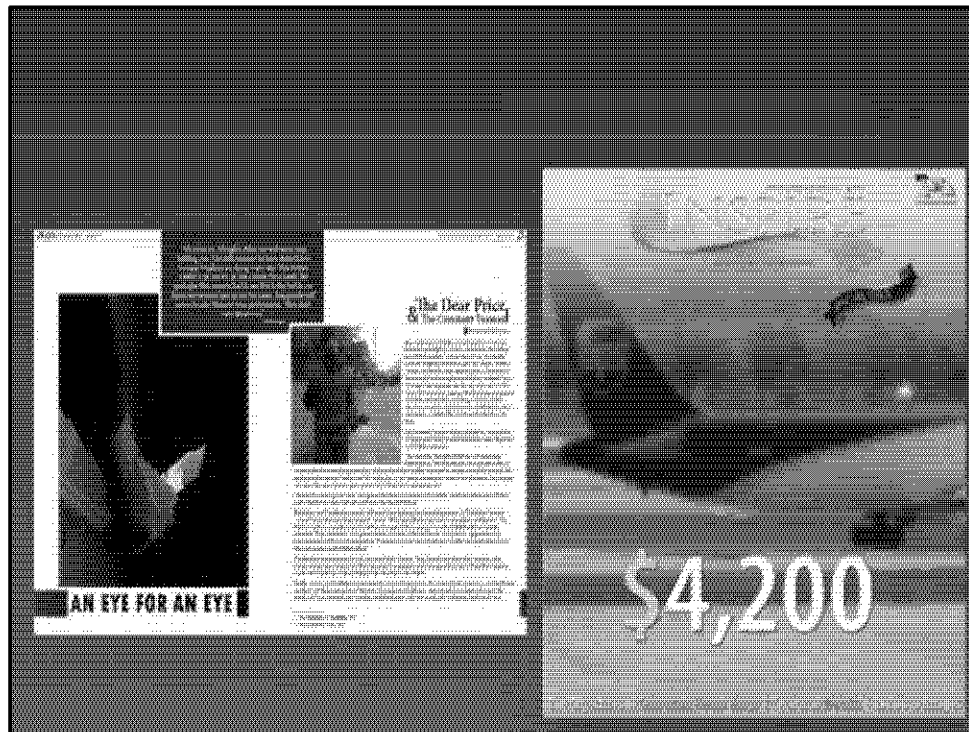
"The Facebook jihadis seeking action in Syria," by Ewen MacAskill and Leila Haddou The Guardian, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/15/facebook-jihadis-action-syria-terror>
Guardian article links to the ask.fm site. <http://ask.fm/Fulan2weet>

Source: Open Source search "al nusrah" www.youtube.com

Al-Qa'ida-Inspired Use of Video Sharing

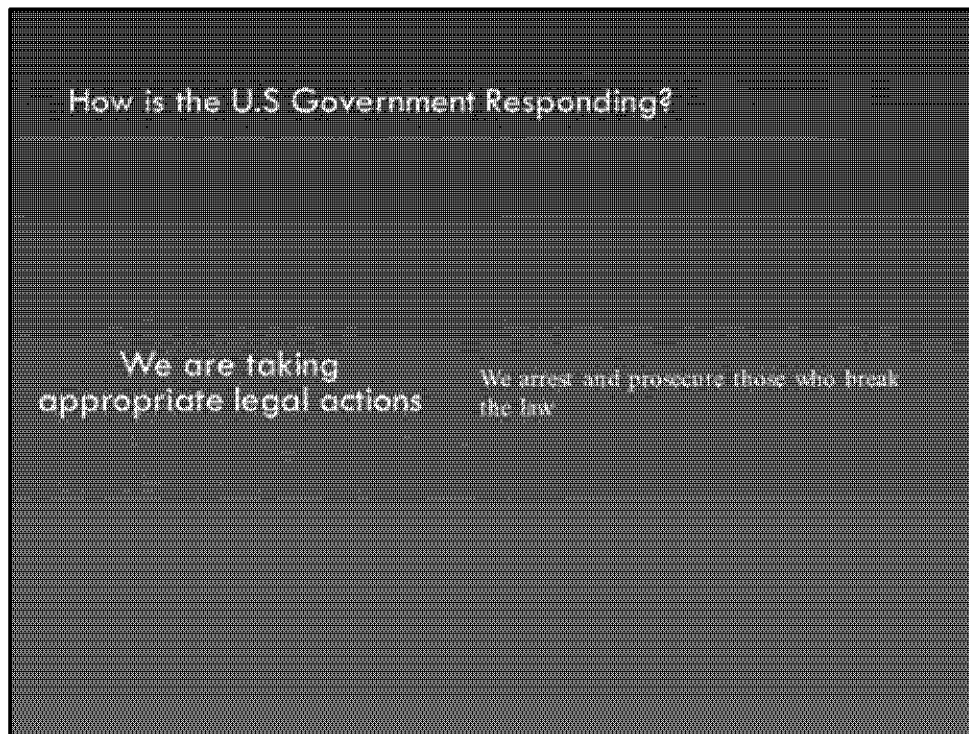


Source: Open Source search "Boko Haram" www.youtube.com



How is the U.S. Government Responding?	
We are engaging with communities specifically on violent extremism	We build awareness of Al Qaeda's recruitment efforts among communities and law enforcement
	We train law enforcement on cultural awareness
	We meet with religious and civic leaders
We are building our expertise	We host Internet safety workshops for parents
	We are improving our understanding of the drivers of violent extremism
	We ensure there are training standards on violent extremism
	We ensure information is shared at all levels of government, including federal, state, and local

How is the U.S. Government Responding?	
We are directly countering Al-Qa'ida's narrative We need your help in all of these areas, but we especially need your help to counter Al-Qa'ida's narrative and engage young people	President Obama has made clear the United States is not now, nor ever will be, at war with Islam, which is part of the "fabric of our Nation"
	We aggressively prosecute hate crimes and other acts of illegal discrimination
	We proactively defend the rights of religious communities, including American Muslims, to practice their faith freely
	For good reason, the Constitution precludes the government from stating what religious beliefs are true or not
	Communities are best positioned to confront al-Qa'ida's bankrupt ideology



What Can You Do?

Stay informed,
particularly about the
online threat

Engage susceptible
individuals, including
young people

Counter Al-Qa'ida's
propaganda

But the best ideas will
come from you

