

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4080

To counter White identity terrorism globally, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 2020

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To counter White identity terrorism globally, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Countering Global
5 White Supremacist Terrorism Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) “White identity terrorism” is the term used
9 by the Department of State to encompass White na-
10 tionalist and White supremacist terrorists. Individ-
11 uals who adhere to White nationalist and White su-

1 premacist ideologies share a common belief that
2 White people and “White identity” in western coun-
3 tries are under siege and pursue the destruction of
4 pluralistic values intrinsic to the American way of
5 life.

6 (2) The Global Terrorism Database and cor-
7 responding Global Terrorism Index have recorded a
8 rise in the number and lethality of White identity
9 terrorist incidents during the past decade, both do-
10 mestically and internationally.

11 (3) Various individuals, networks, and organiza-
12 tions fall under the umbrella of the global White
13 identity terrorist movement, whose adherents are be-
14 coming increasingly internationalized, with fighters
15 and terrorist ideology moving across borders.

16 (4) Irresponsible social media sites are enabling
17 the internationalization of the White identity ter-
18 rorist movement in terms of organization and re-
19 cruitment. State and nonstate actors have helped to
20 build a global, online White identity terrorist echo
21 chamber, including by translating terrorist mani-
22 festos and promoting other violent extremist content.
23 This activity includes countries using “troll farms”
24 to exacerbate fears of immigrants, Muslims, Jews,

1 and other minorities in western countries among po-
2 tentially sympathetic audiences.

3 (5) There is evidence that adherents of the
4 White identity movement in the United States are
5 increasingly traveling overseas for training, further
6 contributing to the internationalization of White
7 identity terrorism. Jihadist experiences in Afghani-
8 stan, Iraq, and Syria highlight the dangers that such
9 individuals can pose because of the connections and
10 capabilities they bring with them when they return
11 home.

12 (6) The global White identity terrorist move-
13 ment has manifested a decentralized organizational
14 approach that encourages individuals to operate
15 independently from one another and execute ter-
16 rorist attacks on their own. This approach poses
17 challenges to law enforcement efforts to track, mon-
18 itor, and disrupt planned violence. In the same way
19 that Islamist terrorists have looked to figures in al-
20 Qaeda and the Islamic State, White identity terror-
21 ists draw on one another for inspiration.

22 (7) The growing global interconnectivity of the
23 White identity terrorist movement means that the
24 United States must confront this threat as part of
25 an integrated, whole-of-government approach.

1 **SEC. 3. COUNTERING WHITE IDENTITY TERRORISM GLOB-**
2 **ALLY.**

3 (a) STRATEGY AND COORDINATION.—Not later than
4 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5 Secretary of State shall—

6 (1) develop and submit to the Committee on
7 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee
8 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
9 a Department of State-wide strategy entitled the
10 “Department of State Strategy for Countering
11 White Identity Terrorism Globally” (in this section
12 referred to as the “strategy”).

13 (2) designate the Coordinator for Counterter-
14 rorism of the Department of State to coordinate De-
15 partment of State efforts to counter White identity
16 terrorism globally, including with United States dip-
17 lomatic and consular posts, the Director of the Na-
18 tional Counterterrorism Center, the Director of the
19 Central Intelligence Agency, the Attorney General,
20 the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary
21 of Homeland Security, the Director of the Federal
22 Bureau of Investigation, the Secretary of the Treas-
23 ury, and the heads of other relevant Federal depart-
24 ments or agencies.

25 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy shall, at a minimum,
26 contain the following:

1 (1) An assessment of the global threat from
2 White identity terrorism abroad, including geo-
3 graphic or country prioritization based on the as-
4 sessed threat to the United States.

5 (2) A description of the coordination mecha-
6 nisms between relevant bureaus and offices within
7 the Department of State, including United States
8 diplomatic and consular posts, for developing and
9 implementing efforts to counter White identity ter-
10 rorism.

11 (3) A description of how the Department of
12 State plans to build on any existing strategy devel-
13 oped by the Bureau of Counterterrorism—

14 (A) to adapt or expand existing Depart-
15 ment programs, projects, activities, or policy in-
16 struments based on existing authorities for the
17 specific purpose of degrading and delegitimizing
18 the White identity terrorist movement globally;
19 and

20 (B) to identify the need for any new De-
21 partment programs, projects, activities, or pol-
22 icy instruments for the specific purpose of de-
23 grading and delegitimizing the White identity
24 terrorist movement globally, including a de-
25 scription of the steps and resources necessary

1 to establish any such programs, projects, activi-
2 ties, or policy instruments, noting whether such
3 steps would require new authorities.

4 (4) Detailed plans for using public diplomacy,
5 including the efforts of the Secretary of State and
6 other senior executive branch officials, including the
7 President, to degrade and delegitimize White iden-
8 tity terrorist ideologues and ideology globally, includ-
9 ing by—

10 (A) countering White identity terrorist
11 messaging and supporting efforts to redirect po-
12 tential supporters away from White identity ter-
13 rorist content online;

14 (B) exposing foreign government support
15 for White identity terrorist ideologies, objec-
16 tives, ideologues, networks, organizations, and
17 internet platforms;

18 (C) engaging with foreign governments and
19 internet service providers and other relevant
20 technology entities to prevent or limit White
21 identity terrorists from exploiting internet plat-
22 forms in furtherance of or in preparation for
23 acts of terrorism or other targeted violence, as
24 well as the recruitment, radicalization, and in-

1 doctrination of new adherents to White identity
2 terrorism; and

3 (D) identifying the roles and responsibil-
4 ities for the Office of the Under Secretary of
5 State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs
6 and for the Global Engagement Center in devel-
7 oping and implementing such plans.

8 (5) An outline of the steps the Department of
9 State is taking or will take in coordination, as ap-
10 propriate, with the Director of the National
11 Counterterrorism Center, the Director of the Central
12 Intelligence Agency, the Attorney General, the Di-
13 rector of National Intelligence, the Secretary of
14 Homeland Security, the Director of the Federal Bu-
15 reau of Investigation, the Secretary of the Treasury,
16 and the heads of any other relevant Federal depart-
17 ments or agencies to improve information and intel-
18 ligence sharing with other countries on White iden-
19 tity terrorism based on existing authorities by—

20 (A) describing plans for adapting or ex-
21 panding existing mechanisms for sharing infor-
22 mation, intelligence, or counterterrorism best
23 practices, including facilitating the sharing of
24 information, intelligence, or counterterrorism

1 best practices gathered by Federal, State, and
2 local law enforcement; and

3 (B) proposing new mechanisms or forums
4 that might enable expanded sharing of informa-
5 tion, intelligence, or counterterrorism best prac-
6 tices.

7 (6) An outline of how the Department of State
8 plans to use designation as a Specially Designated
9 Global Terrorist (under Executive Order 13224 (50
10 U.S.C. 1701 note)) or foreign terrorist organization
11 (pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and
12 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) to support the
13 strategy, including—

14 (A) an assessment and explanation of the
15 utility of applying or not applying such designa-
16 tions when individuals or entities satisfy the cri-
17 teria for such designations; and

18 (B) a description of possible remedies if
19 such criteria are insufficient to enable designa-
20 tion of any individuals or entities the Secretary
21 of State considers a potential terrorist threat to
22 the United States.

23 (7) A description of the Department of State's
24 plans, in consultation with the Department of the
25 Treasury, to work with foreign governments, finan-

1 cial institutions and other related entities to counter
2 the financing of White identity terrorists within the
3 parameters of current law, or if no such plans exist,
4 a description of why such plans were not developed.

5 (8) A description of how the Department of
6 State plans to implement the strategy in conjunction
7 with ongoing efforts to counter the Islamic State, al-
8 Qaeda, and other terrorist threats to the United
9 States.

10 (9) A description of how the Department of
11 State will integrate into the strategy lessons learned
12 in the ongoing efforts to counter the Islamic State,
13 al-Qaeda, and other terrorist threats to the United
14 States.

15 (10) An identification of any additional re-
16 sources or staff needed to implement the strategy.

17 (c) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary of
18 State shall develop the strategy in coordination with the
19 Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and in
20 consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence
21 Agency, the Attorney General, the Director of National
22 Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Di-
23 rector of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Sec-
24 retary of the Treasury, and the heads of any other rel-
25 evant Federal departments or agencies.

1 (d) STAKEHOLDER INCLUSION.—The strategy shall
2 be developed in consultation with representatives of
3 United States and international civil society and academic
4 entities with experience researching or implementing pro-
5 grams to counter White identity terrorism.

6 (e) FORM.—The strategy shall be submitted in un-
7 classified form that can be made available to the public,
8 but may include a classified annex if the Secretary of
9 State determines such is appropriate.

10 (f) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 3 months
11 after the submission of the strategy, the Secretary of State
12 shall begin implementing the strategy.

13 (g) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 3 months after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act and not less fre-
15 quently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State
16 shall consult with the Committee on Foreign Relations of
17 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
18 House of Representatives regarding the development and
19 implementation of the strategy.

20 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM.**

21 Section 140(a) of the Foreign Relations Authoriza-
22 tion Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C.
23 2656f(a)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “and” at
25 the end;

1 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(5) all credible information about White iden-
5 tity terrorism, including—

6 “(A) relevant attacks;

7 “(B) the identity of perpetrators and vic-
8 tims of such attacks;

9 “(C) the size and identity of organizations
10 and networks; and

11 “(D) the identity of notable ideologues.”.

12 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON SANCTIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
14 submission of each of the Annual Country Reports on Ter-
15 rorism pursuant to section 140 of the Foreign Relations
16 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22
17 U.S.C. 2656f), and 240 days thereafter, the President
18 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
19 Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
20 House of Representatives a report that determines wheth-
21 er the foreign persons, organizations, and networks identi-
22 fied in such reports satisfy the criteria to be designated
23 as—

1 (1) foreign terrorist organizations under section
2 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
3 U.S.C. 1189); or

4 (2) Specially Designated Global Terrorist Orga-
5 nizations under Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C.
6 1701 note).

7 (b) FORM.—Each determination required under sub-
8 section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but
9 may include a classified annex, if appropriate.

10 **SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY TO MAP**

11 **THE GLOBAL WHITE IDENTITY TERRORISM**

12 **MOVEMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
15 shall enter into a contract with a federally funded research
16 and development center with appropriate expertise and an-
17 alytical capability to carry out the study described in sub-
18 section (b).

19 (b) STUDY.—The study described in this subsection
20 shall provide for a comprehensive social network analysis
21 of the global White identity terrorism movement—

22 (1) to identify key actors, organizations, and
23 supporting infrastructure; and

1 (2) to map the relationships and interactions
2 between such actors, organizations, and supporting
3 infrastructure.

4 (c) REPORT.—

5 (1) TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1
6 year after the date on which the Secretary of State
7 enters into a contract pursuant to subsection (a),
8 the federally funded research and development cen-
9 ter referred to in such subsection shall submit to the
10 Secretary a report containing the results of the
11 study required under this section.

12 (2) TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days
13 after receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the
14 Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on
15 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee
16 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
17 such report, together with any additional views or
18 recommendations of the Secretary.

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