

NIE/CHS Subcommittee Hearing:
Counterterrorism In a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape
November 14, 2023
Chairman Fitzpatrick Opening Statement

Chairman: Good afternoon everyone, thank you for being here today. This event is HPSCI's first combined hearing in the 118th Congress with the Committee on Homeland Security. Welcome to our colleagues from across the hall, I am glad we have connected on this subject. I know Mr. Pfluger and Mr. Magaziner's subcommittee brings broad knowledge and understanding of Homeland and border security threats, we are pleased to have you join us.

The subject of this hearing is counterterrorism in a shifting geopolitical landscape. Tensions are at an all-time high. Hamas' attack on Israel set-off wide-ranging global implications. Both non-state and state actors are guilty of shamelessly taking advantage of the situation while innocent people are caught in the middle. I am interested in hearing the witness' views on the political intentions of China and Russia as they find common cause with countries in support of Palestine, how Iran supports Hamas and Hezbollah with technology, weapons, and training, and the caliber of Hamas cyber capabilities to spread propaganda and inspire attacks in the West. I ask that you provide details on Hamas' galvanizing effect on terror networks worldwide. I also look forward to hearing

CIA's assessment of the global threat picture and their work to communicate identified threats to FBI and DHS.

As we move to conversations about the homeland, I would ask that our FBI witnesses take time to discuss the hand-off from foreign intelligence collection to domestic agencies that are responsible for protecting the homeland.

As the FBI manages the Threat Screening Center and investigations of terrorism threats to the Homeland, we look forward to hearing from the FBI on their work to protect the Homeland during the unfolding crisis in the Middle East.

Recently, FBI Director Wray publicly warned the United States is at its greatest risk of a terrorist attack in nearly a decade –DHS’s work on border security, vetting of persons coming across the border, and engagement with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners will be an important part of today’s discussion and I look forward to understanding how the department is managing the heightened threat environment within our borders due to the conflict in the Middle East.