



Why This Matters

In June 2012, former Chairman Peter T. King, of the House Committee on Homeland Security, raised concerns that Mr. Eldin, a self-proclaimed member of Gama'a al-Islamiyya, which the Department of State has designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization since 1997, was issued a visa and granted admission into the United States. Former Chairman King requested that we review DHS admissibility processes for members of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. He also asked that we establish whether DHS has a potential role or has been consulted about transferring convicted terrorist Omar Abdel Rahman from U.S. custody to Egyptian custody.

DHS Response

DHS concurred with all recommendations. Based on ICE's response, all recommendations are resolved and open.

DHS' Efforts to Screen Members of Foreign Terrorist Organizations

What We Determined

We determined the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has policies and procedures for admitting members of Foreign Terrorist Organizations into the United States, and collaborating with other departments and agencies when screening members of Foreign Terrorist Organizations and issuing inadmissibility waivers. DHS did not determine any derogatory information on Mr. Eldin prior to admitting him, and DHS followed established procedures for allowing Mr. Eldin into the United States. We also established DHS has no knowledge of plans to transfer Mr. Omar Abdel Rahman to Egyptian custody. However, we identified operational challenges that may reduce the effectiveness of DHS' visa security processes.

What We Recommend

We made three recommendations to the Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Executive Associate Director for Homeland Security Investigations to enhance DHS' efforts to screen members of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

For Further Information:

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