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House Intelligence Committee Releases Report on al-Qaeda

Five Years after 9-11 Al-Qaeda, Like-Minded Islamists no Less Committed to Attacking within the U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence today released a report on the status of al-Qaeda as a threat to the United States.

The report addresses how five years after 9-11 al-Qaeda and other radical Islamist organizations remain determined to carry out attacks against the United States, our allies and U.S. interests abroad.

“Al-Qaeda and like-minded Islamist terror organizations remain one of the most immediate strategic threats to the national security of the United States,” Committee Chairman Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.) said. “The absence of another attack inside the United States does not mean that their will to attack has diminished. Radical Islamists are patient and willing to wait, years if they need to, until an opportunity presents itself.”

The report stresses that al-Qaeda continues to explore opportunities to expand on its operational capabilities by reaching out to like-minded terror organizations and has made Iraq the front line in the war on terror. With the loss of key training camps and heightened security risks, radical Islamists are becoming increasingly sophisticated with technological tools, such as the Internet, to recruit and train members, raise money and propagate the extremist ideology throughout the Muslim world. Finally, the report reminds the American people that we are not immune to the threat of homegrown terror.

“The war on terror is being fought on multiple fronts, and the enemy is constantly adapting its strategies and tactics as the U.S. and other free and tolerant societies create new defenses,” Hoekstra said. “We need a comprehensive strategy to win the war against radical Islam. We need to engage not only militarily, but on issues such as communications, economic development, health care and energy to achieve success against an enemy that the United States has never before faced.”

The report can be found on the Web site of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: <http://intelligence.house.gov/>