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HOUSE OF
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SPEAKER PRO TEM

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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ACT
Testimony on SB 2612
February 17, 2016

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the committee for hearing testimony today on HB 2612 and the need for more oversight of our state refugee resettlement plan.

Currently, the refugee resettlement plan is handled by Non-Governmental Organizations, or NGO's, with little oversight. Once a refugee relocates to a community, there is little chance of keeping track of that individual. I have had personal experience dealing with Somalian refugees in my district. After inquiring of an NGO in Emporia regarding recently resettled refugees, they stated there is no way of even knowing how many are in the area after only **one** year of resettlement. This was prior to their relocation in Western Kansas.

Along with the lack of being able to track refugees, there is also the issue of morality. Males often claim one female as their wife, but later, young females just happen to show up in the home. These young females are identified as "extended" family members. The culture of Somalia in particular allows for up to four wives. An additional concern is the practice in some cultures of the refugee population to genitally mutilate young girls at age eight. This occurs because it is an accepted practice for the children to be married at age nine. Both the state of Kansas and the United States have laws against this, but little oversight to protect it from happening.

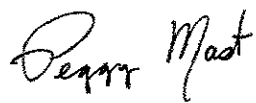
As a woman, I find it offensive that any female should be treated as less than equal in our country. Throughout the world, women are trapped in multiple marriages and abhorrent treatment, but America should sound out loudly this will not be allowed here. We need more eyes on the refugee community and more oversight to protect the inhabitants, both from cases of prejudice, as well as abuse of women within the communities.

It also cannot be ignored America is under threat from individuals who have sworn to destroy us. They have already infiltrated our country, and they are intent on adding to their numbers. We are given the task of ensuring the safety of our citizens and the oversight this bill provides will help bring this to pass.

The bill is based on Federal law and should thus be easy to enforce.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, I ask that you pass this bill out to support our local communities, women and children, and protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peggy Mast". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and a distinct "Mast".

Rep. Peggy Mast, 76th District
Speaker Pro Tem

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Terror Threat Snapshot: 6 Terror-Related Arrests in 5 States so far in 2016



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Terror Threat Snapshot: 6 Terror-Related Arrests in 5 States so far in 2016

February 9, 2016 Glynn Cosker

By Glynn Cosker

Managing Editor, In Homeland Security

The House Homeland Security Committee (HSC) Chairman Michael McCaul has released the February Terror Threat Snapshot. As usual, the monthly publication that assesses the increasing threat to America from ISIS is alarming. The snapshot reports that six terror-related arrests in five different states have already occurred in 2016.

“The Islamist terror threat remains alarmingly high as recent arrests and terror plots demonstrate. ISIS recruits wage war in our communities, while thousands of deadly fighters trained in Syria stream back into the West – some of them infiltrating massive refugee flows,” stated Chairman McCaul. “ISIS continues its global expansion on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and the still-dangerous al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula seizes greater territory in Yemen.”

Key Points from the Terror Threat Snapshot

- The U.S. faces the highest Islamist terror threat environment since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.
- There were 21 recent ISIS-linked plots to launch attacks, with 81 ISIS-linked suspects arrested, including six so far in 2016.
- Iran gained access to \$100 billion via the recent nuclear deal, effectively fueling it's global terror network.
- Close to 2,000 Europeans (out of approximately 6,600 Western fighters who visited Iraq and Syria have arrived back in Europe.
- Germany's domestic intelligence chief states that terrorists "have slipped in camouflaged or disguised as refugees. This is a fact that the security agencies are facing."
- The Obama Administration has increased the release of known terrorists from Guantanamo Bay even though the intelligence community has reported that 30 percent of the released detainees have either rejoined a terror network or are in the process of doing so.

"We are moving towards a European 9/11: simultaneous attacks on the same day in several countries... We know the terrorists are working on this." ~ French counter-terrorism official.

Recent Recent Arrests in USA

Michigan: A man was arrested for an alleged plan to attack a church in Detroit. Khalil Abu-Rayyan, 21, stated that he supported ISIS and said "If I can't do jihad in the Middle East, I would do jihad over here."

Pennsylvania and Virginia: Two men were arrested after they allegedly attempted to visit Syria via Jordan in order to join ISIS.

Texas and California: Law enforcement authorities arrested two Islamist terrorists in Texas and California who allegedly arrived in the U.S. from Syria and Iraq through the refugee resettlement program. Also in California, a man from Irvine was arrested for allegedly delivering "tactical equipment to Islamist fighters in Syria."

Wisconsin: A man was arrested for an alleged plot to attack a Masonic temple.

Maryland: A man was arrested and indicted for allegedly supporting ISIS and purportedly receiving money from Islamic terror groups to fund attacks in the United States.

Look out for next month's *In Homeland Security* report on the House Homeland Committee's March Terror Threat Snapshot.



FEBRUARY 2016

8.1 TOTAL ISS-DIMMER ANALYSIS IN AMERICA

21 ISIS-LINKED PLOTS TO LAUNCH ATTACKS IN AMERICA

6 PEOPLE ARRESTED IN...

5 STATES FOR

ATTACHMENT OF ACTS

- Plotting attacks
- Traveling overseas
- Lying to authorities
- Weapons charges



ISIS CONTROLS
150 MILES OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN
COASTLINE - WAY
LONGER THAN THE
DISTANCE BETWEEN
DC & PHOENIX

ISIS SANCTUARY

**ISIS CONTROLS TERRITORY
IN IRAQ & SYRIA ROUGHLY
THE LAND SIZE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA**

33%

of homegrown jihadist cases since 9/11 have happened in the last year.
(144 since 9/11)

6,600

Western fighters have traveled to the conflict zone to join ISIS.

1,900

European fighters have traveled to conflict zone to join ISIS and returned to Europe.

THE WEST

SYRIA/IRAQ

EUROPE

SYRIAN