

Opening Statement
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Islam and the West: Searching for Common Ground
July 18, 2006

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to convene the second in a series of hearings on the issue of global terrorism and our national and international efforts to combat it.

The issue, regrettably, remains very much in the headlines. Just last week, commuters in Bombay experienced the spontaneous and tragic consequences of terrorism. As tensions flare and more lives are lost in the volatile Middle East, terrorist acts continue to be a tactic of those wishing to achieve political objectives.

In our first hearing, we heard from both current and former senior government officials on the state of the terrorist threat against the United States, and we received recommendations for measuring success and moving forward. We learned that while there have been unequivocal successes in our war against terror, the root causes of terrorism – particularly those driven by Islamic radicalism -- remain very much with us.

I noted during our last hearing that military operations alone will not win the longer war on terrorism. This view was validated by testimony at the hearing. Even with an Al Qaeda organization that is scattered and on the run, its leadership continues to provide ideological guidance to followers worldwide. In other words, despite our operational and tactical successes on several fronts, the root causes of terrorism and the intense ideological motivations behind this phenomenon persist.

We have started this inquiry from the premise that the U.S. anti-terrorism strategy cannot be reduced to military terms or to a fight against existing conspirators. It must include longer term measures designed to prevent terrorist cells and movements that would target Americans on our shores and abroad from forming in the first place. In today's world, an anti-terrorist strategy cannot focus exclusively on "capture and kill," or on the derailment of imminent terrorist acts. Terrorism is a complex phenomenon that requires the application of technological, military, law enforcement, economic, diplomatic, and moral resources.

To evaluate the U.S. anti-terrorism strategy, we have to know what causes a person to embrace an ideology that would have them resort to terrorism as a tactic. Once inclined toward such an ideology, what is it that would dissuade them from committing violence toward Americans in the first place? Congressional oversight should ensure that we are getting the maximum benefit out of our anti-terrorism investments, that agencies are working cooperatively and effectively with one another, and that we are implementing a comprehensive strategy focused on achievable short and long term objectives. And, finally, we must know how we define success in this effort, and how we will know when we have achieved it.

The purpose of today's hearing is to perform an examination of the historical roots of terrorism and how other nations have dealt with this phenomenon. We will focus in particular on the roots of Islamic-based terrorism – including the current image of the United States in the Muslim world, how Westerners and Muslims view each other, and the state of the struggle within contemporary Islam between its more moderate and extreme factions. We also will probe how the U.S. and its Western allies and counterparts can move toward a more productive longer term relationship with the Muslim world.

Our panel today consists of four individuals who have unique experience to inform us on this complex and important topic.

Dr. Bruce Hoffman is the Corporate Chair in Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency at the RAND Corporation, and is also the Director of RAND's Washington office. He has a long history of scholarly writing on all aspects of terrorism and counterinsurgency, and has worked as a senior advisor to many government entities in both the United States and Great Britain. He is the editor of *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, the leading worldwide scholarly journal in the field, and he has written extensively on Al Qaeda's tactics, strategies, and leadership.

Mr. Andrew Kohut is the President of the Pew Research Center. He also acts as the Director of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, and the Pew Global Attitudes Project. He was President of the Gallup Organization from 1979 to 1989. Mr. Kohut is widely sought after as a commentator on public opinion and has received many awards in his profession. He is the author of several books, the most recent of which is *America Against the World – How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked*.

Ambassador Akbar Ahmed is a respected scholar on contemporary Islam. He is a former high commissioner of Pakistan to Great Britain, and has advised many world leaders on Islam. He holds a Chair in Islamic Studies and is a professor of international relations at American University. The Ambassador is also a distinguished anthropologist, writer, and filmmaker and is the author of many books on Muslim history and society. He has just returned from an extensive trip throughout the Muslim world.

Dr. Muktedar Khan is a professor of political science and international relations at the University of Delaware and a nonresident fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He is known best for his insight relating to the role of moderate Muslims in Islamic thought. His thoughtful post-September 11th essay to his fellow American Muslims has been widely recognized and published. New York Newsday noted that Dr. Khan is "one of a growing number of young moderate Muslims thinkers who believe themselves engaged in a battle for the soul of Islam."

Gentlemen, we welcome you and appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts with us. We look forward to your testimony.

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