



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Meeting the Challenge of White Nationalist Terrorism at Home and Abroad

September 18, 2019

I thank both Chairman Deutch and Chairman Rose for convening this important joint hearing today. The horrific attacks in El Paso, Texas; Poway, California; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania show us the threat of white nationalist terrorism to our homeland is very real and persistent. Sadly, these are not isolated incidents. Over the last 10 years, the majority of extremist-related killings in the U.S. were committed by right-wing violent extremists. White nationalist terrorism remains a threat to the security of our homeland.

Moreover, this kind of terrorism in the United States is increasingly linked internationally. For example, the white nationalist terrorists who killed people in El Paso, Texas and Poway, California, cited the Christchurch, New Zealand shooter as a source of inspiration. This increase in violence is not restricted to the U.S. According to a report issued by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in November, 2018, there has been a “rise in far-right attacks in Europe, jumping 43 percent between 2016 and 2017.

My legislation, the Domestic and International Terrorism DATA Act, was reported by the Committee on Homeland Security by voice vote. The bill would require the government to produce an annual public report detailing domestic and international terrorist incidents and what actions our government is taking to address them. It would also require DHS to research how domestic terrorists are linked with transnational terrorist movements, including white supremacist movements.

It is imperative that we have counterterrorism policies and strategies that address the totality of terrorist threats, from those motivated by Jihadism to those motivated by white nationalism and other ideologies. Again, I thank Chairman Deutch and Chairman Rose for convening this hearing and the witnesses for their participation. I look forward to continuing to work with Members on this important matter.

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