

INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT



(U//FOUO) Empowering Somali (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) Key for Countering Youth Radicalization and Their Travel Abroad for Terrorism

16 June 2015

(b)(3) per 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i) and 6 U.S.C. § 121(d)(11)

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

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(U//FOUO) Empowering Somali (0)(8):(0)(7)(E) Key for Countering Youth Radicalization and Their Travel Abroad for Terrorism

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A).
(b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
(U) Scope
(U//FOUO) This Assessment intends to help federal, state, local,
and private partners prioritize efforts countering violent
extremism (CVE) and invest in the most promising CVE
strategies. Although there are dozens of CVE programs around
the world, including ones that actively involve and of violent
extremists, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
For this study, we highlight how
Somali-American Example figures can be key CVE advocates in their communities, based on their DT(3) , (DT(4) (E)
and (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
s.* This analysis is intended for
partners whose positions afford them interaction with
Somali-American (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
(U//FOUO) This Assessment takes a broad look at ethnic Somali
(Onroco) This Assessment takes a broad look at ethnic somal
(b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
, Europe is home to a significan
number of ethnic Somali youth who traveled—or attempted
travel—to join violent extremists in Syria, and aspects of
radicalization involving ethnic Somalis to violence appears to be fairly similar on both continents, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
g. ²⁻¹³ (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
a. (b) (b), (b) (h) (h)
(U//FOUO) (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) suggests that the United States should take a closer look at CVE programs in Europe,
where there is a longer history of battling violent extremism. ¹⁴
This Assessment identifies possible pitfalls, opportunities, and bes
practices already present throughout the West that could
minimize challenges and maximize opportunities to support
Somali-American atomotor as primary advocates of efforts to
prevent radicalization to violence and travel to join foreign
terrorist organizations (FTOs). The information cut-off date for this Assessment is 19 May 2015

(U) Key Judgments

(U//FOUO) The significant number of Somali-Americans joining terrorist groups in Syria demonstrates that these individuals remain vulnerable to entreaties from violent extremists and underscores the importance (D) (3). (D) (7)(E)

in CVE efforts.

(U//FOUO) (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

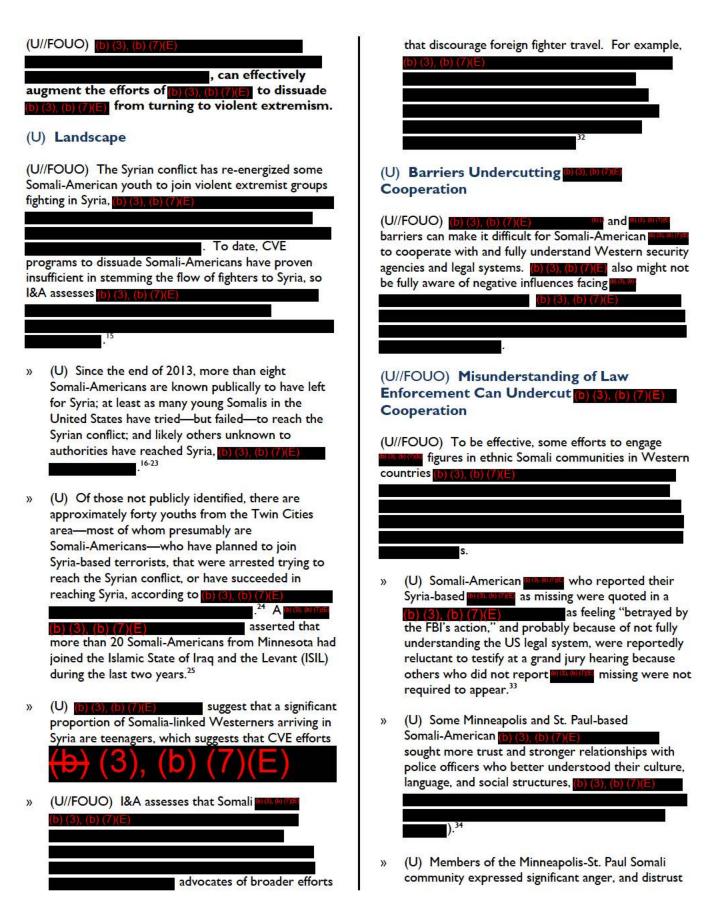
can make it difficult for Somali-American **DEMOTION** to cooperate with and fully understand Western security agencies and legal systems. These **DEMOTION** also might not be fully aware of negative influences facing **DEMOTION**. These challenges can make it difficult for well-meaning **DEMOTION** to recognize **DEMOTION** radicalizing and mobilizing to violence and to handle such activities appropriately.

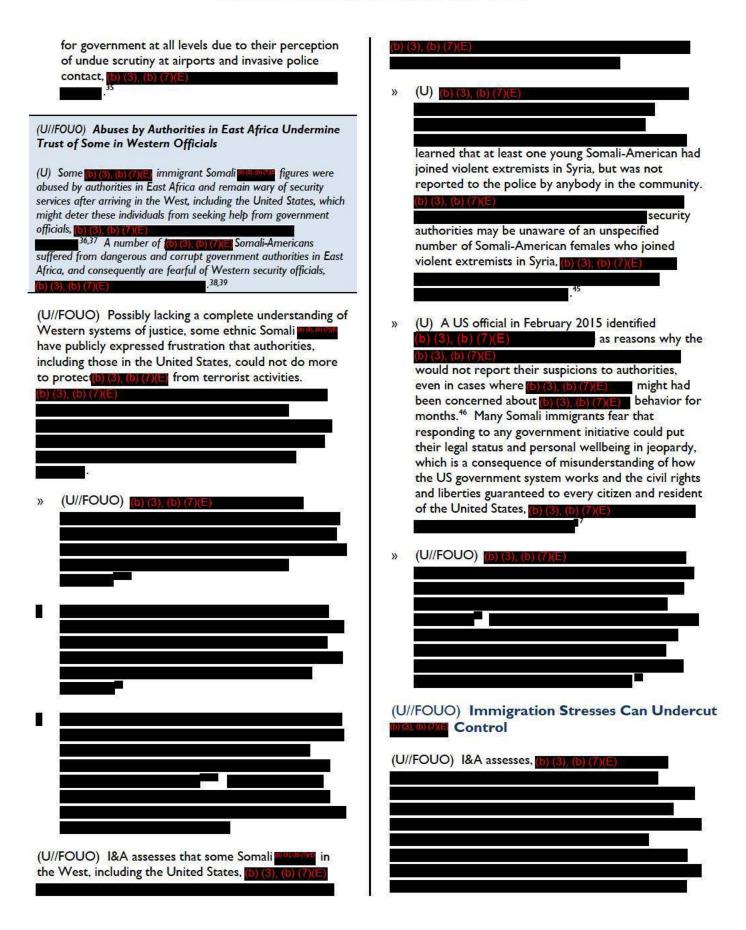
(U//FOUO) In the face of these challenges, Somali-American electric have demonstrated the capability and willingness to help (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) become more resistant to the appeal of violent extremists in foreign conflict zones, and (b)(3), (b)(7)(E)

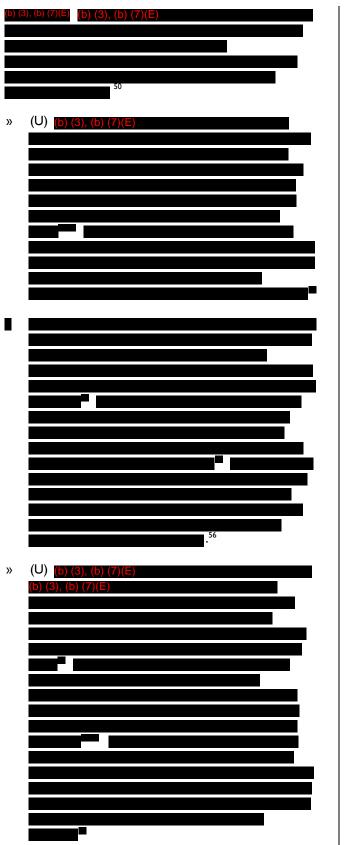


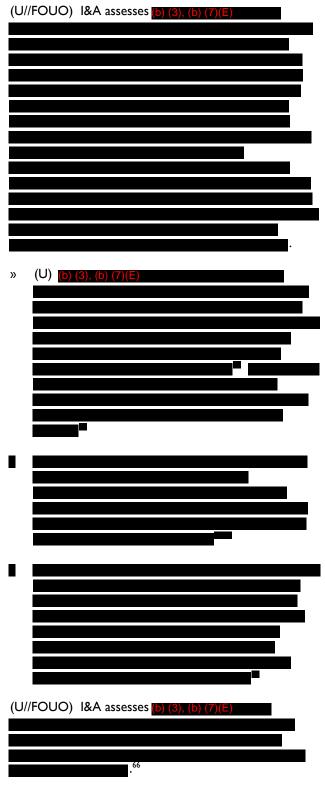
(U//FOUO) Many Somali immigrant (U)/(FOUO) already are positioned to prevent (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) from radicalizing to violence, and the vulnerability of some young Somalis—like other American youth—to recruitment by violent or other (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) members to establish communicative relationships and to exert a positive influence over them. There are valuable lessons we have learned from their responses to the presence or absence of government and private engagement efforts.

⁽U) For this study, we define "western Somali" as someone with citizenship or long-term residence in Western Europe or North America who has ethnic background in Somalia.









» (U) Of the six young Somali-American males arrested in April 2015 for their alleged attempts to join violent extremists in Syria, two were brothers and another in the group had a brother who is assessed to have previously joined al-Shabaab in Somalia.⁶⁷ Separately, a Columbus-based Somali male arrested on terrorism-related charges in February 2015 is the half-brother of an US person who allegedly joined al-Nusrah in Syria during August 2013.⁶⁸

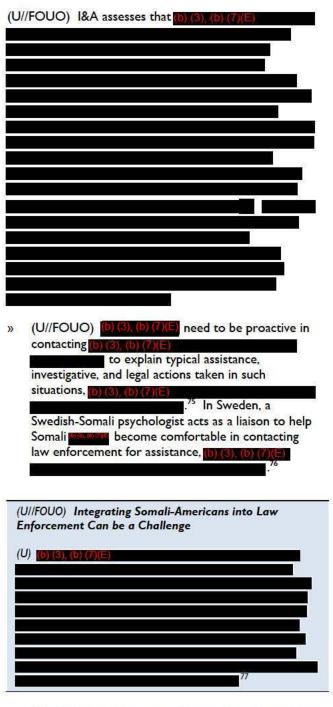
- » (U) Two British-Somali sisters from Manchester traveled to Syria in June 2014 where their brother reportedly joined foreign-based violent extremists over a year before their trip, (D) (3), (D) (7)(E)
- » (U) A Finnish-Somali fighter who appeared in an August ISIL-produced video possibly was encouraged to join ISIL by his cousin—another Somali from Finland—who died in June 2014 fighting in Syria,
 (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

(U) Empowering (013).(0)(7)(E) Cooperation

(U) A range of opportunities exists for government and private entities to inform Somali **Descente** about the potential violent extremist influences (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) and to make public and private programs more approachable to Somali (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

(U//FOUO) Socio-Economic Factors Put Somalis at Risk

(U) Incorporating on the Assistance Programs



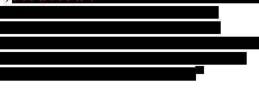
 (U) To help address perceived profiling at airports, US Customs and Border Protection agreed as of mid-February to hold a series of job fairs that encourage Somali-Americans to apply for approximately 2,000 open jobs across the agency.⁷⁸ In mid-February, the first-ever Somali-American member sworn into the Metropolitan Airports Commission in Minnesota said that he "expects to contribute an East African perspective to the commission,"

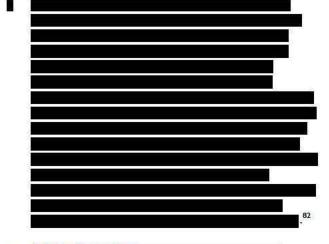
» (U) The Portland Police Bureau in late May 2015 sworn in its first Somali-American officer. The agency put forth significant effort to build relationships with local Somalis, (b) (3) (6) (7)(E)

. Likewise, one goal

of local Somalis after a Somali was arrested for (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

» (U) (b) (3) (b





>>

(U) (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

planned to educate (6) (3), individuals vulnerable to being drawn to overseas conflicts on the role of law enforcement in detecting and discouraging foreign fighter travel, (6) (3), (b) (7)(E)

(U//FOUO) Minnesota Leading the Way in Sensitizing Somalis to the US Criminal Justice System

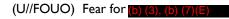
(U//FOUO) To increase trust and collaboration with the largest US-based Somali community, officials in the Twin Cities have implemented some outreach efforts that we consider to be some of the best practices to build stronger partnerships with local Somali-Americans. These engagement efforts are improving perceptions of law enforcement in Minnesota (b) (3) (b) (7)(E)

- (U) The introduction of local Somalis in community liaison and police officer roles improved the frequency and quality of encounters between local law enforcement and members of the Somali-American community in Minneapolis, [D)(3), (D)(7)(E) .⁸⁴ Similarly, [D)(3), (D)(7)(E) relations between the Somali-American community and local law enforcement in Minneapolis had improved dramatically in recent years, largely because of the focused effort to hire Somali-Americans as sworn law enforcement
- » (U) The Somali-American Police Association (SAPA) national organization with origins in Minnesota where there are approximately two dozen police officers of Somali descent—has been considered a model resource for police departments seeking to forge deeper ties with local Somalis since its founding in 2012. SAPA has been credited with diverting a number of Somali-American teens from potentially radicalizing activities, and the source of the

officers and community liaisons.85

- » (U) The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office—unlike many of its counterparts with jurisdiction in Somali communities throughout the United States—has partnered with a community advisory board to field calls from individuals without immediately involving law enforcement.⁸⁸ The Sheriff's Office also released a Somali language video in mid-February 2015 aimed at strengthening its relationship with the community by describing its public safety responsibilities, law enforcement roles, security issues affecting local Somalis, and ways residents can partner with its Community Engagement Team to reduce crime.⁸⁹
- » (U) In comparison to efforts in Belgium, cities like Minneapolis and St. Paul employ more sophisticated CVE policies, which include recruiting Somalis for law enforcement roles and teaching the police about Somali culture and language, and the police about Somali

⁹⁰ After visiting Minnesota, the head of crime prevention at the Helsinki Police Department (HPD) concluded that HPD needed to adopt best practices from the MPD by recruiting Somali officers establishing associations for Somali youth, and organizing meetings with the community (b) (3), (b) (7)((c))



to authorities in an effort to reverse the trajectory of radicalization and avoid severe criminal punishment for their activities. (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

moderate punishments already have stirred some controversy.

n; however,

- (U) In a relatively unprecedented decision, a federal » judge in February 2015 sentenced an 18-year-old Somali-American who was convicted of seeking to join terrorists in Syria-a charge with potential penalties of more than a decade of imprisonmentto a halfway house and entry into a mandatory community reintegration program.⁹² Approximately three months later, a judge announced that he would consider moving five young Somali-Americans accused of attempting travel to Syria from prison to a halfway house while they awaited trial.⁹³ Lenient treatment of potential foreign fighters, however, has drawn criticism, including from Somali-Americans, and the 18-year-old violated the terms of his release to the half-way house, sending him back to prison,
- » (U) more intelligence officials work with other government and private entities to tailor administrative actions outside the penal system—including referrals to social service agencies, curfews, and travel document confiscations—to (b) (3). (b) (7) (E) discourage aspiring foreign fighters before their activities escalate to serious crimes, (b) (3), (b) (7) (E)
- » (U) monomer authorities emphasize non-criminal measures, such as confiscating or not issuing passports to minors (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) , to help steer monomer away from breaking serious counterterrorism laws, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

According to the same source, **DEPENDENT** cities deploy Muslim community leaders and social service administrators to help **DEPENDENT** stop violent extremist-related activities before they become serious crimes.⁹⁸ » (U) DIGROUTING officials as of March 2015 sought to engage (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) who may be targeted by violent extremists in the "pre-criminal space" to help these youths before they cross the line into significant terrorism-related activities.⁹⁹

(U) Independent, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can provide non-punitive support to Somali immigrant promoted to help (0)(3), (b)(7)(5) pivot away from foreign conflict zones. NGOs in Europe—including in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, and Sweden—have established successful support groups for **DENOTED** (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) drawn to violent extremist activities abroad, according (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

(U//FOUO) The proporting (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) inspired by a promotom call-center, funded a support hotline in April 2014, which includes Somali language counseling services, to provide promotom an alternative to informing the promotom (b)(3), (b)(7)(E), which most premotom are reluctant to do, (b)(3), (b)(7)(E).
 There are hotlines in provide to field calls from promotom seeking advice, counseling, referrals, and other services to address potentially radicalizing promotom (b)(3), (b)(7)(E).

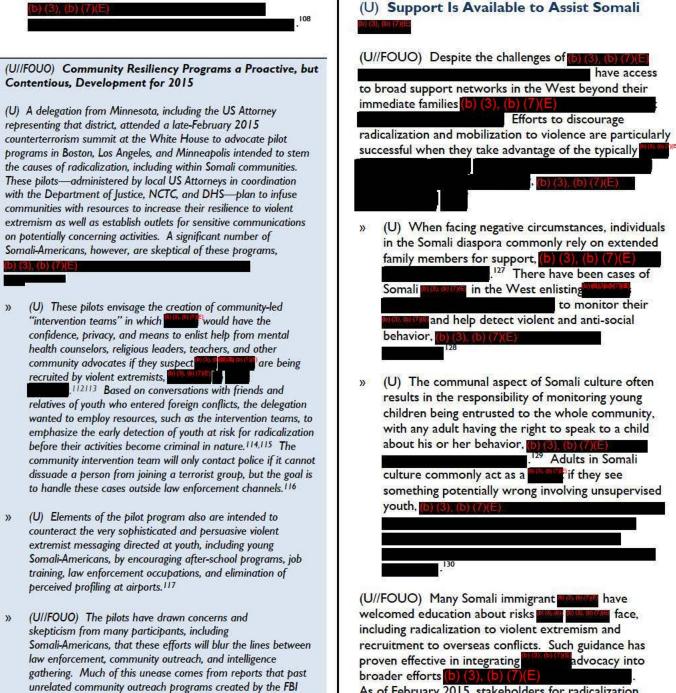
» (U//FOUO) A promotor based private support network offers counseling services, educational materials, and intervention assistance to promotor interested in dissuading young adults from joining FTOs, (b) (3). (b) (7)(E) n.¹⁰⁴ The organization works with law enforcement counterparts to avoid potentially provocative actions, such as raids and arrests, unless they

become absolutely necessary.¹⁰⁵

 » (U//FOUO) DEFINITION of foreign fighters in DEFINITION and DEFINITION OF THE OFFICIENCE SUPPORT GROUPS to help members increase their awareness of how violent extremist recruiters target adolescents and (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

centralized referral processes to help **DETENDED** also has taken steps to create centralized referral processes to help **DETENDED** report **DETENDED** who have been radicalized to violence and arrange access to social workers, psychologists, and other assistance.¹⁰⁷

 » (U) A biointonal -based group of biointonal that met weekly to discuss worrisome changes by their
 biointonal helped inspire programs in the United States that help Somali-American families deal with



As of February 2015, stakeholders for radicalization concerns in Europe—(b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

—were developing training modules to enable practitioners to help (b) (3), potential foreign fighters detect early warning signs of radicalization.^{[31,132}

program. 121, 122, 123, 124

and St. Paul police were designed, in part, to gather

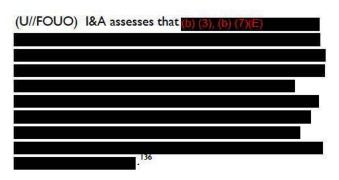
intelligence, although both agencies publically maintain they never used outreach efforts to spy on community members

nearly 50 Muslims organizations, including the local chapter of the Council on American–Islamic Relations, jointly criticized

with whom they engaged. 118, 119, 120 In early May 2015,

the pilot program for unfairly targeting local Somalis and subsequently developed a task force separate from the federal

- » (U//FOUO) Somali-American preserve in Minnesota told (b) (3), (b) (/)(E) that they appreciated education from government officials about violent extremist recruitment in their neighborhoods because that information equipped them for productive talks (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) .¹³³ Publicity on the recruitment of Somali youth in Minnesota to become foreign fighters in Somalia, for example, prompted a Somali-American recruitment based violent extremists in 2009, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
- (U) (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) energy -counseling program created >> in 2011 deploys counselors to work with members of individuals at risk of radicalization to violence to help steer them away from violent activities. This program capitalizes on strong prevenue bonds to keep communication lines open with troubled youth, coach members on gathering insight into the motives of relatives who may be radicalized to violence, and employs strategies that undermine violent extremist narratives. Counselors affiliated with the program also analyze statements by orsease who may be in the process of being radicalized to violence to help (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) craft responses intended to sustain and intensify contact over time, improving the chances that their appeals to abandon violent extremism will succeed.135



» (U//FOUO) Community Awareness Briefings by DHS and NCTC educate and empower audiences across the United States, including (b) (3), (b) (7) terrorist messaging online, its risks to impressionable youth, and methods to counter it, (b) (3), (b) (7) (E)

.^{137,138} The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization^{USPER} partners with local mosques to host Internet awareness and safety workshops directed primarily at helping **(b)** (3). identify and address violent extremism online, (U) Trained Ethnic Liaison Officers from Ireland's National Police Racial and Intercultural Office educate and assist previous regarding safe use of the Internet for (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)(b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
 ¹⁴⁰ A non-profit organization in the UK deployed its "Web Guardians" program to help

language skills, and awareness of (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) online activities—to identify and counteract virtual content that might attract (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) to conflict zones,

» (U) A statute crime prevention program deploys school, social welfare, and police officials to educate regarding the Internet's effect on young people, so that the presence can detect and appropriately address online radicalization with (D) (3), (D) (7) (E)

k.142

(U//FOUO) Outlook: (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

(U//FOUO) CVE programs deployed for the benefit of Somali-American communities must be implemented carefully to empower advocacy organizations embraced by community members, promote comprehensive CVE services, and minimize the perception of undue government influence.

 » (U) Minneapolis-St. Paul-based individuals and organizations developing innovative, community-led CVE programs often lose out in competitions for funding to organizations that are effective at securing government funding, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

(U) Many Somali-Americans, particularly those in Minneapolis-St. Paul, believe that promises of outside support are hollow and self-serving based on years of researchers, journalists, government offices, and other organizations studying radicalization and recruitment in their communities only to abandon the community when the research funding is exhausted, according .¹⁴⁴ (b)(3), (b)(7)(E)

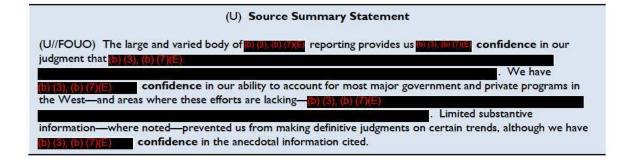
found that Somalis in Minneapolis-St. Paul were more willing to discuss the primary research interest terrorist recruitment and methods for countering it when (B)(B)(C)(7)(E) demonstrated genuine interest in the community's challenges and accomplishments. » (U) Mosques, community leaders, and organizations performing CVE-related work (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
 , because some

do not know when	re to go when they have
concerns (b) (3); (b) (7)(E)	, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

» (U) Some have discovered that government sponsorship can undermine the legitimacy of a program intended to counter violent extremist messaging.¹⁴⁶ The Somali community in Minneapolis widely believe some local CVE programs are pawns of federal counterterrorism efforts, (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)

found that some organizations unaffiliated with government-driven initiatives can more effectively message Minneapolis-St. Paul Somali youth because they do not raise as much community suspicion regarding motives.

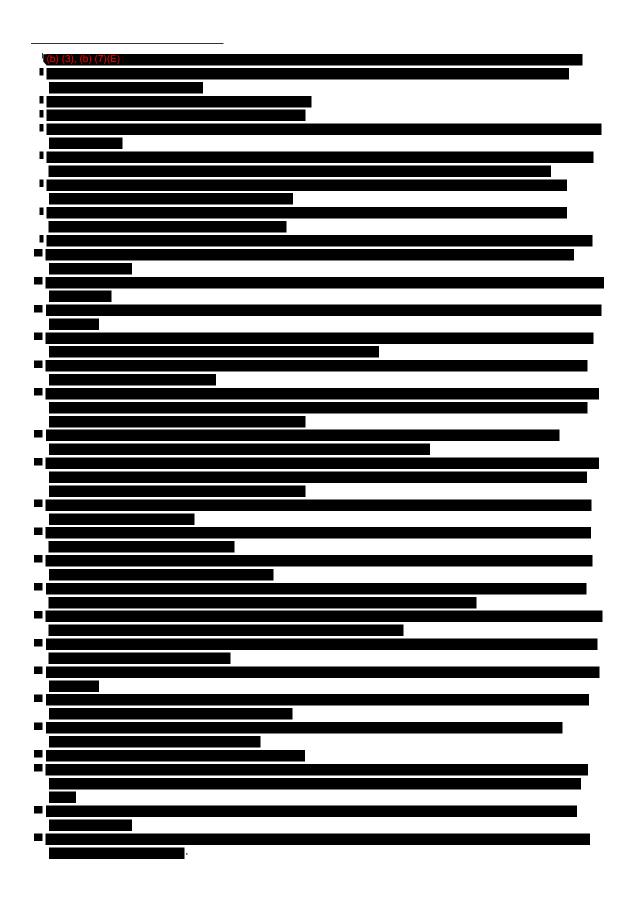
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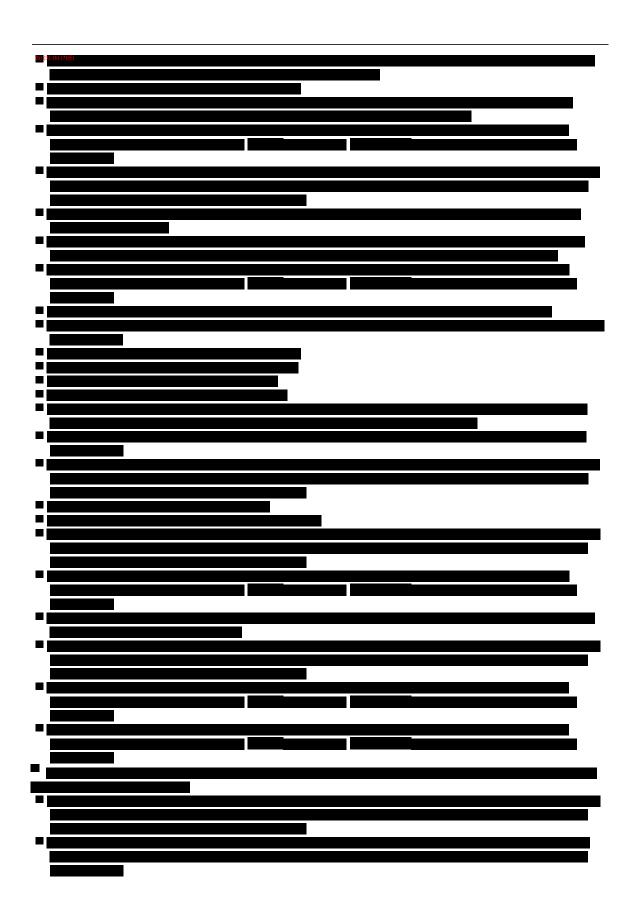


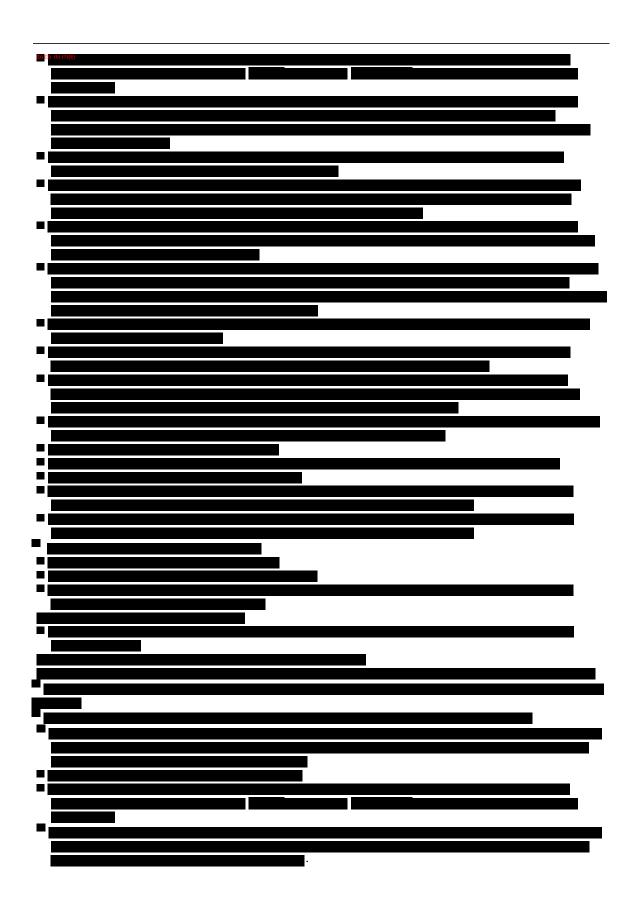
(U) Report Suspicious Activity

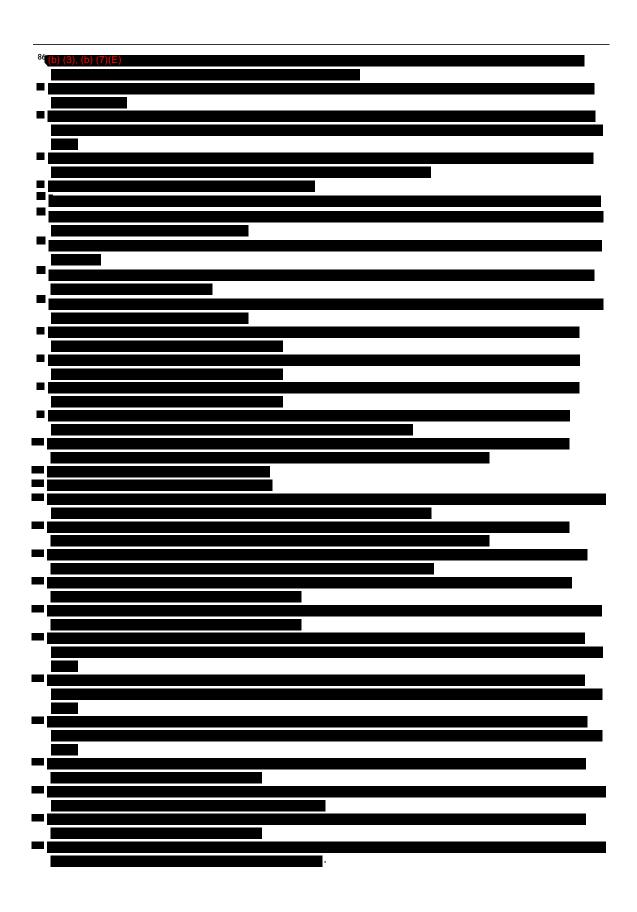
(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx.

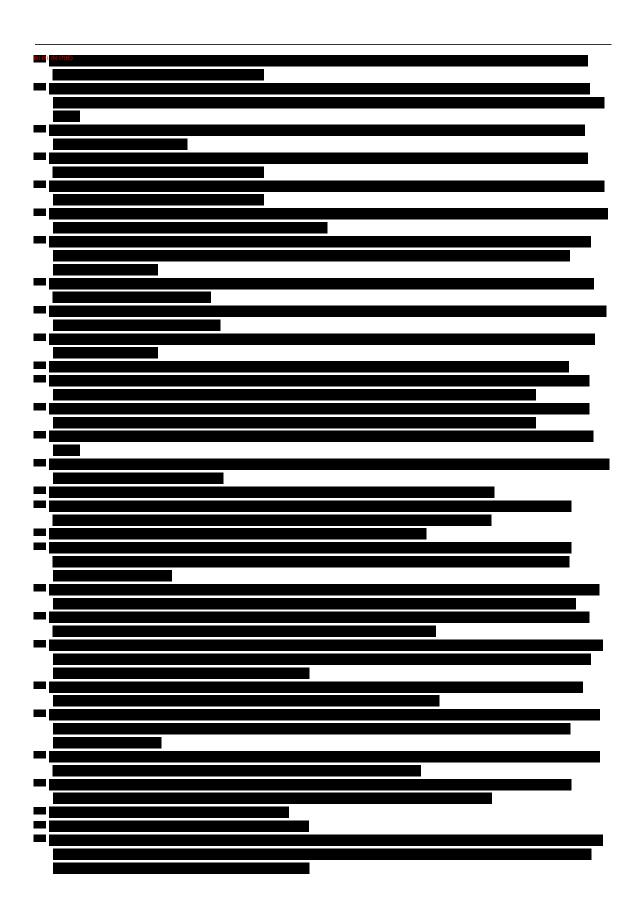
(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.5.2, HSEC-8.8













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Product's overall usefulness	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Product's relevance to your mission	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Product's timeliness	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	0	0	0	0	0	0		
 emergency response operations Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats Share with partners Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel) Reprioritize organizational focus Author or adjust policies and guidelines 6. To further understand your response to question #5, please provide specific details about situations in which you might use this product. 7. What did this product <u>not</u> address that you anticipated it would? 								
8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements? Strongly Neither Agree Strongly								
	Agre		nor Disagre	e Disagree	Disagree	N/A		
This product will enable me to make decisions regarding this topic.	better O	0	0	0	0	0		
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