

**Chairman Johnson's Opening Statement**  
**"Ideology and Terror: Understanding the Tools, Tactics, and Techniques of Violent Extremism"**  
**Wednesday, June 8, 2017**

*As submitted for the record:*

A top priority of our Committee is to counter Islamic terrorism and homegrown violent extremism. Because this is a top priority, today's hearing is our 10th hearing examining terrorist threats, including Islamic extremism.

In other hearings we explored:

- Jihad 2.0: Social Media in the Next Evolution of Terrorist Recruitment;
- The Impact of ISIS on the Homeland and Refugee Resettlement;
- Inside the Mind of ISIS: Understanding its Goals and Ideology to Better Protect the Homeland;
- Frontline Response to Terrorism in America;
- Terror in Europe: Safeguarding U.S. Citizens At Home and Abroad;
- Protecting America from the Threat of ISIS;
- The Ideology of ISIS;
- And finally, the Committee has convened annual hearings with the heads of the FBI, NTCS, and DHS to discuss "Threats to the Homeland"

Today's hearing will examine the tools, tactics, and techniques of violent extremism.

We have four leading experts with us today who can help us understand the challenge of ideology and terror, and how we confront the reality of the threat.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali has courageously devoted herself to warning the world about the problem of Islamic extremism, at the risk of her own life. Astra Nomani is a journalist, author, and co-founder of the Muslim Reform Movement. Dr. John Lenczowski is a former National Security Council official who has written extensively on winning wars of ideas. The Honorable Michael Leiter is the former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and leading expert and practitioner of counterterrorism.

We welcome our witnesses to address the urgent challenge of countering extremist ideology and terror, and to offer recommendations for what we must do to secure our nation.