From: Program on Extremism
To: Program on Extremism Newsletter
Subject: Program on Extremism Newsletter
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2015 11:26:25 AM

Newsletter

From the Desk of the Director
Since launching just six months ago, the Program on Extremism has achieved results that have transcended our rosiest expectations. In this short time we have managed to become a trusted source of research and analysis for policy makers, the media, and the general public. Our work has frequently been utilized by and cited in some of the most prestigious venues in the U.S. and overseas— a testament to the quality and hard work of our small but dedicated staff. We are also extremely proud of our collaborations with several government agencies, think tanks, and study centers.

The next few months will be equally important for the Program, as we expand our staff through several high-caliber hires and embark on new exciting research projects. All this while maintaining the Program's spirit of producing cutting-edge and policy-relevant research through innovative and thoughtful academic inquiry. The necessity of this approach is only heightened by the dramatic events we have sadly witnessed with increasing frequency, from the Middle East to Paris to San Bernardino.

We thank you for your attention and support as we seek to provide much-needed nuance in the discourse on extremism during these challenging days.

Dr. Lorenzo Vidino
Program on Extremism’s Director

Reports and Publications
On December 1, the Program on Extremism released the report *ISIS in America: From Retweets to Raqqa*. The culmination of six months of research, it is the first-of-its-kind comprehensive report on ISIS-related mobilization in the U.S. The report, which was coincidentally released just hours before the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, received extensive coverage by national and international media, including *The New York Times* (featuring on its front page twice in a week), *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, NPR, PBS, CBS (here and here), NBC, ABC, CNN (here, here, and here), MSNBC, Fox News, Al Jazeera, El Pais, Corriere della Sera, France 24, and many others.

The report also generated substantial interest in the policymaking community. The report’s authors, Program on Extremism Director, Lorenzo Vidino, and Deputy Director, Seamus Hughes, have been asked to brief the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security on the findings of the report. A further demonstration of the report's impact, Senator Feinstein, the Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, opened her questioning of FBI Director James B. Comey before the Senate Judiciary Committee by citing the report.
In June 2015 the Program released its first report, titled *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in America*. The study evaluated current CVE strategies and initiatives in the U.S., providing policy recommendations to advance a stagnant debate on the subject. The report was followed by op-eds in *The Washington Post* and Brooking Institution’s *Lawfare* in which Program on Extremism staffers further outlined their policy recommendations.

In October, the Program released five occasional papers by prominent experts examining various aspects of CVE around the world. Topics covered spanned the United Kingdom’s *domestic CVE strategy*, Prevent; policy suggestions for the *reintegration of violent extremist offenders*; the discussion on CVE within the *Muslim American community*; and the role of identity in radicalization to jihadist-inspired terrorism.

### Events

The Program on Extremism has hosted several well-attended events since its launch in June 2015. On July 31, the Program hosted a discussion on the threats and dynamics of the American and European foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon. The panel, moderated by CCHS director Frank Cilluffo, featured Lorenzo Vidino; Peter Neumann, director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence at King’s College London; and Fernando Reinares, senior analyst at Real Instituto Elcano in Madrid. The event was broadcast live by *C-SPAN*.

Together with the Southern Poverty Law Center, on October 14 the Program hosted Assistant Attorney General John Carlin for a discussion on domestic terrorism. Mr. Carlin used the venue to announce the appointment of a new Domestic Terrorism Counsel within the Department of Justice to serve as the primary point of contact for U.S. Attorneys across the country working on domestic terrorism matters. The event was broadcast live by *C-SPAN* and reported on by a number of major news outlets, including *PBS News Hour* and *CBS*.

On November 9, the Program, in conjunction with the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World at The Brookings Institution and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), hosted a panel to discuss the causes of and possible alternative solutions to radicalization. The event, titled "*Countering Violent Extremism through Early Interventions,"* featured Lorenzo Vidino; Daniel Koehler, a fellow at the Program on Extremism and a counselor for Hayat, a German intervention program; Rashad Ali, a senior fellow at ISD and a former member of Hizb ut-Tahrir who has worked on de-radicalization initiatives in the U.K.; and Angela King, deputy director of U.S.-based Life After Hate and co-founder of its Exit USA program, supporting individuals leaving far-right organizations. The event, moderated by Brookings’ William McCants, was broadcast live by *C-SPAN*. 
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Activities
In addition to hosting panel discussions, the staff of the Program on Extremism has participated in a number of high-level discussions with policymakers and civic leaders on topics ranging from the contours of the current terrorist threat to strategies to counter violent extremism. Some of the highlights of these continuous activities include:

- On July 15, Deputy Director Seamus Hughes testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security on "The Rise of Radicalization: Is the U.S. Government Failing to Counter International and Domestic Terrorism?"

- Deputy Director Seamus Hughes was named as a member of DHS Secretary’s Homeland Security Advisory Council.

- Director Lorenzo Vidino traveled overseas on several occasions to provide lectures and briefings to audiences that included the Canadian Senate, the Swiss Federal Police, various entities within the British government, the United Arab Emirates National Defense College, and academic institutions in the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Austria.

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extremism@gwu.edu
http://cchs.gwu.edu/program-extremism

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GW Center for Cyber and Homeland Security | 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | Washington | DC | 20052
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GW Center for Cyber and Homeland Security | 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | Washington | DC | 20052
From: Homeland Security Policy Institute
To: [redacted]
Subject: REMINDER: HSPI Strategy & Leadership Forum - Ambassador Fernandez, Coordinator of the Department of State’s Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC)
Date: Monday, October 6, 2014 9:20:08 AM

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REminder

HSPI Strategy & Leadership Forum:

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez
Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, Department of State

Please join us on October 7, 2014 for a roundtable featuring Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, Coordinator of the Department of State’s Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC). Ambassador Fernandez will discuss terrorist use of social media and the important role played by CSCC in counterterrorism, countering violent extremism and the broader challenges posed by foreign fighters, particularly in Syria and Iraq.

Register

October 7, 2014
10:00am until 12:00pm

State Room | 7th Floor
Elliott School of International Affairs
1957 E Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20052
HSPI Strategy & Leadership Forum:

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez  
Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, Department of State

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Countering Violent Extremism through Early Interventions

The Islamic State's recruitment of foreign fighters has thrust the debate over how to counter violent extremism (CVE) onto the center of domestic and international security agendas. How might nonconventional methods of early intervention such as counseling, education, and community building better prepare governments and communities for the CVE challenge?

On November 9, the Program on Extremism, in conjunction with the Brookings Institution's Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, will host a panel of experts to discuss the causes and possible solutions to violent extremism. The panel will feature Lorenzo Vidino, director of the GWU's Program on Extremism, whose work focuses mainly on developing policy solutions to violent extremism in the United States. The panel will also feature Daniel Koehler, who has served as a counselor for Hayat, a German intervention program that helps families prevent relatives from engaging in violent extremism; Rashad Ali, who is trained in Islamic theology and jurisprudence, a former member of Hizb ut-Tahrir, and has worked on de-radicalization initiatives in prison, probation, and community settings in the United Kingdom for over five years; and Angela King, deputy
director of U.S.-based Life After Hate, and co-founder of its Exit USA program, which supports individuals leaving far-right organizations and educates communities about root causes of violent extremism. Brookings Fellow Will McCants will moderate the discussion. Following their remarks, the panelists will take audience questions.

Speakers
Dr. Lorenzo Vidino
Director, Program on Extremism

Daniel Koehler
Fellow, Program on Extremism

Rashad Ali
Senior Fellow, Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Angela King
Deputy Director, Life After Hate

Moderator
Dr. Will McCants
Director, Brookings Institution Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World

Monday, November 9, 2015
2:00pm until 3:30pm
Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20036

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CCHS Announces New Board of Directors

The Center for Cyber & Homeland Security (CCHS) at the George Washington University is pleased to announce the membership of its new Board of Directors. The members of this Board provide high-level guidance and support to the leadership team at the Center, and help to sustain and grow its policy and research activities.

The Board is chaired by J. Richard Knop, the Founder and Co-Manager of FedCap Partners and a member of the University’s Board of Trustees. The membership of the board includes former senior government officials, private sector executives, and other national leaders with expertise in cybersecurity, counterterrorism and homeland security.

"I am pleased to chair this Board of Directors, which will shape and inform the Center’s policy and research agenda for the coming years," said Knop. "The Board will also assist with identifying new research opportunities and partnerships for the Center."
"Our new Board of Directors includes individuals who have provided decades of service to our nation in support of U.S. national security," said Frank Cilluffo, Director of CCHS. "I am honored to be able to draw on their advice and counsel as the Center contributes to the policy dialogue on a variety of national security issues."

The GW Center for Cyber and Homeland Security (CCHS) was established in January 2015 to integrate the activities of two existing policy centers within the George Washington University: the Homeland Security Policy Institute (HSPI), which was established in 2003, and the GW Cybersecurity Initiative, which was established in 2012.

Building on the longstanding track record of these two entities, CCHS convenes leading experts and policy practitioners at dozens of senior-level events (both on and off the record) each year. Past speakers at events include senior U.S. government officials, members of Congress, private sector executives, and foreign leaders. CCHS also regularly publishes policy-relevant research and analysis and provides expert testimony to Congress on critical issues and challenges related to cybersecurity, counterterrorism, and homeland security.

The Center is led by Frank Cilluffo, a former Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and by Christian Beckner, a former Associate Staff Director with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The Center also recently established a new Program on Extremism to focus on issues related to radicalization and countering violent extremism, led by noted experts Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes.

The membership of the Center’s new Board of Directors
is as follows:

Richard V. Allen, Former Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Michael Balboni, President and Managing Director, RedLand Strategies Inc. Former Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, State of New York.

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Robert Nichols, Partner, Covington & Burling LLP.

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Andrew Robinson, Senior Vice President, Enterprise Management and Resilience, ICF International.

Bob Rose, Robert Rose Consulting LLC.

Nick Schacht, Chief Executive Officer, KnowCyber LLC.

Howard Schmidt, Partner, Ridge-Schmidt Cyber LLC. Former Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator.

Judge William Sessions, Partner, Holland & Knight. Former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.


Ambassador Richard Swett, CEO, Climate Prosperity Enterprise Solutions LLC. Former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark. Former Member of Congress.

Adam Thiel, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Commonwealth of Virginia.

Frances Fragos Townsend, Executive Vice President, MacAndrews & Forbes Inc. Former Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism.

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George Washington University Establishes Program on Extremism

Releases Report on Status of U.S. Countering Violent Extremism Strategy

The George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security today announced the establishment of the Program on Extremism, a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at providing analysis on and solutions for countering violent and non-violent extremism.

The program will focus on various forms of extremism, mainly in the U.S., with the goal of conducting groundbreaking research and developing solutions that resonate with policymakers, civil society leaders and the general public. The new program will bring together a team of experts including government officials, scholars, former extremists and counter-extremism practitioners who will provide firsthand assistance to families grappling with radicalization. The program will be led by Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes.

“The current terrorist climate calls for a dedicated and
sustained effort grounded in empirically based research,” said Frank Cilluffo, director for the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. “I simply cannot think of two stronger scholars and practitioners than Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes to lead this program and ensure we respond more effectively.”

“Washington, DC, has long needed an academic program specifically dedicated to the study of extremism and radicalization,” said Bruce Hoffman, director of Georgetown University’s Center for Security Studies. “With the establishment of precisely such a program in George Washington University’s renowned Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, this gap has finally been redressed.”

The Program on Extremism’s first report, *Countering Violent Extremism in America*, seeks to provide a primer on U.S. and European approaches to countering violent extremism (CVE). First, it analyzes the status quo of CVE in America, detailing the latest initiatives and the challenges they face. Secondly, it summarizes the current trends in various European countries, where authorities have implemented ambitious strategies for over a decade, and whose experience can inform the U.S. approach. Finally, the report provides a series of recommendations including the need for U.S. officials to build a carefully crafted system for interventions as a potential alternative to prosecution.

**Background of the Program on Extremism Team:**

Dr. Vidino is director of the program. Dr. Vidino is an expert in terrorist networks in the West and governmental counter-radicalization policies. He is the author of various books, including “The New Muslim Brotherhood in the West,” published in 2010 by Columbia University Press. Dr. Vidino is a graduate of
the University of Milan Law School and Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

The program's deputy director is Seamus Hughes. Hughes previously worked at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee focusing on issues related to terrorism and countering violent extremism.
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"The current terrorist climate calls for a dedicated and
sustained effort grounded in empirically based research," said Frank Cilluffo, director for the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. "I simply cannot think of two stronger scholars and practitioners than Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes to lead this program and ensure we respond more effectively."

"Washington, DC, has long needed an academic program specifically dedicated to the study of extremism and radicalization," said Bruce Hoffman, director of Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies. "With the establishment of precisely such a program in George Washington University's renowned Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, this gap has finally been redressed."

The Program on Extremism's first report, *Countering Violent Extremism in America*, seeks to provide a primer on U.S. and European approaches to countering violent extremism (CVE). First, it analyzes the status quo of CVE in America, detailing the latest initiatives and the challenges they face. Secondly, it summarizes the current trends in various European countries, where authorities have implemented ambitious strategies for over a decade, and whose experience can inform the U.S. approach. Finally, the report provides a series of recommendations including the need for U.S. officials to build a carefully crafted system for interventions as a potential alternative to prosecution.

**Background of the Program on Extremism Team:**

Dr. Vidino is director of the program. Dr. Vidino is an expert in terrorist networks in the West and governmental counter-radicalization policies. He is the author of various books, including "The New Muslim Brotherhood in the West," published in 2010 by Columbia University Press. Dr. Vidino is a graduate of
the University of Milan Law School and Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

The program's deputy director is Seamus Hughes. Hughes previously worked at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee focusing on issues related to terrorism and countering violent extremism.
A Conversation with a Former Extremist:
Jesse Morton and Dr. Jessica Stern
Monday, September 26, 2016
11:00pm-12:30pm

The Program on Extremism at The George Washington University would like to invite you to a conversation between Jesse Morton, a former Islamist extremist and research fellow at the Program on Extremism, and Dr. Jessica Stern, a renowned expert on terrorism, a fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health and a Research Professor at Boston University’s Pardee School of Global Studies.

Academics, policymakers and public officials have stressed the value of former extremists in countering violent extremism (CVE). For example, President Obama stated at the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism in February, 2015 that “former extremists have the opportunity to speak out, speak the truth about terrorist groups, and oftentimes they can be powerful messengers in debunking these terrorist ideologies.”

Jesse Morton is the first former Islamist extremist to take on a public role in the American ambit. As a cofounder and chief propagandist of Revolution Muslim, a New York City-based group active in the 2000s, he helped to insert the narrative of Al-Qaeda and Salafi-jihadist ideology into the United States. Morton had direct contact with some of the most prominent extremist preachers in the West, including Abdullah Faisal, Omar Bakri Muhammad, and several others.

After his incarceration in 2011, Morton de-radicalized and actively assisted the
law enforcement community in several investigations. At the same time, he helped develop tools for assessment and analysis, techniques for early intervention, and counter-messaging. Thus his original 11.5-year sentence was reduced to less than four years.

He and Dr. Stern will cover his experiences, the importance of formers, recruitment, intervention, deradicalization, and other important topics. RSVP for seating. Event will be on George Washington University campus. Exact location will be communicated by email that morning.

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Try it free today
Countering Violent Extremism Efforts at the State Department: Toward a More Strategic Approach

Wednesday, May 25, 2016
2:00pm-3:00pm

Register Here

The Program on Extremism at George Washington University would like to invite you to a conversation with Justin Siberell, Acting Coordinator, for the Department of State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism.

Over the past year, there has been growing international recognition of the importance of countering violent extremism (CVE) as part of the U.S. Government’s response to terrorism.

The Department of State is implementing a number of changes to create a more strategic, integrated, and
effective approach to CVE. This includes the forthcoming release of the first-ever State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism. Mr. Siberell will discuss this strategy; the State Department's work with a range of bilateral, multilateral, and non-governmental partners to prevent radicalization and recruitment efforts of violent terrorist groups; and the critical role of elevating CVE in diplomacy.

The discussion will be moderated by Seamus Hughes, Deputy Director of the Program on Extremism at the GW Center for Cyber & Homeland Security.

State Room | 7th Floor
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