

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

**Opening Statement**  
**Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney**  
**Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Hearing**  
**“Confronting Violent White Supremacy, Part VI: Examining the Biden**  
**Administration’s Counterterrorism Strategy”**  
**September 29, 2021**

Thank you, Chairman Raskin.

I am pleased to be here today to examine the Biden Administration’s comprehensive strategy for addressing the threat posed by violent white supremacy and domestic terrorism.

This Subcommittee, under Chairman Raskin’s leadership, has long warned of the need for the federal government to address domestic terrorism.

On January 6th, many of us in this room witnessed this terror first-hand.

On that day, militia groups and other violent extremists led an attack on our Capitol, and the battle flag of the Confederacy—the symbol of white supremacy—was brought into these halls by force for the first time in American history.

This threat did not arrive unannounced. In recent years, domestic terror attacks by white-supremacist, anti-Muslim, and anti-government extremists on the far right have surged. Yet during the same time period, the FBI arrested fewer, not more, domestic terrorists.

During the Trump Administration, top officials focused on the threat posed by far-left extremism, while a right-wing insurrection against the Capitol was planned in plain sight. I commend the Biden Administration for recognizing the gravity of this threat and meeting it head on.

Many of the proposals in this National Strategy represent a sea change from the previous Administration and are long overdue.

Confronting domestic terrorism and white supremacist violence requires a whole-of-government approach, pulling from all the resources of the federal government as well as state, local, and tribal partners.

I encourage the Biden Administration to forge meaningful partnerships with community leaders to support mental health services, restorative justice initiatives, bystander intervention programs, and more.

With this shift in strategy must also come a renewed commitment to effective oversight. Over the last two decades, our domestic national security strategy has far too often targeted communities of color, and Muslim communities in particular.

We must ensure that the federal government does not fall back on flawed tools or faulty shortcuts in the name of national security.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about how we can achieve these new investigative priorities with safeguards that will protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.

I thank Chairman Raskin for calling today's hearing and each of our witnesses for joining us here today.

###

---

Contact: Nelly Decker, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181