

Toscas, George (NSD)

From: Toscas, George (NSD)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:20 PM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Subject: RE: refugee stats

Just tried you. I've asked the Bureau for an update of their prior doc.

From: Toscas, George (NSD)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 2:31 PM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG) <ratucker@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: refugee stats

I'll call you as soon as I free up.

From: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 1:40 PM
To: Toscas, George (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Subject: refugee stats

Hey George,

There is a DC on refugee limits tomorrow and I was wondering if I could trouble you for some updated information. The below is information that you provided in February. Are you aware of any update figures?

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



(b) (5)



Thanks for your help on that.

Rachael

Rachael Tucker
Counselor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
202.616.7740

Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)

From: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 7:35 PM
To: Parker, Rachel (OASG)
Subject: draft
Attachments: Refugees 9-11-17.docx

This still needs to be updated but wanted you to have it.

Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)

From: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 7:14 PM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Subject: for your review
Attachments: Refugee PC response.docx
Importance: High

Tucker, Rachael (OAG)

From: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Subject: Refugee PC response (002) RT
Attachments: Refugee PC response (002) RT.docx; 17_0306_S1_DHS-DOJ-POTUS-letter.pdf



March 6, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security, we are concerned about weaknesses in our immigration system that pose a risk to our Nation's security. Our concerns are particularly acute as we evaluate certain countries that are unable or unwilling to provide the United States with adequate information about their nationals, as well as individuals from nations that have been designated as "state sponsors of terrorism," and with which we have no significant diplomatic presence. We therefore urge you to take measures—pursuant to your inherent authority under the Constitution and as authorized by Congress—to diminish those risks by directing a temporary pause in entry from these countries.

Since the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001, a substantial majority of those convicted in U.S. courts for international terrorism-related activities were foreign-born. Moreover, senior government officials have expressed concerns that foreign nationals who seek to aid, support, or commit acts of terrorism will seek to infiltrate the United States through our immigration benefits programs such as the Refugee Admissions Program. At present, more than 300 persons who came to the United States as refugees are under FBI investigation for potential terrorism-related activities. There are currently approximately 1000 pending domestic terrorism-related investigations, and it is believed that a majority of those subjects are inspired, at least in part, by ISIS.

We expend enormous manpower and resources investigating terrorism-related activities of foreign nationals admitted to the United States, as well as extremists within the United States inspired by terrorist organizations such as ISIS and core al-Qa'ida, which have strongholds in certain areas of these countries, and which use widespread and broad-based social-media strategies for recruiting. Preventing and responding to terrorism at home encompasses thousands of national security personnel across the federal government—in effect, we admit individuals at risk for terrorism and then try to identify and stop them from carrying out their terrorist

activities. This places unacceptable stress on our law enforcement resources, which could be better spent on other efforts to weaken those terrorist organizations, protect the homeland, and safeguard our national security.

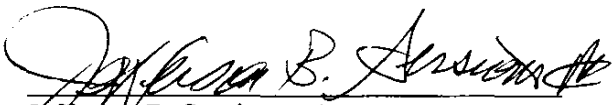
Although the convictions and investigations involve individuals from countries around the world, we have particular concerns about our current screening and vetting processes for nationals of certain countries that are either state sponsors of terrorism, or that have active conflict zones in which the central government has lost control of territory to terrorists or terrorist organizations, such as ISIS, core al-Qa'ida, and their regional affiliates. This increases the risk that nationals of these countries (or those purporting to be nationals) may be members of terrorist or extremist groups, or may have been radicalized by hostile governments or terrorist organizations.

This danger to our national security is heightened by the fact that effective collaboration on counter-terrorism, including in the visa issuance and refugee vetting processes, requires adequate information sharing. To the extent a government is a state sponsor of terrorism and hostile to the United States, or lacks control over territory, its passport issuances, and thus over the records of its citizens in such territory, there is a greater risk that the United States will not have access to necessary records to be able to verify important information about individuals seeking to travel from that country to the United States. Furthermore, based on DHS data and the experience of its operators, nationals from these countries are more likely to overstay their visas and are harder to remove to their home countries.

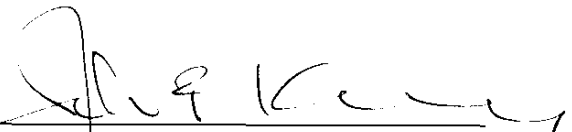
The Executive Branch, under your leadership, should complete a thorough and fresh review of the particular risks to our Nation's security from our immigration system. Therefore, we believe that it is imperative that we have a temporary pause on the entry of nationals from certain countries to allow this review to take place—a temporary pause that will immediately diminish the risk we face from application of our current vetting and screening programs for individuals seeking entry to the United States from these countries.

We stand prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to address this situation.

Sincerely,



Jefferson B. Sessions III
Attorney General



John Francis Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security

Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)

From: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Subject: RE: for NSC response

Remember when we send this we'll need to note that we are attaching the Kelly/Sessions letter.

From: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 12:48 PM
To: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG) <dcutrona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Barnett, Gary E. (OAG) <gebarnett@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: for NSC response

(b) (5)



Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)

From: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:19 PM
To: Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO
Cc: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Subject: Refugee PC info
Attachments: Refugee PC response info DRAFT.docx; 17_0306_S1_DHS-DOJ-POTUS-letter.pdf
Importance: High

John,

Attached is some additional information that may be useful to DPC. Rachael will be communicating DOJ's response, which is much shorter than, but encompassed in, the attached draft document, to NSC later today. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Danielle



March 6, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President,

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activities. This places unacceptable stress on our law enforcement resources, which could be better spent on other efforts to weaken those terrorist organizations, protect the homeland, and safeguard our national security.

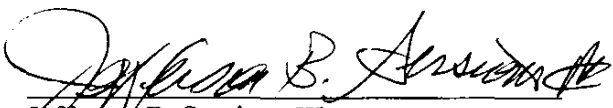
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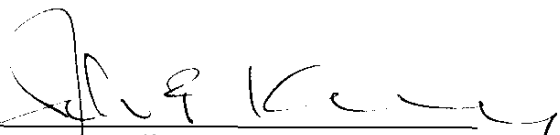
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The Executive Branch, under your leadership, should complete a thorough and fresh review of the particular risks to our Nation's security from our immigration system. Therefore, we believe that it is imperative that we have a temporary pause on the entry of nationals from certain countries to allow this review to take place—a temporary pause that will immediately diminish the risk we face from application of our current vetting and screening programs for individuals seeking entry to the United States from these countries.

We stand prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to address this situation.

Sincerely,


Jefferson B. Sessions III
Attorney General


John Francis Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security

Tucker, Rachael (OAG)

From: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 2:38 PM
To: rachael.tucker@doj.ic.gov
Subject: FW: for NSC response
Attachments: 17_0306_S1_DHS-DOJ-POTUS-letter.pdf

(b) (5)



Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 6:45 PM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: NSC Edits
Attachments: 171102 National Security Address v8 - NSC edits 2.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Davis, May M. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>
Date: November 1, 2017 at 5:11:53 PM EDT
To: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: NSC Edits

(b) (5)

Sorry these were late.

May

May Davis
Associate White House Staff Secretary
Desk: (202) 456-5636
Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Tucker, Rachael (OAG)

From: Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 10:30 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: current

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG)" <tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Date: November 1, 2017 at 8:59:59 PM EDT
To: "Tucker, Rachael (OAG)" <ratucker@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Fwd: current

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6) per NSD
Date: November 1, 2017 at 8:37:33 PM EDT
To: "Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)" <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (NSD)" <braweinsheimer@jmd.usdoj.gov>, "Toscas, George (NSD)" <gtoscas@jmd.usdoj.gov>, (b)(6) per NSD, "Gauhar, Tashina (ODAG)" <tagauhar@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: current

Wyn,

Two quick flags:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

(b)(6) per NSD

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2017 7:35 PM
To: (b)(6) per NSD
Subject: Fwd: current

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Date: November 1, 2017 at 7:31:48 PM EDT
To: "Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)" <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Fwd: current

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)"
<siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Date: November 1, 2017 at 4:39:45 PM EDT
To: "Pettit, Mark T. (OPA)" <mtpettit@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: current

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



xxx

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
202.305.5808

Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)

From: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: FW: ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS DELIVERS REMARKS IN NEW YORK CITY ABOUT DEFENDING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY
Attachments: FW: ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS DELIVERS REMARKS IN NEW YORK CITY ABOUT DEFENDING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)

From: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Tucker, Rachael (OAG); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: FW: ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS DELIVERS REMARKS IN NEW YORK CITY ABOUT DEFENDING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

(b) (5)



From: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs [mailto:USDOJ-OfficeofPublicAffairs@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Cutrona, Danielle (OAG) <dcutrona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS DELIVERS REMARKS IN NEW YORK CITY ABOUT DEFENDING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

**ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS DELIVERS REMARKS IN
NEW YORK CITY ABOUT DEFENDING OUR NATIONAL
SECURITY**

New York, NY

Terrorists should know: this Administration will use all lawful tools at our disposal, including prosecution in Article III courts and at Guantanamo Bay. If anyone has any doubt about that, they can ask the more than 500 criminals whom the Department of Justice has convicted of terrorism-related offenses since 9/11. And they can ask the dozens of enemy combatants in Guantanamo Bay.

The third item that our counterterrorism efforts need is a related matter. It is

the ability to surveil overseas for intelligence purposes. The law that authorizes us to do this—Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act—is scheduled to expire in just 59 days. Today I am once again calling on Congress to reauthorize it.

Section 702 has proven to be effective. For example, in 2009, the FBI stopped Najibullah Zazi, an Afghan national, from executing his plans to bomb the New York City subway system—just a few miles from where we are right now. He made explosives and drove over the George Washington Bridge. But thanks to intelligence lawfully gathered under this law, he was prevented from carrying out the attack.

Remarks as prepared for delivery

Thank you, Joon for that kind introduction. And thank you for your decade of service to the people of New York and to this country. In particular I want to commend you for your efforts that led to the conviction of Peter Gotti and other organized crime figures. That's outstanding work that has had a major impact on this community. When we planned this trip to talk about terrorism and national security, we were certainly not expecting the terrible events of Tuesday.

Before I say anything else, I want to offer my condolences to the people of this community. The President—a proud son of this city—sends his condolences as well. To the families and friends of those who were killed or injured, and to those suffering wounds: the people of the Department of Justice family are praying for you and thinking about you.

This latest tragedy, however, showed once again the bravery of our police officers and first responders. In particular, of course, I want to mention Officer Ryan Nash of the First Precinct. His quick response and his courageous action under pressure prevented this attack from getting even worse. He is rightly regarded as a hero today—not just in New York, but across America. He symbolizes the best of the best.

This morning I attended roll call with officers from the 13th precinct, some of whom responded to the 9/11 attacks. It was an honor for me to meet them. They embody the highest ideals of law enforcement and public service.

The people of New York should know that they have one of the finest law enforcement institutions in the country—and, indeed, the world. We know that 85 percent of law enforcement officers in America serve at the state and local level. This Administration cannot succeed in our goal of reducing crime without our state and local partners. We are all in this together.

On my visit to the precinct this morning, we discussed this city's use of crime data to channel their resources to where they are needed the most. That is a proven success, and I believe that it can work around the country. Indeed, cities all over the country are following your lead. And so I want to thank NYPD for their leadership and for making New York—and America safer.

This week's deadly incident—the deadliest attack on New York since 9/11—is one more reminder of the dangerous threats that we face as a nation.

New Yorkers know firsthand that terrorists want nothing more than to take away

our most basic right: the right to be safe. They aim to diminish our freedom and constrict our lifestyles. And if it weren't for our troops, our intelligence community, and our law enforcement, the terrorists would succeed.

Since 9/11, the Department of Justice has made fighting terrorism its top priority. Our goal is not just to catch terrorists, but to prevent them from striking us. And in this fight against terror, we have gotten results. People in this room and around the country have been made safer.

Last month, a federal jury convicted Ahmad Khan Rahimi for his role in the September 2016 Chelsea, New York City bombing. To the Assistant U.S. Attorneys who worked on this case—Emil Bove, Andrew DeFilippis, and Shawn Crowley—and our federal and local law officers: outstanding work. This Department is proud of you.

Also in October, the Department of Justice unsealed charges against three men for plotting to carry out ISIS-inspired terrorist attacks in this city. These cases are also being prosecuted by attorneys in this office.

And just this week, Mustafa al-Imam, a Libyan national charged with participating in the 2012 Benghazi attacks, was apprehended overseas and is on his way to America to face justice.

Terrorists should know: this Administration will use all lawful tools at our disposal, including prosecution in Article III courts and at Guantanamo Bay. If anyone has any doubt about that, they can ask the more than 500 criminals whom the Department of Justice has convicted of terrorism-related offenses since 9/11. And they can ask the dozens of enemy combatants in Guantanamo Bay.

We are not slowing down. The FBI currently has ongoing terrorism-related investigations in all 50 states.

I assure you, President Trump has never forgotten 9/11. As a New Yorker, he knew people who lost their lives that day. He has made our national security his top priority. And he is exactly right to do that. As he put it, the battle with terrorism is “a battle between good and evil.” “We need to be smart, vigilant and tough.”

Over these next few minutes, I want to take this occasion to discuss some of the priority initiatives necessary if we are to be smart, vigilant, and tough. This is not an exhaustive list. But these are some of the most important. And this is not a political or an ideological matter—this is a safety matter – a national security matter. This is about what a great nation must do to protect itself.

First of all, we need to keep potentially dangerous people from getting into this country. Second, we need access to electronic evidence with court approval. And third, we need to lawfully, aggressively surveil non-citizen terrorists overseas.

The President is determined to keep terrorists and their sympathizers from infiltrating our country. And he knows that, since 9/11, most of those convicted in our courts for international terrorism-related crimes have been foreign-born.

The Department currently has ongoing terrorism-related investigations against hundreds of people who came here as refugees. As you all know, we expend enormous manpower and resources on these investigations, as well as on the

enormous manpower and resources on these investigations, as well as on the hundreds of domestic cases inspired by foreign terrorists. The FBI and our officers do heroic work, but it is simply not reasonable to keep asking them for more and more without putting policies in place that make their jobs easier, and make us safer.

The President was right to issue his executive order, the travel ban, to ensure proper vetting. The countries covered by this order have failed—or are unable—to provide us the information necessary for proper vetting of their nationals. How do you vet people from North Korea? How do you vet people from Syria—where war and violence continues?

The President has the legal right to take this action. Congress has authorized the president to stop travel from certain countries if it would be detrimental to our interests not to. That's exactly what President Trump did—and he did it to keep us safe.

And not only was it authorized by law, it was the right thing to do. On Tuesday night, President Trump once again ordered his administration to implement more rigorous, more effective vetting processes—extreme vetting. President Trump made these decisions because he understands that we continue to face grave security threats from a number of groups and he is not afraid to talk openly and directly about it.

Further, the President's separate action to reduce the flow of refugees into this country will reduce the likelihood of potentially dangerous people getting here. It will also take some of the pressure off of the FBI and our local law enforcement by control and vetting more carefully those requesting entry before they are admitted.

The President has also laid out a set of principles for immigration reform that would make us safer. First of all, by building the border wall and requiring legal status to get a job, this plan would dramatically cut down on the illegality in our system. It would help us keep better track of who is in this country.

And just as importantly, the President's immigration plan would switch us to a merit-based immigration system. He would abolish the Diversity Visa Lottery and replace it with a points-based system like is used in Canada and Australia.

This is the best way to ensure that the immigration system in America is benefitting America. We don't use random chance in college admissions and we don't roll a die to hire people. By the same token, a lottery tells us nothing about who would thrive in this country.

This merit-based system would be a boon to our economy and raise wages. But it is not just an issue of economic security; it is an issue of national security. A merit-based system, by definition, would be safer than a lottery or even extended family-based immigration. We want the best and the brightest in America. The President's plan is essential to protecting our national security, while also banning drunk drivers, fraudsters, gang members, and child abusers.

A bill to switch to a merit-based system has been introduced in Congress by Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue. It's called the RAISE Act. It's time to end the Diversity Lottery in favor of a rational, merit-based system.

We need to be aware that some people who come here radicalize once they're

here. Just yesterday, the Department unsealed an indictment of a Turkish man who was living as a legal permanent resident in New York City. He left the United States to join ISIS, and then used social media to recruit people in the United States, Europe, and Australia to join their campaign of terror and hate. According to the indictment, the defendant urged on a suicide bomber in Iraq and he boasted that he had sent 20,000 jihadists to ISIS territory. Today he is facing a potential life sentence without parole.

The largest category of counterterrorism cases in the United States under investigation today are of people inspired by ISIS.

Since President Trump took office, ISIS has been on the run in Syria and Iraq. At one point ISIS controlled a land mass the size of Great Britain and a population the size of Michigan. But now their capital has fallen. The American people should celebrate these victories, but we must also recognize ISIS and other violent jihadist groups still pose a threat to our safety here in our homeland.

The number of Americans traveling to join ISIS has declined dramatically. But terrorist networks are becoming increasingly decentralized and harder to track. Terrorist groups increasingly use social networking sites to recruit new members and lone wolf attackers around the globe. They then can use encrypted communication channels to plan their crimes, some of which can be carried out within hours.

The Department of Justice recognizes that terrorist tactics are evolving, and we are adapting our own tactics to meet this challenge. We can never stand still.

Which brings me to my second point. To investigate terrorism, we will need access to electronic evidence in a lawful way. Too often, technology companies refuse to cooperate with law enforcement or even to comply with court orders. Over just the past year, the FBI was unable to open access to nearly 7,500 mobile devices submitted to its Computer Analysis and Response Team, even though there was court orders or legal authority to do so. We can only imagine what the consequences of not getting that information will be.

We know, for example, that the terrorist who targeted an event in Garland, Texas in 2015 sent more than 100 instant messages to a terrorist overseas—just on the morning of the attack. What we don't know, however, is what he said—because those messages are encrypted.

This failure to get encrypted information in a timely manner causes law enforcement to waste even more valuable time and resources. And it could have potentially deadly consequences.

The third item that our counterterrorism efforts need is a related matter. It is the ability to surveil overseas for intelligence purposes. The law that authorizes us to do this—Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act—is scheduled to expire in just 59 days. Today I am once again calling on Congress to reauthorize it.

Section 702 has proven to be effective. For example, in 2009, the FBI stopped Najibullah Zazi, an Afghan national, from executing his plans to bomb the New York City subway system—just a few miles from where we are right now. He made explosives and drove over the George Washington Bridge. But thanks to

intelligence lawfully gathered under this law, he was prevented from carrying out the attack.

Today, with the international terrorist threat decentralized and increasingly online, it is more important than ever that we have this capability. Frequently, terrorists abroad plot against this country and are in contact with other terrorists in the United States. This is the key to prevention. We want to stop terrorist attacks before they occur.

I know that Section 702 has its critics. But I believe that if people understood how the system worked, and what is at stake, they would demand that their representatives reauthorize this law. So I want to be clear about this: Section 702 does not permit the targeting of any American anywhere, or even a foreigner who is likely in the United States. Congress needs to make sure that well intentioned but misinformed amendments don't make it impossible to use the data we already have.

I was a Senator serving on the Judiciary Committee when this law was passed, and I can tell you that it was rigorously vetted and scrutinized. It passed with nearly 70 votes in the Senate and nearly 300 votes in the House. In 2012, Congress reauthorized it with even stronger support. Both times it was completely bipartisan, and every court that has examined it has found it to be lawful.

Terrorists continue to plot against us, and there is no sign that this threat is going away. The only question is whether we will be prepared.

At a time when our enemies are experimenting with new tools and tactics, we cannot unilaterally disarm ourselves. We cannot afford to let this law expire. And so I call upon Congress to once again reauthorize this law and ensure that the Intelligence Community does not lose this critical tool and insure we don't go backwards.

In law enforcement, we are always adapting to the challenges of the moment. We are always trying to hit a moving target. But we get results. People in this room have proven that.

I am confident that, if we take these steps I have outlined today, we will rise to meet whatever new challenges we will face—and we will keep the American people safe.

Thank you.

###

AG

17-1232

Do not reply to this message. If you have questions, please use the contacts in the message or call the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007.

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Laco, Kelly (OPA)

From: Laco, Kelly (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 1:35 PM
To: Barnett, Gary E. (OAG); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG); Tucker, Rachael (OAG)
Subject: SDNY speech transcription
Attachments: NY National Security Speech.docx; ATT00001.txt

Joon Kim: Good morning, my name is Joon Kim, I am the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. This morning I have the privilege of introducing the Attorney General of the United States, for a speech that he is going to give on National Security. First, I will be welcoming the Attorney General to New York City, and the great Southern District of New York in particular. And of course, I welcomed already to our beautiful, modern offices here. Attorney General Sessions, as you all know, has dedicated his life to serving the county and the public. His long and distinguished career in public service goes back to 1973 when he served our country in the United States Army Reserves, and he did that for thirteen years. He then continued to serve the public throughout his professional life in many different capacities; including as a United States Senator and the Attorney General of Alabama. But perhaps most important for us, those of us in this building, and to our law enforcement colleagues gathered here today, is that before he became a United States Senator and Attorney General of Alabama he served for many years as an Assistant United States Attorney and as a United States Attorney. So he understands and has served in the front lines of federal law enforcement. And he understands the challenges and the incredible privilege it is to be a part of the mission to keep our communities and our country safe and free from violence and crime. So it is my privilege this morning to introduce to you today, the 84th Attorney General of the United States, Jeff Sessions.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you all, it is good to be with you. And thank you, Joon for that kind introduction. And thank you for the work that you've been doing for justice in America and for this district. You have a tremendous team and the Southern District of NY is a great district, it has tremendous pride and professionalism skill determination independence they say and we appreciate that. It used to make me feel bad since I was a Southern District of Alabama when they would say The Southern District, but you are The Southern District. And I appreciate that and the leadership and I remember visiting Rudy Giuliani when he was my supervisor and the associate and in those days the Associate in the early 1980s of the criminal division and the US attorneys. Rudy was there when some of the great changes occurred in law enforcement that were different from anything since the founding of the Republic and it involved honesty in sentencing, sentencing guidelines, minimum mandatories, no bail, no appeal, pretrial detention, all those things happened in the mid-80s and it changed law enforcement entirely. Particularly Joon, I want to express my commendation for your efforts on the Peter Gotti and the kind of cases that have always been made here in this district that's important work. We planned this trip, a couple of weeks ago I guess, talk about National Security. It's a big issue for America and we've got a couple of key legislative battles we have out there we need to get done, and

of course we had no idea what would happen Tuesday. But it is a really dramatic definition of what we need to do and why what we are doing is so important.

I want to first offer my condolences to the families of the victims, those who are injured and the people of New York for the losses of Tuesday, we express our deepest sympathies for that. To the families and friends we say we are going to bring anyone involved in that, the perpetrator to justice. I know you will be committed to that and so will the Department of Justice.

This latest tragedy, however, showed once again the bravery of the police officers that serve us every day. In particular, of course, I want to mention Officer Ryan Nash of the First Precinct. His quick response, courageous action under pressure prevented this attack from getting worse. He is rightly regarded as a hero today not just in New York, but across America. He symbolizes the best of the best. I remember at the Capitol just a couple of years ago, I saw a young officer just racing past me and there was a shooting outside the Capitol there had been a shooting. He didn't know what was out there. There could have been a gang of terrorists, automatic weapons and things. He was going to the fight. That's what our law enforcement officers do. We need to validate them. We need to affirm them and if someone in the department does wrong we need to discipline them. But we need to affirm the great officers who serve us every day and put their lives on the line for us.

This morning I attended the roll call with officers from the 13th precinct, some of whom responded to the 9/11 attacks. It was an honor for me to meet with them. They embody the highest ideals of law enforcement and public service.

The people of New York should know that they have one of the finest law enforcement institutions in the country, maybe the finest. I was certainly more impressed after leaving today than I was when I came. We know, those of you in the federal government that 85 percent of law enforcement officers in America serve at the state and local level. This Administration cannot succeed in our goal of reducing crime without our state and local partners. We are all in it together. The President, a New Yorker law and order President, and he's serious about it, gave us three orders. One was to back the men and women in blue and we take that seriously, I hope you will take that seriously because these are the frontline folks that make us safe. The second order was crackdown and dismantle transnational criminal organizations. ISIS, gangs, cartels, terrorists, those are high priorities always for our federal government and our federal prosecutors. And I know you'll focus on that. Thirdly, we got a directive. An order from the President. Simply to reduce crime in America. New York is reducing crime. In America crime is going up, going up way too fast. I've seen it, I've observed it, when I started as a young prosecutor in the 70s crime was going up every year. In

the 80s we began to turn the tide with the new reforms in criminal justice that I mentioned it began to come fruition in the 90s and into the 2000s. But we have begun to see some changes nationally. Murder went up in 2015 12% according to the FBI data and homicide went up another 8% in 2016. 20% increase nationwide in homicide. The 12% increase was the largest increase in homicide nationally since 1968. So I'm worried about that and I take the President's charge seriously. We embrace that charge. As federal officials need to be working with our state and locals to see if we can reverse that trend. And most importantly one thing I learned today is a reaffirmation that if we do the right policies we can impact crime. This is just a stunning development. How much New York has brought down certain crime incidents in this city. 3/4ths maybe. And if we can do that, and they believe we can nationwide, we'll begin to see us head in the right direction.

This week's deadly incident the deadliest attack on New York since 9/11 is one more reminder of the dangerous threats we face from radical Islamic terrorism and the kind of threats we are seeing nationwide.

New Yorkers know firsthand that terrorists want nothing more than to take away our most basic rights: the right to be safe, the most fundamental right. They aim to diminish our freedom and constrict our lifestyles. And if it weren't for our troops, our intelligence community, and our law enforcement, the terrorists would succeed.

Since 9/11, the Department of Justice has made fighting terrorism its top priority. Our goal is not just to catch terrorists, but to prevent them from striking us. That was the entire discussion of the judiciary committee and national security committee both of which I served on. We do not want to forget that principal. And in this fight against terrorism, we have gotten results, we have made progress. People in this room and around the country have been made safer. Three days a week I meet with the FBI and we talk about terrorism and threats to our country in a classified briefing. I got to say that I have been amazed at how effective our federal investigation agencies have been in preventing attacks. But if you look at it mathematically we can't possibly identify all attacks in advance and stop them from occurring. Things that happened Tuesday, that is very difficult to do. But we have entered and indicted and had a number of successes. And our goal is to continue this progress and not have anything occur that would undermine that effectiveness. So I will share some cases with you.

Last month, a federal jury convicted Ahmad Khan Rahimi for his role in the September 2016 Chelsea, New York City bombing. To the Assistant Attorneys who worked on this case Emil Bove, Andrew DeFilippis, and Shawn Crowley and our federal and local law officers: thank you for your great work in that case. This Department is proud of you.

Also in October, the Department of Justice unsealed charges against three men plotting to carry out ISIS-inspired terrorist attacks in this city. These cases are being prosecuted by attorneys in the Southern District.

And just this week, Mustafa al-Imam, a Libyan national charged with participating in the 2012 Benghazi attacks, it was a great effort that put that together. He apprehended overseas and is on his way to America to face justice.

Terrorists should know this: this Administration will use all lawful tools at our disposal, including prosecution in Article III courts or at Guantanamo Bay. If anyone has any doubt about that, they can ask the more than 500 criminals whom the Department of Justice has convicted of terrorism-related offenses since 9/11. And they can ask the dozens of enemy combatants at Guantanamo.

We are not slowing down. The FBI currently has ongoing terrorism-related investigations in all 50 states.

And let me assure you, the President, President Trump, we've talked about it, I've talked about it personally with him, has not forgotten 9/11. As a New Yorker, he knew people who lost their lives that day. He has made our national security his top priority. And he is exactly right to do so. As he put it, the battle with terrorism is "a battle between good and evil." And he said, "We need to be smart, vigilant and tough."

Over these next few minutes, I want to take this occasion to discuss some of the priority initiatives necessary if we are to be smart, vigilant, and tough. This is not an exhaustive list. But these are some of the most important. And this is not a political or an ideological matter this is a public safety matter a national security matter. This is about what a great nation must do, should do, has to do, to protect itself.

First, we need to keep potentially dangerous people from getting into this country. Second, we need access to electronic evidence with court approval. And third, we need to lawfully, aggressively surveil non-citizen terrorists overseas. All of which we can do, are doing, and we need to be more effective at it and we don't need to have those abilities constricted legislatively.

The President is determined to keep terrorists and their sympathizers from infiltrating our country. Mathematically, just imagine, larger larger numbers that come in and fall upon the FBI to try and monitor. We have got to be careful at about that. We cannot bring in people who are dangerous. And he knows that, since 9/11, most of those convicted in our courts for international terrorism-related crimes have been foreign-born.

The Department currently has ongoing terrorism-related investigations against hundreds of people who came here as refugees. As you all know, we expend enormous manpower and resources on these investigations, as well as on the hundreds of domestic cases inspired by foreign terrorists. The FBI and our officers do heroic work, but it is simply not reasonable to keep asking them for more and more without maintaining and putting policies in place that make their jobs easier, and make us safer.

The President was right to issue his executive order, the travel ban so called, to ensure proper vetting. We have got to slow down and identify typically problematic countries and territories across the globe where terrorists are nested and we don't have any support from local government to actually do an effective vetting. The countries covered by this order have failed or are unable to carry out their business and have records and documents so we can know who people are. How do you vet people from North Korea? How do you vet people from Syria where war going on and violence continues and we can't check the criminal records of people who apply to come here?

The President has the legal right to take this action. Congress has authorized the president to completely stop travel from certain countries if it would be detrimental to the national interests not to. That's exactly what President Trump did and he did it to keep us safe. A small number of dangerous countries where these terrorist groups are nested. We are proud of your office for defending his orders. There has been some negative or adverse district court cases. But the Supreme Court has already indicated and stopped some of these injunctions. Even a majority of these injunctions are in force and we continue proceed in an effective way and I look forward to a victory in the Supreme Court. I believe these orders are legitimate and an effective way and vested in the President of the United States the responsibility to defend us. He is entitled to make judgement decisions not the courts. The CIA reports to him, the Department of Defense reports to him. The State Department, the FBI and it's his responsibility, it is a commitment he made to the American people. So I think this is lawful and proper we need to get that done.

The President's goal was to implement more rigorous, more effective vetting processes he called it extreme vetting, that's a way to communicate people understood what he was talking about. He made these decisions because he understands that we continue to face grave security threats and he is not afraid to talk about it directly and boldly.

Further, the President's separate action to reduce the flow of refugees into our country will reduce the likelihood of potentially dangerous people getting here-we are going to take more care on this. It will also take some of the pressure off of the

FBI and our local law enforcement by controlling and vetting more carefully those requesting entry before they are admitted to our county.

The President has also laid out a set of principles for immigration reform that would make us safer. First of all, by building the border wall there which impacts drugs as well as crime and requiring legal status to get a job, and this plan would dramatically cut down on the illegality in our system. It would help us keep better track of who has entered the country.

And just as importantly, the plan would switch us to a merit-based immigration system. He would abolish the Diversity Visa Lottery, something I have advocated for for over a decade which I think makes no sense, and replace it with a points-based system like is used in Canada and Australia. This is the best way to ensure our system is benefitting America, which it should do. We don't use random chance in college admissions and we don't roll a die to hire people. By the same token, a lottery tells us nothing about who might be entering our country.

This merit-based system would be a boon to our economy and our wages, of that I have no doubt. But it is not just an issue of economic security; it is an issue of national security. A merit-based system, by definition, would be safer than a lottery or even extended family-based system. We want the best and the brightest in America. The President's plan is essential to protecting our national security, while also banning drunk drivers, fraudsters, gang members, and child abusers.

A bill to switch to a merit-based system has been introduced in Congress by Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue. It's called the RAISE Act, I think it would take us in the right direction and help our national security.

We need to be aware that some people who come here radicalize once they're here. Just yesterday, the Department unsealed an indictment of a Turkish man who was living as a legal permanent resident in New York. He left the United States to join ISIS, and then used social media to recruit people in the United States, Europe, and Australia to join in the campaign of terrorism and hate. According to the indictment, the defendant urged on a suicide bomber in Iraq and he boasted that he had sent 20,000 jihadists to ISIS territory. Today he is facing a potential life sentence.

The largest category of counterterrorism cases in the United States under investigation today are of people inspired by ISIS.

Since President Trump took office, ISIS has been on the run in Syria and Iraq, General Mattis and his team have done a very, very effective job. At one point ISIS controlled a land mass the size of Great Britain and a population the size of Michigan. But now their capital has fallen and they are on the run, and we have

done it with a minimum of US forces on the ground, and it's taken some time but I think it has proven to be an effective strategy and I am proud to see what has occurred there. We simply cannot have ISIS dedicated to destroying America hold a nation state somewhere in the world from which they can launch attacks. That is a matter of importance.

The number of Americans traveling to join ISIS has declined dramatically, it's not a winning cause, they're on the run, it's not an attractive choice to someone who could potentially. But terrorist networks are becoming increasingly decentralized and harder to track. Terrorist groups increasingly use social networking sites to recruit new members and lone wolf attackers around the globe. They then can use encrypted communication channels to plan their crimes, some of which can be carried out within hours.

The Department of Justice recognizes that terrorist tactics are evolving, and we are adapting our own tactics to meet the challenge. We can never stand still. In this kind of world they will adjust and we must adjust too.

Which brings me to my second point. To investigate terrorism, we will need access to electronic evidence lawfully attained. Too often, technology companies refuse to cooperate with law enforcement or even to comply with court orders sometimes. Over just the past year, the FBI was unable to open access to nearly 7,500 mobile devices submitted to its Computer Analytics and Response Team, even though there was court orders and legal authority to do so. That's a technological difficulty we are facing. We can only imagine what the consequences of not getting that information could have been.

We know, for example, that the terrorist who targeted an event in Garland, Texas in 2015 sent more than 100 instant messages to a terrorist overseas just on the morning of the attack. What we don't know, however, is what he said because those messages are encrypted.

This failure to get encrypted information in a timely manner causes law enforcement to waste even more valuable time and resources. And it could have potentially deadly consequences.

The third item that our counterterrorism efforts need is a related matter. It is the ability to surveil overseas for intelligence purposes. Legal ability to surveil has never seriously been challenged, the fourth amendment does not apply to non-citizens abroad. But the law that authorizes us to do this Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is scheduled to expire in just 59 days. It was put in there with an expiration date to see how it was going and for reaffirmation. Today I am once again calling on Congress to reauthorize section 702. It is critical to what we do.

Section 702 has proven to be effective. For example, in 2009, the FBI stopped Najibullah Zazi, an Afghan national, from executing his plans to bomb the New York City subway system just a few miles from where we are right now. He made explosives and drove over the George Washington Bridge. But thanks to intelligence lawfully gathered under this law, he was prevented from carrying out the attack.

Today, with the international terrorist threat decentralized and increasingly online, it is more important than ever that we have this capability. Frequently, terrorists abroad plotting against this country and are in contact with other terrorists in the United States, planning how to conduct their attacks. This is the key to prevention, of attacks on our country. We want to stop terrorist attacks before they occur.

I know that Section 702 has been criticized. But I believe, fully, having been involved in the drafting, having been involved in the armed services committee where we discussed it, I believe it is a seriously important matter for the safety of our country. We have got to have our representatives focus on this and get this passed before Christmas. I want to be clear about this: Section 702 does not permit the targeting of any American anywhere, or even a foreigner who is likely to be in the United States.

I was a Senator serving on the Judiciary Committee when this law was passed, and I can tell you that it was rigorously vetted and scrutinized. It passed with nearly 70 votes in the Senate and nearly 300 votes in the House of Representatives. In 2012, Congress reauthorized it with even larger vote. Both times it was completely bipartisan, and every court that has examined it has found it to be lawful. It is the most closely monitored law in the country. We have judges, we have the IG at the Department of Justice, Congress, and the President and independent evaluations and courts have always upheld it.

Terrorists continue to plot against the United States, and there is no sign that this threat is going away. The only question is whether we will be prepared and whether we can stop these attacks.

At a time when our enemies are experimenting with new tools and tactics, we cannot unilaterally disarm ourselves. We cannot afford to let this law expire. And so I respectfully, urgently, call upon Congress to once again reauthorize this law and ensure that the Intelligence Community does not lose this critical tool and insure we don't go backwards in the war against terrorism.

In law enforcement, we are always adapting to the challenges of the moment. We are always trying to hit a moving target. But we can get results. People in this

room have proven that. You have done fabulous work.

I am confident that, if we take these steps I have outlined today, we work with our state and local law enforcement partners, we will rise to meet whatever new challenges we will face and we will keep the American people safe as we are charged with responsibility to do.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you, may God bless you, I look forward to working with you.

PAO (SMO)

From: PAO (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 4:07 PM
To: PAO (SMO)
Subject: DOJ Daily Communications Report 11/2/17

U.S. Department of Justice

WASHINGTON

November 2, 2017

FROM: Office of Public Affairs
SUBJECT: DOJ Daily Communications Report

Top Stories

Jeff Sessions: Gitmo option remains open in dealing with all terrorists

“Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Thursday the Trump administration will keep open its option to prosecute terrorists in military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay, and he expressed support for the plan to abolish the Diversity Visa Lottery program. In his first public address since Tuesday’s terrorist attack in New York, Mr. Sessions said preventing dangerous people from entering the country is key to protecting the U.S. from terrorist activity. ‘This is not a political or an ideological matter — this is a safety matter — a national security matter. This is about what a great nation must do to protect itself,’ Mr. Sessions said as he spoke at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Manhattan. ‘First of all, we need to keep potentially dangerous people from getting into this country. Second, we need access to electronic evidence with court approval. And third, we need to lawfully, aggressively surveil non-citizen terrorists overseas.’” ([The Washington Times](#))

After Manhattan Truck Attack, Sessions Says U.S. Will ‘Use All Lawful Tools’ Against Terrorists

“A day after President Trump threatened to send the suspect in the Manhattan truck attack to the military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Thursday said the administration would ‘use all lawful tools at our disposal,’ including the federal courts and military system, to prosecute terrorism suspects... Mr. Sessions’s remarks on Guantánamo Bay reiterated a long-held position in favor of continuing to detain terrorism suspects without trial there and to prosecute some before a military commission. He said earlier this year that he would advise Mr. Trump to send newly captured terrorism suspects to the wartime prison, which he called a ‘very fine place,’ rather than to bring them to civilian court for prosecution by the Justice Department he runs.” ([The New York Times](#))

Non-Responsive Record



Jeff Sessions: Justice Department investigating 'hundreds' of refugees for terrorism-related offenses

“The Department of Justice has ‘hundreds’ of ongoing terrorism-related investigations into people who came to the U.S. as refugees, according to the nation’s top cop. Attorney General Jeff Sessions made the comment early Thursday during remarks from New York City about national security, just days after a man inspired by the Islamic State carried out a deadly attack near the World Trade Center with a rented truck.” ([Washington Examiner](#))

Sessions says Trump administration won't hesitate to use Guantanamo Bay

“Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the Trump administration is open to prosecuting suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba but stopped short of saying the administration would send new detainees to the controversial facility. Speaking in New York two days after a truck attack killed eight people and seriously injured 12 others in a bike lane in lower Manhattan, Sessions hailed members of law enforcement and first responders who rushed to the scene. It was the deadliest attack in New York City since 9/11.” ([CBS News](#))

Non-Responsive Record

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Attorney General Sessions Delivers Remarks In New York City About Defending Our National Security

“Thank you, Joon for that kind introduction. And thank you for your decade of service to the people of New York and to this country. In particular I want to commend you for your efforts that led to the conviction of Peter Gotti and other organized crime figures. That’s outstanding work that has had a major impact on this community. When we planned this trip to talk about terrorism and national security, we were certainly not expecting the terrible events of Tuesday. Before I say anything else, I want to offer my condolences to the people of this community. The President—a proud son of this city—sends his condolences as well. To the families and friends of those who were killed or injured, and to those suffering wounds: the people of the Department of Justice family are praying for you and thinking about you. This latest tragedy, however, showed once again the bravery of our police officers and first responders. In particular, of course, I want to mention Officer Ryan Nash of the First Precinct. His quick response and his courageous action under pressure prevented this attack from getting even worse. He is rightly regarded as a hero today—not just in New York, but across America. He symbolizes the best of the best...”

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Upcoming Events

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Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 7:27 PM
To: Whitaker, Matthew (OAG); Barnett, Gary E. (OAG); Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Press Clips: SDNY AG Sessions National Security

xxx

Sarah Isgur Flores
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202.305.5808

From: Laco, Kelly (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 7:25 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Press Clips: SDNY AG Sessions National Security

Jeff Sessions: Gitmo option remains open in dealing with all terrorists

“Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Thursday the Trump administration will keep open its option to prosecute terrorists in military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay, and he expressed support for the plan to abolish the Diversity Visa Lottery program. In his first public address since Tuesday’s terrorist attack in New York, Mr. Sessions said preventing dangerous people from entering the country is key to protecting the U.S. from terrorist activity. ‘This is not a political or an ideological matter — this is a safety matter — a national security matter. This is about what a great nation must do to protect itself,’ Mr. Sessions said as he spoke at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Manhattan. ‘First of all, we need to keep potentially dangerous people from getting into this country. Second, we need access to electronic evidence with court approval. And third, we need to lawfully, aggressively surveil non-citizen terrorists overseas.’” ([The Washington Times](#))

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Non-Responsive Record

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Non-Responsive Record

Sessions Talks National Security in Wake of Lower Manhattan Terror Attack

NEW YORK (CBSNewYork/AP) — U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions expressed confidence Thursday in the ability of the justice system to prosecute people facing terrorism charges.

Sessions spoke Thursday at a federal prosecutor's office near the scene of the [Lower Manhattan terror attack](#) that left eight people dead on Tuesday. "This week's deadly incident, the deadliest attack in New York since 9/11, is another reminder of the dangerous threats we face from radical Islamic terrorism and the kind of threats we're seeing nationwide," Session said. He also says the United States won't hesitate to use Guantanamo Bay when warranted.

"Terrorists should know this: This administration will use all lawful tools at our disposal, including prosecution in Article III courts and at Guantanamo Bay," Sessions said. ([CBS NY](#))

US AG Jeff Sessions confident in terror prosecutions after New York City attack

LOWER MANHATTAN, New York --

Attorney General Jeff Sessions expressed confidence on Thursday that the U.S. justice system can prosecute terror suspects like the man charged in the deadly truck attack in lower Manhattan. Speaking to members of law enforcement a few blocks from the scene of attack, Sessions also said Guantanamo Bay would remain in the anti-terror mix. "Terrorists should know: This administration will use all lawful tools at our disposal. ... If anyone has any doubt about that, they can ask the more than 500 criminals whom the Department of Justice has convicted of terrorism-related offenses since 9/11," he said. "And they can ask the dozens of enemy combatants in Guantanamo Bay." The attorney general's visit to New York City was scheduled before a man used a rental truck on Tuesday to kill eight people on a bike path. The suspect, Uzbek immigrant Sayfullo Saipov, was shot by a police officer and captured. Prosecutors brought federal terrorism charges against Saipov a day later, saying he had planned it for weeks. ([ABC 7 NY](#))

U.S. Attorney General Says Tech Companies Should Help Access Encrypted Evidence

(Reuters) - Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Thursday accused technology companies of failing to

adequately help federal investigators access encrypted communications, saying over the past year that the FBI was blocked from accessing nearly 7,500 mobile devices. Sessions criticized the technology sector in a speech in New York City, just two days after Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbek immigrant, allegedly drove a truck down a lower Manhattan bike path, killing eight people and injuring 11. Saipov said he was inspired by Islamic State videos, according to investigators. Sessions, speaking at the U.S. attorney's office not far from the site of the attack, addressed the tragedy by offering his condolences. He then laid out a three-point plan to combat terrorism more generally, which he said should include new immigration restrictions, improved access to electronic communications and continued efforts to "aggressively surveill non-citizen terrorists overseas." [US News](#))

U.S. Government Should Target Immigrants Who Are 'Drunk Drivers, Fraudsters, Gang Members and Child Abusers,' Sessions Says

The U.S. should switch to a merit-based immigration system that would increase national security and block "drunk drivers, fraudsters, gang members and child abusers," U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Thursday in New York City. His comments came as President Donald Trump has repeatedly linked the Islamic State militant group (ISIS)-inspired truck attack in Manhattan earlier this week to the need for tougher immigration policies. "A merit-based system, by definition, would be safer than a lottery or even extended family-based immigration," Sessions said. "We want the best and the brightest in America. The president's plan is essential to protecting our national security." Sessions also said it was time to end the "diversity lottery," and noted that U.S. Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue have introduced a bill that would switch the country to a merit-based system. [Newsweek](#)

Sessions discusses national security following NYC terror attack

NEW YORK — U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions expressed confidence in the ability of the justice system to prosecute people facing terrorism charges. Sessions spoke Thursday at a federal prosecutor's office following Tuesday's terror attack that killed 8 people, saying the attacks were "another reminder of dangerous threats we face from Radical Islam terrorism."

"New Yorkers know terrorists want nothing more than to take away our most basic right- the right to feel safe," he said. During his remarks, Sessions listed some of the important things important in security, including plans to keep potentially dangerous people outside of the United States through "extreme vetting" and needing to gain access to electronic evidence lawfully.

Sessions said several tech companies also have not cooperated with the government in helping federal investigators access encrypted communication, claiming valuable time and resources are wasted if they can't get encrypted information in a timely manner. [pix11](#)

Sessions: People inspired by ISIS represent majority of terror probes

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said on Thursday that "people inspired by ISIS" represent the majority of terrorist investigations being conducted in the US – probes that are underway in all 50 states. "The largest category of counterterrorism cases in the United States under investigation today are of people inspired by ISIS," Sessions said in an address about national security at the US attorney's office in Manhattan. "We are not slowing down. The FBI currently has ongoing terrorism-related investigations in all 50 states." Speaking just days after [Uzbek immigrant Sayfullo Saipov drove a pickup truck through a bike-path a few blocks north of the World Trade Center and killed eight people](#), Sessions said one of the tools the US needs to combat terrorism is the ability to gather evidence electronically. "To investigate terrorism, we will need access to electronic evidence in a lawful way," he said. "Too often, technology companies refuse to cooperate with law enforcement or even to comply with court orders. Over just the past year, the FBI was unable to open access to nearly 7,500 mobile devices submitted to its Computer Analysis and Response Team, even though there was court orders or legal authority to do so. We can only imagine what the consequences of not getting that information will be." [nypost](#)

Sessions: Guantanamo an option for terrorism suspects

NEW YORK —Attorney General Jeff Sessions warned Thursday that terrorists could expect to be prosecuted both in civilian courts and military tribunals, endorsing some — but not all — of President Donald Trump's controversial comments following the deadly, ISIS-inspired terror attack in New York City. Sessions, addressing a roomful of attorneys and law enforcement officials in the lobby of the Southern District U.S. Attorney's office in lower Manhattan, also called for an end to the Diversity Visa program, the lottery program under which terror attack suspect Sayfullo Saipov was allowed to immigrate to the U.S. in 2010, from Uzbekistan. Sessions' comments come a day after Trump issued a series of tweets in response to the Tuesday terror attack, blaming it on the visa program and linking it to Sen. Chuck Schumer, calling for the accused terrorist to be sent to Guantanamo Bay prison and advocating that he receive the death penalty. The president said it was unsurprising terrorists commit attacks in the United States because the U.S. justice system is a "laughingstock" in the way it handles such cases.

[Politico](#)

Trump: NYC Attacker Should Get Death Penalty or Guantanamo

All lawful tools

In a speech Thursday to a conference in New York City on defending national security, Attorney General Jeff Sessions did not rule out the option of declaring Saipov an enemy combatant.

"Terrorists should know: This administration will use all lawful tools at our disposal, including prosecution in Article III [federal] courts and at Guantanamo Bay," Sessions said.

"If anyone has any doubt about that, they can ask the more than 500 criminals whom the Department of Justice has convicted of terrorism-related offenses since 9/11. And they can ask the dozens of enemy combatants in Guantanamo Bay." A leading Republican senator, Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, issued a statement ridiculing the idea of prosecuting the case in federal court. "It appears the Trump administration is continuing the Obama policy of criminalizing the War on Terror by not declaring Sayfullo Saipov an enemy combatant," Graham said. The senator argued that trying Saipov in federal courts would severely limit the ability of investigators to glean valuable intelligence that could "help win the war." He added, "The Trump administration missed an important opportunity to send a strong message to terrorists and make America safer." Appearing to mimic Trump's Twitter style, Graham ended his statement by saying, "This is a huge mistake. Very sad." [VOA](#)

AG Sessions: American People 'Would Be Safer' Under 'Rational' Merit-Based Immigration System

Attorney General Jeff Sessions called for the implementation of a merit-based immigration system endorsed by President Trump, saying the American people "would be safer" than they are currently under the mass, family-based chain migration system. During a speech in New York City, New York, Sessions called on the GOP-led Congress to pass the RAISE Act, legislation by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Sen. (R-GA) that would cut legal immigration levels in half to give relief to America's working and middle class. Among other things, the RAISE Act would also end the Diversity Visa Lottery, the program that allowed Uzbek national Sayfullo Saipov to [enter](#) the United States in 2010. Now, Saipov is accused of committing terrorism in New York City this week after he allegedly ran over multiple people in the street, killing eight of them.

Sessions said the RAISE Act is vital to the national security interest of the nation. [Breitbart](#)

Higginbotham, Ryan K (OLP)

From: Higginbotham, Ryan K (OLP)
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 2:01 PM
To: Hamilton, Gene (OAG)
Subject: Refugee Report Outline
Attachments: Refugee Report Outline v.2.docx

Gene,

Attached is a draft outline of the refugee report for your input and edits.

(b) (5)

Thank you,

Ryan

Ryan Higginbotham
Office of Legal Policy