



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Artificial Intelligence and Counterterrorism: Possibilities and Limitations

June 25, 2019

In March, a white supremacist terrorist in Christchurch, New Zealand, exploited social media platforms to live stream violent images across the world-millions of times over. Technology such as Artificial Intelligence is one tool social media companies use to help identify, monitor, and remove such terrorist content. We are witnessing a new technological age with Artificial Intelligence or "AI." Computer systems are increasingly able to perform tasks that previously required human intelligence.

Over time, this capability will only be refined and as the technology improves. We are here today to understand the technological possibilities and current limitations of AI when it comes to countering terrorism online. Congress has a responsibility not only to track the progression of these emerging technological breakthroughs, but to understand how they affect our security. The individuals here today represent some of the brightest minds in the AI field. I hope to hear from our witnesses about whether the technology can accurately flag terror content or other material that violates terms of service without unduly impeding the flow of legitimate content online.

I also hope to hear about where the technology is still lacking, and whether the social media companies are working to improve its effectiveness on their platforms. Today's hearing lays an important foundation for our Full Committee hearing tomorrow, where we will engage social media companies about the challenges they face in addressing terror content and misinformation on their platforms.

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