

**OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR JON KYL  
CHAIRMAN, SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,  
TECHNOLOGY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

**14 OCTOBER 2003**

**Overview**

In the two years since 9/11, there have been numerous hearings, reports, and studies by the Congress, and by outside experts. Many have focused on examining what led to our vulnerability on 9/11 — and what processes need to be reviewed, or laws changed, to avoid a repeat of that tragic day.

In reviewing the record of these hearings and reports, a clear picture emerges of how terrorists exploit a free society like that of the United States to conduct the wide range of activities necessary for effective terror operations.

The relationship between these terrorists and foreign-based sponsors, states, and global actors also emerges and strongly suggests that the war on terror at home and the one abroad are in the deepest sense, one and the same. This seems self-evident except for the fact that as a whole we do not approach it this way — either analytically or operationally. Evidence urges that we begin doing so immediately — not least because the enemy long ago determined these fronts to be one war.

While the above hearing and reports process was proceeding apace, so were two other things, namely:

- (1) the activities of terror groups, their networks and supporters, here and abroad;
- (2) the ongoing efforts of U.S. foreign and domestic intelligence and enforcement to monitor, interdict, and prosecute terrorists and their support networks.

If one engages in this sort of integrated analysis long enough, one can begin to anticipate, for example, what has emerged in the headlines in recent weeks in regard to both the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Prisons chaplains.

**Military and Prisons**

Recent hearings by the Subcommittee on Terrorism have exposed the growing dominance of a radical sect of Islam in the United States. This sect, commonly referred to as Wahhabism, preaches jihad against Christian, Jews, and Muslims who do not toe the Wahhabi line. All 19 of the September 11 hijackers were followers of Wahhabism, as is

Osama bin Laden. This violent perversion of Islamic faith has been responsible for terrorist attacks against innocent civilians — both Muslim and non-Muslim — all over the world.

And there have been an increasing number of instances in which Wahhabists have successfully penetrated key U.S. institutions, such as the military and our prison system. As several recent media reports have noted, the two groups that accredit and recommend Muslim chaplains to the military — the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences and an organization under the umbrella of the American Muslim Foundation — have long been suspected of links to terrorist organizations by the federal government. Another group accused of ties to Islamic extremists — the Islamic Society of North America — refers Muslim clerics to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Earlier this month, one of the key architects of the U.S. military's chaplain program, Abdurahman Alamoudi, was arrested and charged with an illegal relationship with Libya, long a state sponsor of terror. Authorities have also charged Captain James Yee — a Muslim clergymen who was once stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba — with two counts of mishandling classified information.

Additionally, the New York State prison system promoted a Muslim cleric to a position that allowed him to supervise the hiring and firing of all prison chaplains. He was later removed from his job when officials discovered he was an al-Qaeda sympathizer who incited prisoners against America. Jose Padilla, a terrorist accused of trying to build a “dirty bomb” to unleash in the United States, was exposed to radical Islam in the U.S. prison system. Richard Reid, the so-called “shoe bomber,” was converted to fundamentalist Islam while serving time in a British prison.

## **Hearing**

Today's hearing is the third in a series of hearings examining terrorist ideology, support networks, and state sponsorship. As I said at the last hearing, to defeat the terrorists, we must understand their goals, their resources, and their methods, just as well as they understand our system of freedoms and how to exploit them for their terrible purposes. We must “connect the dots.”

Today, the subcommittee will hear testimony from the FBI, the Department of Defense, and the Bureau of Prisons. To “connect the dots,” the subcommittee will hear from Dr. Michael Waller, Annenberg Professor of International Communication at the Institute of World Politics. Dr. Waller will testify that:

- Foreign states and movements have been financing the promotion of radical, political Islam within America's armed forces and prisons.

- This radical Islam preaches extreme intolerance and hatred of American society, culture, government, and the principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. It seeks the ultimate overthrow of our Constitution.
- Terrorist have exploited Americans' religious tolerance, and the chaplain programs in particular, as key elements of infiltrating the military and the prisons.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, I would like to thank Senators Feinstein and Schumer for their hard work on this hearing.