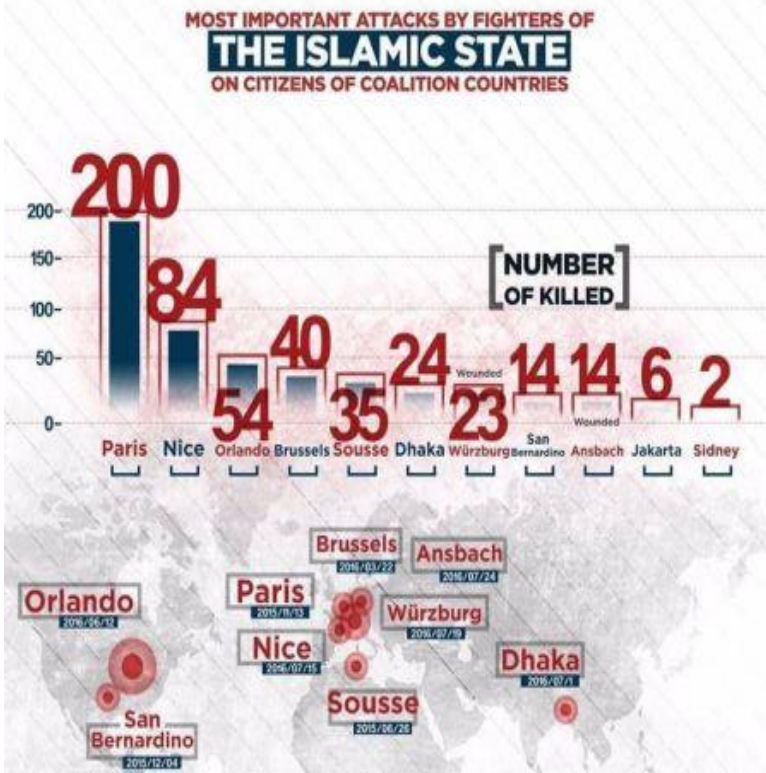


Terrorism in Islamic Costume: Facing the Counter Terrorism Challenge in the Modern Age



By: Mubin Shaikh
For: ADSA 2019 - Boston



"OUR SECURITY IS BETTER THAN THE AIRPORTS'..."





HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISIS AND MUSLIMS



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Overview:

Who I am:

- Former supporter of the global jihadist cause, turned undercover counter terrorism operator & now international expert on national security and counter terrorism.

What will you learn/Why you should be paying attention:

- What radicalization is and is not
- “Profiling Muslims” - Say Wha?!
- How to identify persons vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists
- How to develop a investigative guide for identifying suspected extremists

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A very simple model of radicalization leading into violent extremism



Formative period of observance, absorption, paradigm construction.

Activism & Expression
– Social Movement

Reject Social Movement/
Violent Extremism

1. Justification / glorification of violence/martyrdom through lone/group action incl. self-made propaganda.
2. Intensity of exclusivity/activity (covert, intel, counterintel, paramilitary, cyberops etc.)
3. Contact with known violent extremists (peer groupings)
4. Overseas/domestic travel/online searches to receive training
5. Recruiting others

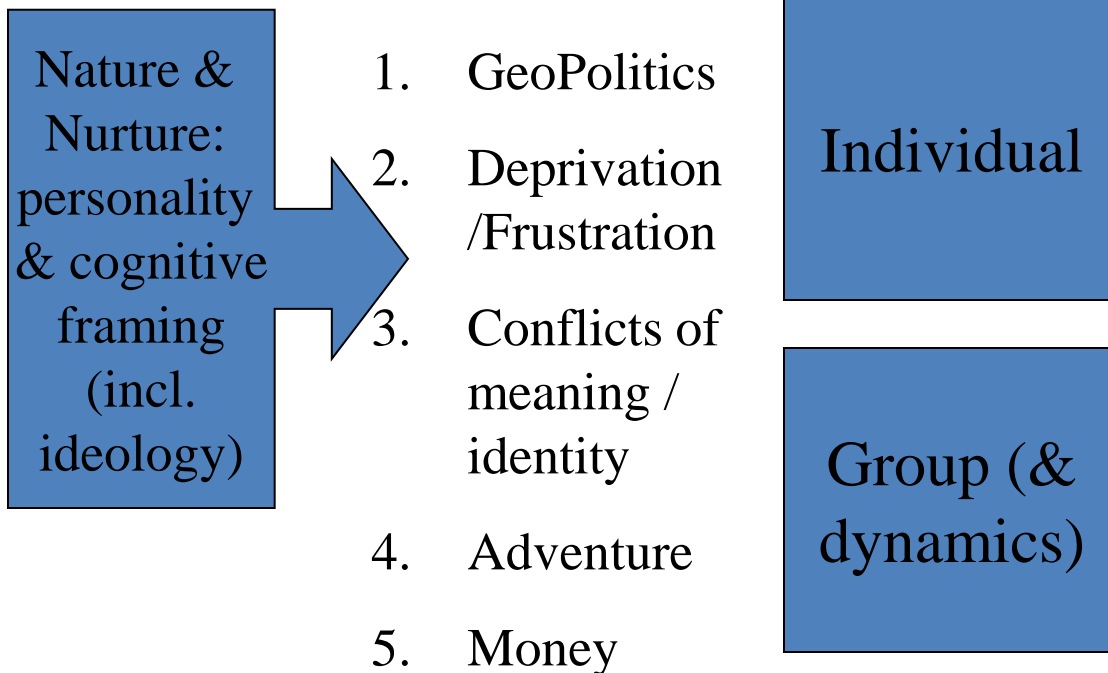
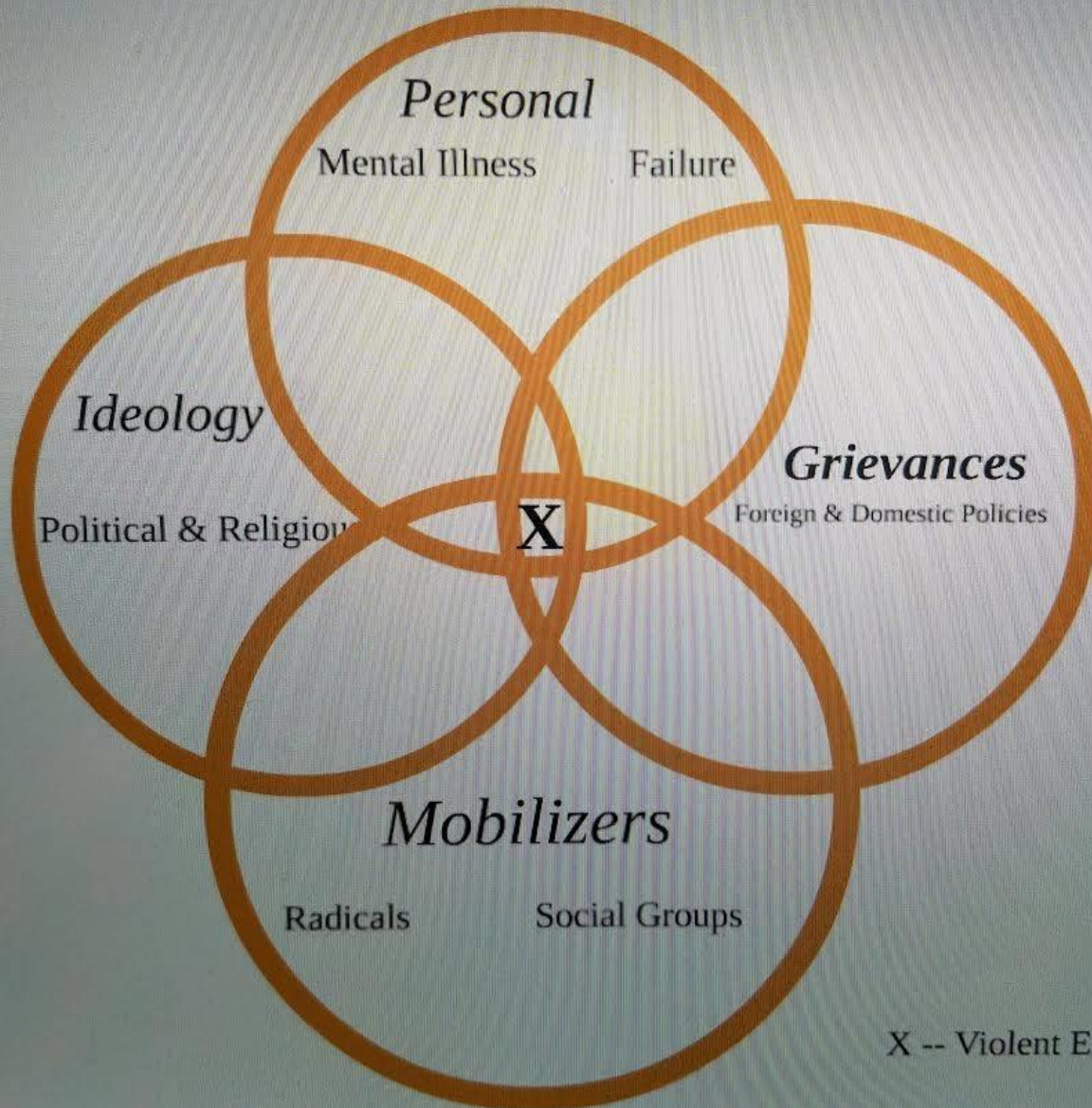


Table 1. Models of radicalization

Author	Type of model	Stages or factors
Borum 2003	Linear, progressive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social and economic deprivation 2. Inequality and resentment 3. Blame and attribution 4. Stereotyping and demonizing the enemy
Wiktorowicz 2004	Linear and emergent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cognitive opening 2. Religious seeking 3. Frame alignment 4. Socialization
Moghaddam 2005–2006 ⁹	Linear, progressive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psychological interpretation of material conditions 2. Perceived options to fight unfair treatment 3. Displacement of aggression 4. Moral engagement 5. Solidification of categorical thinking 6. The terrorist act
NYPD (Silber & Bhatt) 2007	Linear	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-radicalization 2. Self-identification 3. Indoctrination 4. Jihadization
Sageman 2008	Non-linear, emergent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sense of moral outrage 2. Frame used to interpret the world 3. Resonance with personal experience 4. Mobilization through networks

Process of Radicalization



X -- Violent Extremists

WHAT DRIVES VIOLENT RADICALISATION?

A Summary of the Academic Literature



Key points

- Radicalisation is a process.
- There is no single driver, factor, or formula.
- Each factor's relative importance differs according to context and individual.
- For more information, check out the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR): www.icsr.info.



Early Years

1975 – 1989:
Islamic School +
Public School

Formative period of
observance, absorption,
paradigm construction.

Nature &
Nurture
(personality
& cognitive
framing)



Grabbed: Secretly filmed footage from the Markazi Jamia mosque shows a teacher pulling a pupil towards him and striking him on the back

Early Years

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Army Cadets

1989-1994

Formative period of
observance, absorption,
paradigm construction.

Nature &
Nurture
(personality
& cognitive
framing)



High School 1989-1994

Formative period of
observance, absorption,
paradigm construction.

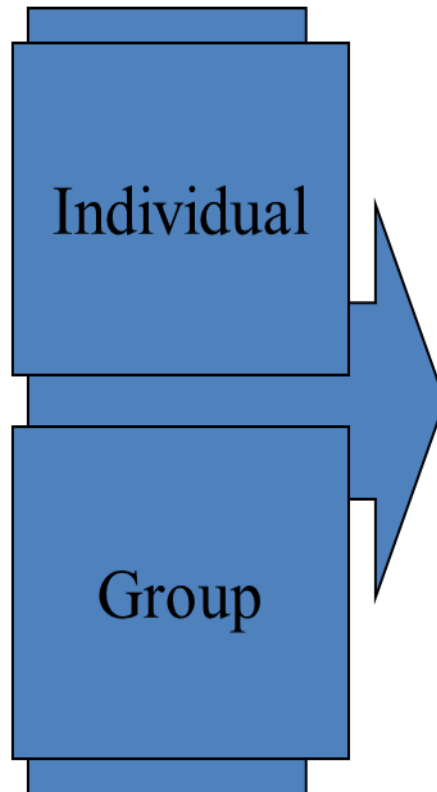
Nature &
Nurture
(personality
& cognitive
framing)



Identity Crisis!

Activism & Expression
– Social Movement

1. Geopolitics
2. Deprivation/Frustration
3. Conflicts over meaning/identity
4. Adventure
5. Money



- Tabligh Jamaat: travel to India & Pakistan

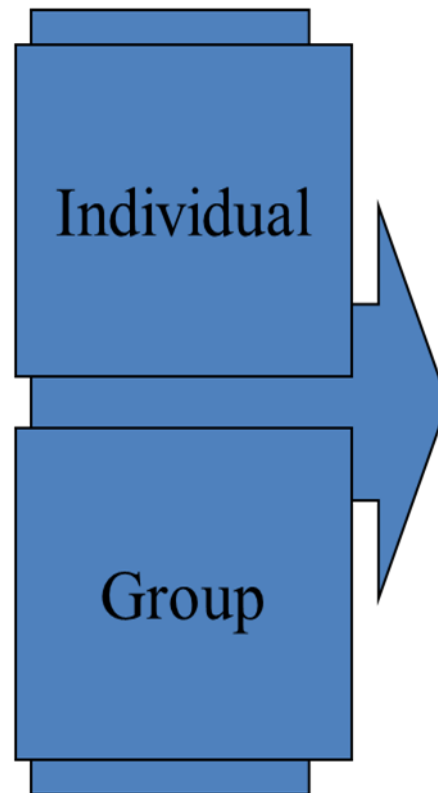


- Chance encounter with Taliban



Radicalization Intensifies & Manifests

Activism & Expression
– Social Movement



1. Geopolitics
2. Deprivation/
Frustration
3. Conflicts over
meaning/identity
4. Adventure
5. Money

- 1995: Taliban take over Afg.
- 1995-2000: Chechnya
- 2000: Second Intifadah, Israel



Reject Social Movement/ Violent Extremism

1. Justification/glorification of violence through lone/group action incl. self-made propaganda.
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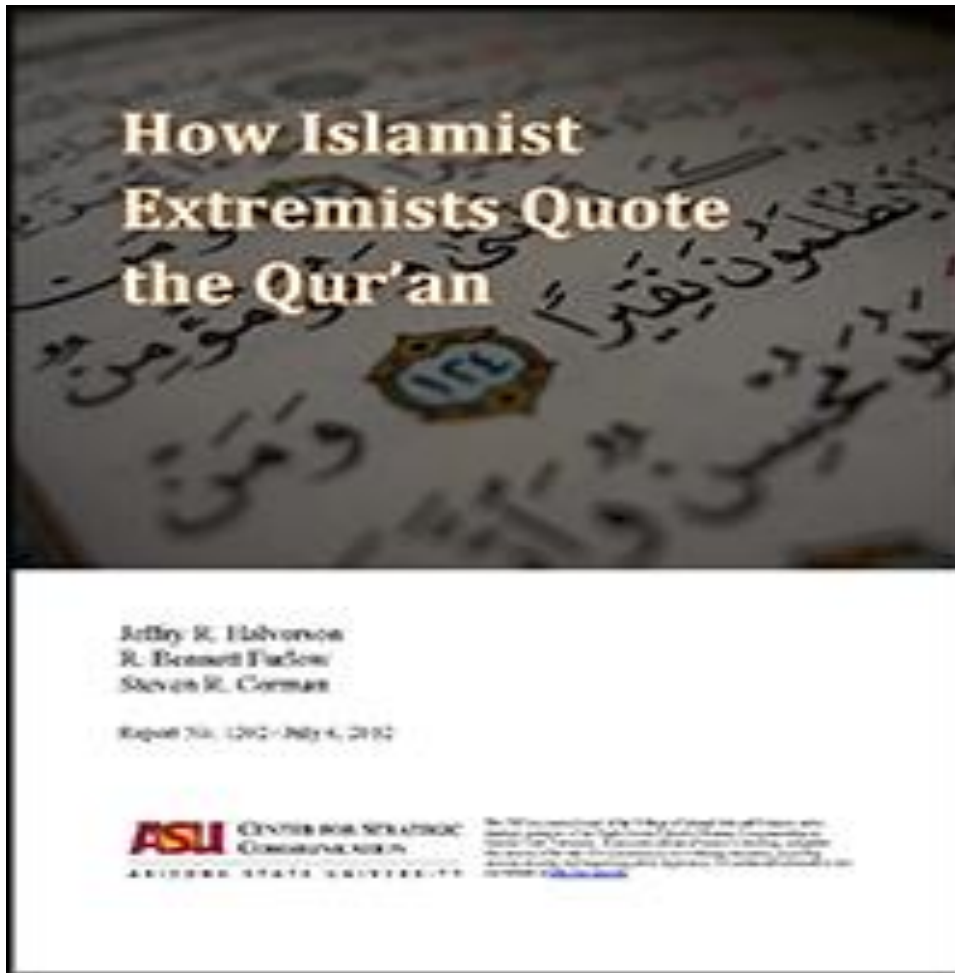
Cognitive Openings & Deradicalization

9/11 attack!



SYRIA (02-04)

- Theological “reframing”
- Disillusionment [Dogmatic idealism v. Pragmatic realism]
- Police State
- Rights for Muslims in West



- "Walk-in" for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service



- Traversed to RCMP, Integrated National Security Enforcement Team

- Undercover assignments : gather information, provide reliable assessments VS gather evidence and give fact testimony in court.



Anti-ISIS Ops (2012-2016)

Muslims & Terrorism: The Broad Groups

- #1: The **‘Islamozelot’** : fanatic who sees the *world in absolutes*: Believers and Non Believers who must be fought and forced to come under (a barbaric understanding of) “Shariah” and “Jihad”. Appeal to the Islamic Tradition and justify killing, scheming against governments, two-facedness in society, fraud etc.
- #2: The **‘Sympathizer’** : may or may not say much publicly but *if an attack occurs, they’re happy about it*. Some may dress in traditional clothing, some may not. Usually appear well integrated.
- #3: The **‘Zealous Convert’** who come from various backgrounds and both genders. Perhaps it is linked to *rebel culture and identity* but may well just be a phase. Yet still, there are others who become for all intents and purposes, “true” believers and may even become more religious than born Muslims.

Muslims & Terrorism: The Broad Groups

#4: The ‘**Born Again**’: “once was lost but now am found” type who *seeks to right the perceived wrongs of their personal past*. Like the convert, there may be family problems over the sudden change in dress: growing a beard, wearing robes and railing against activities they once did themselves.

#5: The ‘**Low Self Esteem**’ type: usually considered “not Muslim enough” largely because they *have embraced Western values but still remain somewhat unwelcome by Western society*. Usually includes the young and poorly educated, the marginalized and disenfranchised who are searching for some form of “validation” in the public space. *Prone to feel the need to go overboard to prove themselves* (like some converts do).

Muslims & Terrorism: The Broad Groups

#6: The ‘**Religious Moderates**’ : *They use the Islamic sources for good* . For example, Sufi Muslims, mystics who focus on the inner soul and spiritual exercises have been well received as playing a key role in diluting radical Islam. Many do dress in traditional manner so again; *overtly Muslim-looking does not necessarily equal radical or zealot*.

Many in this category actively engage peacefully with those of other faiths & they are **the** most important allies in the fight against radicals and their narrative including *counter / de-radicalization*.

Muslims & Terrorism: The Broad Groups

#7: The ‘**Secular Moderates**’ are those who do not really fixate on every detail of the faith but do accept Islam as the *basis for their identity*.

Like the religious moderates, they interpret the Islamic sources in a very egalitarian manner, choosing to be inclusive and loyal citizens and like their religious counterparts *find no conflict with Islam and Western values*.

#8: The ‘**Lapsed**’ or otherwise ‘**non practising Muslims**’ who may not know the basics of the faith (or may) but are content with *associating self identity w/Islam* - may have had a very *cultural experience* with Islam and only in the background of their life. Alternatively, they may have had a very strong influence of religion and just don’t care for it as they once used to. Like the convert, born-again and low self esteem type, they are *prone to rebounding into extreme religiosity*.

Relevant Risk Assessment Factors for Violent Extremism

Attitudes/Mental processes:

- Identity confusion/problems
- Strong feelings of injustice & grievances
- Group, country cause of injustice
- Dehumanization of identified responsible cause
- Internalized martyrdom/die for the cause
- Need for political, ideological, religious cause
- Attachment to ideology justifying violence
- Need for group bonding and belonging
- Alienation from society
- Low empathy for those outside own group
- High level anger and frustration
- Rejection of society and values
- Low self-esteem
- High need for approval and acceptance
- Desire for revenge

Contextual/Social Factors:

- Participant/user of extremist website
- Peer/community support for violent action
- Contact with violent extremists
- Anger at political/foreign policy actions of country

Historical Factors:

- Early exposure to violence in home
- Family support for violent action
- Prior criminal violence
- Military/paramilitary training at home
- Travel abroad for non-state sponsored training/fighting
- Glorification of violent action

Protective Factors:

- Shift in ideology
- Rejection of violence to obtain goals
- Change of vision of enemy
- Constructive political involvement
- Significant other/peer support

IVP – Identifying Vulnerable Persons Guide

Level 1: Concern & Consultation	Level 2: Active Intervention/Monitoring	Level 3: Reporting & Referral to law Enforcement
Neg. peer influences: gang involvement – criminality – hate linked violence	Pol. Activism, charity work re conflict zones + propaganda distribution	Death rhetoric: glorification of terrorist/insurgent attacks/martyrdom
Period of perceived ‘Western’ hedonistic/corrupt behaviour	Hate rhetoric against West: “kuffar” – narrow interpretations of Islamic sources	Extremist group membership &/or participation
Conflict w/family over religious beliefs/lifestyle choices/marriage	Travel abroad to areas of known Islamist activity/conflict - madressa	Paramilitary training w/weapons & intel gathering
Rel. practices: lack of knowledge combined w/increased observance (dress, interaction etc.)	Seclusion/isolation apart from small group of like-minded – removal of friendships outside this group	Overseas combat participation through disclosure or gathered intel.
Isolation from exposure to cross-cultural influences	Basic paramilitary training	Contact w/known extremists/recruiters
Violent rhetoric		

Individuals



Mechanisms

Cultural and/or religious isolation

Isolation from family

Risk taking behaviours

Sudden change in religious practice

Violent rhetoric

Negative peer influences

Isolated peer group

Hate rhetoric

Political activism

Basic paramilitary training

Travel/residence abroad

Death rhetoric

Being a member of an extremist group

Contact with known recruiters/extremists

Advanced paramilitary training

Overseas combat





- Negative Peer Influence
- Hate Rhetoric
- Basic Military Training
- Extremist Group Membership
- Contact known Extremist

Identifying Vulnerable Persons to Violent Extremism Structured Guidance Risk Indicators Report

Law Enforcement Version Occurrence # _____ - _____


RISK INDICATORS: To be completed by Investigating Officer with witness to observed behaviour. Reports SHALL be submitted to supervisor. If the response to any question is yes, please explain briefly. (Use supplementary report if additional space is required)

Name of Person answering questions: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

- 1) Has the individual exhibited Cultural and/or Religious Isolation? (low tolerance of / isolation from outside groups)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 2) Has the individual exhibited Isolation from Family? (isolation from protective family influence)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 3) Has the individual exhibited Prior Risk Taking Behaviour? (may repent motivated by guilt to be extra observant)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 4) Has the individual exhibited a Sudden Change in Religious Practice? (sudden adherence or apparent loss of faith)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 5) Has the individual exhibited Violent Rhetoric? (extensive engagement with violent rhetoric and media)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 6) Has the individual exhibited Negative Peer Influences? (gang like behaviour tied to criminality or hate linked violence)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 7) Has the individual exhibited Signs of Isolated Peer Group? (gathering with like minded individuals)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 8) Has the individual exhibited Hate Rhetoric? (creates disgust, fear and anger, and dehumanizes target group)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 9) Has the individual exhibited Political Activism? (active participation, activism towards extremist message)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 10) Has the individual exhibited Basic Paramilitary Training? (paintball, martial arts, team building exercises)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 11) Has the individual exhibited Travel and/or a Residence Abroad? (conflict zones, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 12) Has the individual exhibited Death Rhetoric? (justifying violent behaviour and glorification of martyrdom)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 13) Has the individual exhibited Membership in an Extremist Group? (joining extremist groups and networks)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 14) Has the individual exhibited Contact with Known Recruiters and/or Extremists? (increased contact = increased risk)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 15) Has the individual exhibited Advanced Paramilitary Training? (weapons training, bomb / IED making skills)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 16) Has this individual exhibited Overseas Combat? (fighting in Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown Explain: _____
- 17) Additional Notes: (Use this section for any other pertinent information or expand on behaviours observed above)

Reporting Officer: _____ Badge # _____ Checked by: _____ Date: _____

This guidance has been designed to function with PREVENT strategies to reduce the risk posed by terrorists. It is designed to identify people who are at risk of being targeted by violent extremists. Individuals must complete appropriate training before using the guidance to support their decision making.
Development: Dr Jon Cole, Emily Allison, Dr Ben Cole, Professor Laurence Allison, and Jeff Weyers

 UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Version 2012-LF2.0

Thank You!

Linked in



Undercover Jihadi

Inside the Toronto 18
Al Qaeda Inspired, Homegrown
Terrorism in the West

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