

**Compiled by The Office of the CVE Coordinator
February 20, 2015**



DHS Office of the CVE Coordinator

MEDIA REPORT

White House Countering Violent Extremism Summit

Coverage: Events on February 17-18, 2015

**Compiled by The Office of the CVE Coordinator
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The White House
February 19, 2015

TEXT: [Remarks by the President at the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism | Feb 19.](#)

VIDEO: [President Obama Speaks at the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism.](#)

TWITTER: @WhiteHouse: "When people are oppressed and human rights are denied...when dissent is silenced, it feeds violent extremism" —President Obama #CVESummit



The White House
February 18, 2015

TEXT: [Remarks by the President in Closing of the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism | Feb 18.](#)

VIDEO: [President Obama Speaks at the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism.](#)

BLOG: [President Obama on the Causes and Antidotes to Violent Extremism.](#)

BLOG: [RE: LA Times Op-Ed: President Obama: "Our Fight Against Violent Extremism".](#)

FACT SHEET: [The White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism.](#)

Los Angeles Times

[President Obama: Our fight against violent extremism](#)

February 17, 2015, 11:03 p.m.

"In the face of this challenge, we must stand united internationally and here at home. We know that military force alone cannot solve this problem. Nor can we simply take out terrorists who kill innocent civilians. We also have to confront the violent extremists — the propagandists, recruiters and enablers — who may not directly engage in terrorist acts themselves, but who radicalize, recruit and incite others to do so."



February 18, 2015

VIDEO: [Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, Secretary Jeh Johnson Remarks](#)

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The New York Times

[U.S. Muslims Take On ISIS' Recruiting Machine](#)

February 19, 2015

"Imam Magid, speaking upstairs at his Muslim center while a team of Muslim girls pounded out a basketball game below, said that real prevention meant programs that give young people as much purpose and inspiration as extremists promise. Once young Muslims buy into the ideology, he said, it is very hard to pry them loose. "You have to reach them before it happens," he said."



[Obama proclaims: 'We are not at war with Islam'](#)

February 19, 2015

"“We are not at war with Islam. We are at war with people who have perverted Islam,” Obama said during his remarks, adding later that Muslim leaders "need to do more to discredit the notion that our nations are determined to suppress Islam."



[LA's Counter-Extremism Efforts Highlighted at CVE Summit](#)

February 19, 2015

"In Los Angeles, groups like the Muslim Public Affairs Counsel have already implemented programs namely, the Safe Spaces Initiative - aimed at reaching at-risk young people. The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have also been working with LAPD to deter radicalization since the Fall of 2014."



[Twin Cities Delegation Attends Washington Summit to Discuss Terror Recruiting](#)

February 19, 2015

"Richard Thornton, head of the Minnesota FBI, spoke at the summit and put it plainly: Minnesota has a problem. Young Somali men and women are leaving the state to join two specific terrorist groups: al-Shabaab or the Islamic State. He said he's not trying to scare anyone but that this is a fact."

The New York Times

[Obama: Countering Violent Extremism Depends on Muslim Support](#)

February 18, 2015

““Muslim leaders need to do more to discredit the notion that our nations are determined to suppress Islam,” Obama said, referring to the narrative from Islamic militants that Western nations are in a war against Islam.”

The New York Times

[Obama: US at War With Those Who Have Perverted Islam](#)

February 18, 2015

“While putting the blame on IS and similar groups — Obama said the militants masquerade as religious leaders but are really terrorists — the president also appealed directly to prominent Muslims to do more to distance themselves from brutal ideologies. He said all have a duty to “speak up very clearly” in opposition to violence against innocent people.”

The New York Times

[Faulted for Avoiding ‘Islamic’ Labels to Describe Terrorism, White House Cites a Strategic Logic](#)

February 18, 2015

“But Mr. Obama said that “we must never accept the premise that they put forward, because it is a lie.” The operatives of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, “are not religious leaders — they’re terrorists,” he said.”



RONAN FARROW DAILY

February 18, 2015

VIDEO: [Battling Hometown Terror](#)

“As the White House takes on terror with a new counter-extremism summit, two attendees join us - including one Somali-American City Council Member from Minneapolis who’s seen homegrown radicalization firsthand.”

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[Obama: We're Fighting Violent Extremism, Not a Religion](#)

February 18, 2015

“Groups like al Qaeda and ISIL promote a twisted interpretation of religion that is rejected by the overwhelming majority of the world’s Muslims. The world must continue to lift up the voices of Muslim clerics and scholars who teach the true peaceful nature of Islam,” he wrote. “We can echo the testimonies of former extremists who know how terrorists betray Islam. We can help Muslim entrepreneurs and youths work with the private sector to develop social media tools to counter extremist narratives on the Internet.””



[Minnesota Officials, Imams Talk up Community Outreach at White House](#)

February 18, 2015

“Minnesota law enforcement, politicians and Muslim leaders gathered Wednesday at the White House to tout a nascent, community-backed program as a model for attempts to prevent youths from being swept away to fight with jihadist groups abroad. Sharing a stage with authorities from Paris, Boston and Los Angeles at the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, the Minnesota leaders stressed the early successes of the new pilot project.”



[Minnesota's Anti-terror Efforts Draw White House Interest](#)

February 18, 2015

“What my community, the Somali-American community, needs today is no less than a Marshall Plan tailor-made to the community’s employment challenges,” Minneapolis City Council Member Abdi Warsame said as he described the poverty and lack of upward mobility that help drive radicalization.”



[Obama: We are not at war with Islam](#)

February 18, 2015

“Obama also painted the campaign against radicalization and extremism as “ultimately a battle for hearts and minds” in an opinion piece published Wednesday in the Los Angeles Times. He added that the focus of the summit would be on ways to empower local communities.”

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VIDEO: [Obama Counters 'Violent Extremism' in Speech](#)

February 18, 2015

“Speaking at his summit on countering violent extremism Wednesday, Obama sought to strike a balance between appealing for more acceptance of Muslim-Americans while emphasizing the need to remain vigilant against radicals who could turn violent.”



VIDEO: [White House has Summit to Stop Violent Extremism](#)

February 18, 2015

“CNN's Wolf Blitzer talks with Nabil Elaraby, Arab League Secretary-General about the White House summit to stop violent extremism.”



[Obama: Countering Violent Extremism Depends on Muslim Support](#)

February 18, 2015

“President Barack Obama on Wednesday called on American Muslim communities to do more to counter what he called “violent extremism,” speaking at a three-day White House summit on the issue.”



[Boston Civic Leaders In Washington To Discuss Violent Extremism](#)

February 18, 2015

“It’s a summit drawing people from around the country, including Boston, to look at ways to counter violent extremism: to ask, what compels young people to join violent causes? And how can we prevent them from attacking the U.S. or going overseas to fight?”

**Compiled by The Office of the CVE Coordinator
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The Washington Post

Obama: US at War With Those Who Have Perverted Islam

February 18, 2015

“Yet the argument over terminology has increasingly become a distraction, including this week as Obama gathered law enforcement officials, Muslim leaders and lawmakers for a three-day summit on violent extremism. In his remarks Wednesday, Obama acknowledged it was a touchy subject but insisted it was critical to tackle the issue “head-on.””

The Washington Post

Obama Announces Initiatives to Curb Recruitment of Terrorist Groups

February 18, 2015

“Even as the country wages this fight, Obama concluded that Americans should not lose sight of the fact that Muslims are an integral part of U.S. society. He recalled how he recently received a Valentine’s Day card from an 11-year-old named Sabrina who wrote to him, “I am worried about people hating Muslims. If some Muslims do bad things, that doesn’t mean all of them do.””



Obama: Don’t Grant Terrorists Legitimacy by Labeling Them Islamic

February 18, 2015

““Of course the terrorists do not speak for a billion Muslims who reject their hateful ideology,” he said. “They no more represent Islam than any madman who kills innocents in the name of God represents Christianity or Judaism or Buddhism or Hinduism. No religion is responsible for terrorism. People are responsible for violence and terrorism.””

Los Angeles Times

Obama Calls for Global Effort Against Spread of Extremist Ideas

February 18, 2015

“In his remarks, Obama also talked up programs in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Boston as models for reaching what officials describe as “vulnerable communities” in the U.S. “These are partnerships that bring people together in the spirit of mutual respect,” he said.”

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[Barack Obama says US 'at War With Those Perverting Islam'](#)

February 18, 2015

“Prevention is the focus of the conference. It's mobilised people from the trenches in the battle for hearts and minds to share best practices: everyone from teachers to entrepreneurs to Silicon Valley executives have been talking about community outreach to marginalised youth and counter-messaging Islamists on social media.”



[Obama: We Must Confront 'Twisted Ideologies' That Spawn Violence](#)

February 18, 2015

“Obama said that parents, teachers and faith leaders play a key role in preventing terrorist groups from penetrating into local communities. They are usually the first to notice signs that someone is beginning to adopt radical religious beliefs.”



[By The Numbers: White House Takes On Violent Extremism](#)

February 18, 2015

“Wednesday's schedule features a presidential keynote speech and sessions focused largely on domestic issues, highlighting programs in three American cities designed to combat recruiting by radical groups.”



[U.S. Communities Called On To Prevent Homegrown Terrorism](#)

February 18, 2015

“Participants in the summit will hear about pilot programs in Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis, where local officials have tried to combat radicalization. Those efforts have included law enforcement, but also the business community, teachers, families, churches and mosques.”

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VIDEO: [White House Convenes Summit on Violent Extremism](#)

February 18, 2015

“...today the White House brought together community leaders law enforcement officials religious leaders and politicians, to share the ways they've approached the threat of violent extremism so other communities can learn.”



[The Note: Countering Extremism](#)

February 18, 2015

“Officials say the focus is on bolstering domestic efforts to address extremists’ propaganda machine and engage young, minority (predominantly Muslim) immigrant communities with alternative opportunities and a sense of inclusion. The administration is highlighting three cities: Los Angeles, Boston and Minneapolis.”



[Obama: No Religion Responsible for Terrorism](#)

February 18, 2015

““No religion is responsible for terrorism — people are responsible for violence and terrorism,” Obama told delegates at the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism.”



[Obama: Extremism Fight is 'Battle for Hearts and Minds'](#)

February 18, 2015

““Our campaign to prevent people around the world from being radicalized to violence is ultimately a battle for hearts and minds,” Obama writes.””

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[Obama to Call for Joint Efforts Against Violent Extremism at Summit](#)

February 18, 2015

"With that threat in mind, Obama is hoping to concentrate the world's focus on the need to combat the underlying ideologies that entice otherwise modern individuals — including many disaffected youth — to behead a non-believer, kidnap a schoolgirl or shoot up a synagogue. During the three-day conference, Obama is working to highlight local models for preventing radicalization that could be replicated in other communities."



[A Beaming White House Summit on 'Extremism'](#)

February 17, 2015

"Most of the summit's work is focused on positive alternatives for potential IS recruits while also exposing the emptiness of the group's vision and the likelihood of it collapsing from within."



[Biden Kicks off White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism](#)

February 17, 2015

"We have to ... engage our communities and engage those who might be susceptible to being radicalized because they are marginalized," Biden said."

The New York Times

[Biden: Including Immigrants Key to Stopping Extremism in US](#)

February 17, 2015

"Biden, in his remarks, held up Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis as examples of communities moving ahead with programs to counter extremism locally. He said the goal was to bring together broad coalitions of community leaders so that all Americans — and particularly Muslims — would feel like 'we see them.'"



[Biden Opens White House Summit on Violent Extremism](#)

February 17, 2015

"Biden took part in a round-table discussion with local leaders from Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis. The three cities have programs to counter extremism that the White House wants to promote as examples."

The Washington Post

[Muslim NGOs Could Help Counter Violent Extremism](#)

February 17, 2015

"The White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism is an excellent moment for stakeholders to rise to the challenge and develop a sustainable, long-term solution to violent extremism by engaging and empowering Muslim NGOs as strategic partners in a shared fight."

The Washington Post

[Biden: Including Immigrants Key to Stopping Extremism in US](#)

February 17, 2015

"Joining local elected officials, community leaders and religious figures, Biden portrayed the U.S. as far better positioned than Europe, thanks to what he called America's successful record at cultural integration. He said societies must offer immigrants an "affirmative alternative" to extremism, cautioning that military force alone could not address the threat."



[Joe Biden: Societies Must Offer "Affirmative Alternative" to Extremism](#)

February 17, 2015

"He praised the efforts of cities like Boston, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis-St Paul that have been working to develop prevention programs. He reserved particular praise for Boston, saying the city "did not turn its venom, its anger, its frustration against any community" in the wake of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings that killed three and injured hundreds."

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[Hennepin County Sheriff at White House Highlighting Anti-Extremism Efforts](#)

February 17, 2015

““Violent extremism is a local threat, so local law enforcement agencies should be on the front lines helping educate and strengthen our communities to prevent or disrupt these threats. The key is to overcome barriers by building trusting and lasting relationships; this creates resiliency,” Stanek said.”



[Minnesota tries softer approach in battling Islamic State](#)

February 17, 2015

“Sheriff Rich Stanek of Hennepin County said he’s already built something akin to the “community intervention team” Luger envisions. The department has a community advisory board of religious and business leaders, both from within the Somali community and outside it, who people can call about their concerns without immediately involving law enforcement. “They get calls, day and night, every day,” Stanek said. “That’s building those long-term communities of trust.””



50 PHOTOS: [Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson Delivers Opening Remarks At The White House Summit On Countering Violent Extremism](#)

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VIDEO: [Los Angeles ICG Prevention, Intervention, Interdiction Framework Presentation](#)



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