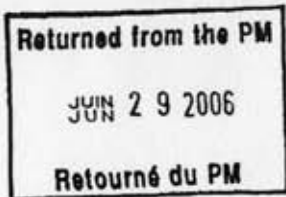




Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0A3

SECRET - CEO



JUN 28 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

**INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING ON  
RADICALIZATION AND JIHAD IN THE WEST**

(Information Only)

**SUMMARY**

- As a follow-up to the arrest of 17 terrorist suspects in the Toronto area earlier this month, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has prepared an analysis of the phenomenon of radicalization.
- You will find attached a copy of this June 7, 2006 document entitled "Radicalization and Jihad in the West", which CSIS Director Jim Judd provided to me.
- We will communicate with Mr. Judd should you require additional information/precisions.

Kevin G. Lynch

Chan/Normand/Roy/sb

Attachment



Canadian Security  
Intelligence Service

## Intelligence Brief for the Prime Minister

# Radicalization and Jihad in the West

2006 06 07

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## SUMMARY

The threat to Canada from homegrown Islamist extremism has been on the rise. The phenomena of "radicalization" and "jihadization" are very complex. Radicalization occurs when Muslims reject mainstream beliefs and practices, adopting a narrow, literal, fundamentalist interpretation of Islam. Jihadization occurs when radicalized Muslims believe that violence in the defence of Islam is justified. Not everyone who becomes radicalized will move on to jihadization, but the process can occur very rapidly. The factors of radicalization include a belief in the need to defend Islam from perceived aggression by the West, influence from a spiritual leader, influence from a radicalized family member, and attending training overseas. Younger members are increasingly self-radicalizing.

Western governments are working to understand

### Introduction

1. The threat to Canada from homegrown Islamist extremism has been on the rise over the last 15 years. Islamist extremism is the most serious terrorist threat faced by the Western world. CSIS has investigated a number of individuals over the years, including Ahmed RESSAM, Momin KHAWAJA, and the group arrested in Toronto in 2006. Jihadists have shifted from foreign attacks to Canadian targets. Western governments need to understand the roots of radicalization and the elements which subsequently influence an individual to commit to jihad. This understanding is necessary for governments and society if they are to develop and implement strategies to counter this phenomenon. This paper summarizes what CSIS has learned from its own investigations, intelligence it has received from its allies, and the broader open literature. (S)

### What is Islamist Radicalization? What is Jihadization?

2. The phenomena of "radicalization" and "jihadization" are very complex, due in part, to the diverse nature of Muslim communities in the West. Each country has its own population with its own characteristics, histories and experiences. The factors and catalysts for radicalization in one nation may not exist in another. Radicalization occurs when Muslims reject mainstream beliefs and practices, adopting a narrow, literal, fundamentalist interpretation of Islam. Jihadization occurs when radicalized Muslims believe that violence in the defence of Islam is justified. Not everyone who becomes radicalized will move on to jihadization. When someone radicalizes, there is often a physical and psychological change such as growing a beard, adopting Muslim dress, criticizing

anyone who does not share their views, and withdrawing from the larger community. The transformation from radical to jihadist can be a very rapid process.

### What Causes Radicalization?

3. Radicalization is a very individual process – there are no easy profiles. The factors and influences responsible for one person's transformation may differ significantly from those of another. The factors of radicalization identified by CSIS and other Western intelligence services include a belief in the need to defend Islam from perceived aggression by the West, influence from a spiritual leader, influence from a radicalized family member, and attending training overseas. Younger members are increasingly self-radicalizing. Anyone in the community is potentially at risk of becoming radicalized: those born in Canada, immigrants, or converts.

4. The most important reason for radicalization is the perception that Islam is under attack from the West. Jihadists feel they must defend Islam from its enemies. They also watch what is happening in the Islamic world and the many conflicts that involve "Western" or other aggression: Palestine, Kashmir, Iraq, Chechnya, Afghanistan, and others. A few will act on these events and support / carry out terrorism in an attempt to change Western foreign or military policy. These individuals take the defence of Islam as a personal goal. The need to defend Islam from its aggressors has a long tradition and jihadists have access to a great deal of literature to justify their actions.

5. Another factor is the influence of a charismatic spiritual leader who calls upon the few brave Islamists to rise to the defence of Islam.

will act as leaders and motivators to attract young impressionable Muslims to their ideology. Younger jihadists are using the Internet to locate "virtual" leaders who provide inspiration. This "virtualization" of radicalization results in a spiritual leader who is available 24/7

6. Parents who share their radical ideologies with their children can also be a factor in radicalization.


Overseas experiences can also help expose young radicals to older, more experienced jihadists and possibly training opportunities.

**What Are We Seeing in Toronto?**

**What is the Western Response to Radicalization?**

11. The Canadian experience also applies to our allies. Every major Western nation – the UK, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Italy, the US, Australia and Denmark – has been the scene of a successful or a foiled terrorism plot. The most obvious include the Madrid attacks of 2004 03, the killing of Dutch artist Theo Van GOGH in 2004 11, the 2005 07 bombings in the UK and the arrests of jihadists in Australia in 2005 11. Our allies are also faced with this increasingly difficult and serious problem. Although it is difficult to generalize radicalization,

12. Governments have been trying to understand and develop strategies to thwart radicalization.



**Where Do We Go From Here?**

13. The understanding of radicalization / jihadization will continue to be a priority over the foreseeable future.

Canada is actively engaged in exchanges in international fora such as the G8, NATO, where radicalization is a priority agenda item.

Canadian government interdepartmental exchanges to develop a better understanding of the situation in Canada and abroad.

14. Further investigation and research must be carried out to fully understand and counter this threat. The effort is a collaborative one.

Some in the academic community have begun to examine the problem and some useful studies have been produced.

s.13(1)(a)(b), s.15(1)