



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### *Countering Violent Extremism, Terrorism, and Antisemitic Threats in New Jersey*

October 3, 2022

Today, the Committee on Homeland Security is examining the increase in violent extremism and antisemitic incidents across the country and here in New Jersey, with the aim of finding how best to counter such threats. This hearing is an opportunity to focus on the factors driving the recent rise in domestic terrorism, including antisemitic violence, the State and local response, and how the Federal government is supporting that response. I would like to thank Congressman Gottheimer for his leadership on this critical issue and for bringing the Committee to his district for today's hearing.

In the 21 years since 9/11, the threat environment has changed immensely. While terrorist actors backed by violent Islamist ideologies continue to pose a serious threat, the greatest terrorism threat to the homeland today is from domestic violent extremists, particularly those who promote a violent white supremacy ideology. In June, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation, and National Counterterrorism Center released a report assessing that threats from domestic violent extremists driven by a belief in the superiority of the white race will persist.

These agencies also assess that there is an enduring threat posed by domestic violent extremists to Jewish communities. Local, State, and Federal resources must be focused on addressing the needs of the American Jewish community, which is why the Committee is in New Jersey — a State that has seen a historic rise in antisemitic incidents. This Committee has closely examined the pervasive domestic terrorism threat in over a dozen hearings on the issue in recent years, including several specifically focused on antisemitism.

Congressional Democrats have also more than doubled funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program from \$90 million in Fiscal Year 2020, to \$180 million in FY2021, and \$250.15 million in FY2022. Additionally, the Biden-Harris Administration has increased efforts to address the larger domestic terrorism threat. DHS, in particular, has:

- Issued several National Terrorism Advisory System bulletins on the heightened threat from domestic terrorists.
- Established a new domestic terrorism branch within the Office of Intelligence and Analysis.
- Designated domestic violent extremism as a “National Priority Area” within the Homeland Security Grant Program, making \$77 million available to grant applicants to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to domestic terrorism threats.
- and enhanced collaboration with public and private sector partners to better guard against domestic violent extremist attacks on critical infrastructure.

I commend the Administration for releasing a long overdue DHS and Department of Justice report on data concerning acts of terrorism, including domestic terrorism, and the Federal government's response.

Although the Federal government is committing more resources to combat the grave threat of domestic terrorism and antisemitic violence, more work remains. For example, we are still awaiting the release of the second iteration of the DHS-DOJ report on domestic terrorism data, which is necessary to respond appropriately to the threat. Additionally, it is critical that the Federal government work with State and local partners and community organizations to use all available tools to combat antisemitism and domestic violent extremism.

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