



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement & Intelligence Subcommittee Ranking Member Seth Magaziner (D-RI)

Persistent Challenges: Examining the Operations of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis

June 26, 2024

Today's conversation should start with remembering why the Office of Intelligence and Analysis was created – the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. I remember that day vividly, as I'm sure all of you do as well. And the intelligence failures that allowed it to happen were in large part due to a need for stronger coordination between the intelligence community and law enforcement agencies.

The terrorism threat that I&A was created to combat persists today, as does our mission of overseeing the integration of DHS with the intelligence community and law enforcement. We are aware of some of I&A's challenges, but the success of I&A can be measured in the terrorist attacks that have not taken place over the last two decades.

I am pleased that Under Secretary Ken Wainstein undertook a "360 Review" of the organization to realign the structure and improve the performance of I&A. However, we must continue to assess how I&A meets its intelligence mission, and ensure it complies with privacy and oversight requirements. I&A plays a critical role in protecting the American people from violence by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence to State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private-sector law enforcement. It is the only Intelligence Community member tasked with providing actionable intelligence to SLTTP partners.

I&A's critical role helping secure our communities is more necessary today than ever before. The United States faces a wide variety of threats, both domestically and internationally, and from state and non-state actors. Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists—particularly those motivated by white supremacy—pose the most significant threat to our country per the FBI's data. They commit mass shootings and other violent acts to advance their racist, homophobic, misogynistic, and bigoted agendas.

At the same time, Secretary Mayorkas recently warned that ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and other foreign terrorist organizations are increasingly recruiting and plotting attacks against Americans at home and abroad. These are serious threats that require our State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement to have access to timely, actionable intelligence to do their jobs on the ground in our communities.

I look forward to hearing from Under Secretary Wainstein about the results of his 360-Degree Review, and the steps it should take to regain its status as a trusted intelligence partner. I also look forward to learning about what Congress can do to ensure I&A's crucial mission is carried out to its fullest and with respect to privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

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