

Understanding and Mitigating Violent Extremism Among Offenders

Violent extremism may persist among those incarcerated for violent extremist (VE) acts or inspire those convicted of other, nonVE-related offenses who become exposed to violent extremism in a correctional setting. For those associated with VEs upon incarceration, correctional staff and security stakeholders should monitor for signs of new or recently exhibited VE behavior, including attempts to influence and radicalize other inmates to violence. Some nonVE-related offenders may gravitate to VE ideologies to seek identity, power, adventure, or a sense of belonging. VE offenders may also seek to engage nonVE offenders to learn about illicit methodologies (e.g., drug, human, or arms trafficking).

Mobilization Indicators

Awareness of mobilization indicators among correction, probation, and parole officers as well as other security stakeholders can improve information sharing and mitigate potential violence and VE-related activities. Offenders who exhibit some combination of these activities may be radicalizing or mobilizing to violence. *For the full list of observable VE-related indicators, see: [US Violent Extremists Mobilization Indicators \(2021 Edition\), NCTC, DHS, FBI.](#)*

WARNING: Indicators in and of themselves may be lawful conduct or behavior and constituting rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. Moreover, evaluating totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances helps ensure no single indicator is used as the basis for action when responding in correctional and other law enforcement settings.



Rumiyah, Issue 11, Al Hayat Media Center 2017, pp. 44-52.

Promises of Redemption Could Motivate Criminals To Turn Toward Terrorism: People may use violent extremist ideology to justify criminal activities or condone past criminal acts. Terrorist messaging has taken advantage of this by presenting terrorism as a means to redeem past sins.

An issue of an ISIS magazine *Dabiq* featured an obituary of a criminal-turned terrorist who was memorialized despite being “indulgent in disobedience and sins.” At the same time, the obituary praised him, highlighting “...he wasn’t afraid of confrontation, nor would he run from a fight.” According to the obituary, ISIS said that his contributions to the “Islamist” cause annulled the corruption from his past, atoning for past sins.

Suspicious Activity and Threat Reporting

Due to the highly personal nature of radicalization and mobilization to violence, it is difficult to assess specific indicators of violent extremists’ intent to commit violence. We, therefore, urge state and local authorities as well as private sector security partners to familiarize themselves with suspicious activity behaviors and indicators and to promptly report suspicious activities potentially related to VE activity. Tips may be submitted to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) or to state and local fusion centers through the FBI’s eGuardian system. **The eGuardian system can be accessed through the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP).** *Additional resources can be found on the opposite side of this document.*



A Case Study Highlighting VE in Custody

In January 2016, **Fazliddin Kurbanov** was sentenced to 25 years in prison after he was convicted of communicating with the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) between 2012 and 2013 and planning to build and plant bombs at military bases in Texas and in Idaho. He had asked IMU members for instructions on how to make a bomb that he could detonate remotely, and investigators found bombmaking material in his apartment.

In May 2016, while incarcerated, he fashioned a 4-inch prison-made shank and attempted to slash the throat of the prison warden. Kurbanov showed no remorse for his attack and expressed extreme animosity toward the United States based on his beliefs. In August 2018, he was sentenced to 20 years in addition to the aforementioned sentence.

SCOPE: This product raises awareness of violent extremism and provides resources for corrections, probation, parole officers, and other stakeholders. This product uses the term violent extremists to refer to foreign violent extremists and those US-based violent extremists who are directed, enabled, or inspired by, or who otherwise affiliate or collaborate with, foreign violent extremists.

Identifying Violent Extremism Post-Release

Coordination and cooperation among corrections, law enforcement, intelligence, probation, and service providers are keys to identifying and monitoring identified violent extremists in a post-release support system. In addition, local communities and leaders can greatly contribute to offenders’ successful reintegration into society and other terrorism prevention efforts.

Recognizing and reporting: Probation and parole officers are uniquely positioned to recognize potential terrorism mobilization indicators through direct interactions with offenders, the monitoring of capabilities (i.e., location monitoring, home/property searches, computer monitoring, polygraph), and by developing collateral contacts.

- Reentry service personnel—professionals who help released offenders transition from incarceration to the community or who work with those on probation—are also often well positioned to observe, identify, report, and mitigate behaviors that may indicate an individual is radicalizing or mobilizing to violence.

Supporting Rehabilitation and Reintegration: Probation, parole, and reentry service personnel can also play a critical role in the successful reintegration of terrorism offenders and in reducing recidivism.

- Multi-agency partnerships of correctional, faith-based organizations, and NGOs that deliver reentry services—including victim, family, or grief counseling—can help released offenders access the range of services they may need to achieve personal and economic stability, sustain their successful return to the community, and minimize their susceptibility to VE and recidivism.



NOTICE: This is a Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) product. JCAT is a collaboration by NCTC, DHS, the FBI, and state, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel to improve information sharing and enhance public safety. The product promotes coordination among intergovernmental authorities and the private sector in identifying, preventing, and responding to terrorist activities. Consider the enclosed information within the context of existing laws, regulations, authorities, agreements, policies or procedures. For additional information contact us at JCAT@NCTC.GOV. **This document is best printed in 11 X 17.**

REPORTING AND ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES



Correctional Intelligence Program (CIP): The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and FBI developed the CIP; a nationwide program designed to facilitate coordination on terrorism and VE matters between JTTFs and correctional facilities across federal, state, local, tribal, territorial (FSLTT) jurisdictions. Staff from the BOP Intelligence and Counterterrorism Branch (ICTB) are assigned to the National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF) to coordinate the exchange of correctional intelligence through the CIP. *For more information on threat reporting matters, contact the CIP at HQ-DIV13-Unit-NJTTF-CIP@ic.fbi.gov.*

BOP Intelligence and Counterterrorism Branch (BOP-ICTB), Counterterrorism Unit (BOP-CTU): For all VE, gang-related, or other concerning matters with an actual or potential US federal prison nexus, contact should also be made with the BOP-CTU for appropriate disposition. The BOP-CTU, a unit within the BOP-ICTB, is dedicated to the management and monitoring of offenders with a nexus to terrorism as well as VE matters in general. *Please contact the NJTTF-CIP for respective BOP ICTB/CTU coordination.*

Correctional Intelligence Task Force (CITF)^a: The CITF provides analytic and digital forensics support to the corrections and law enforcement community. Headquartered in Sacramento, California, CITF has personnel and partnerships throughout the country whose mission is to identify and disseminate cross-programmatic intelligence and to be a one-stop solution for operational intelligence by using CITF resources and those of strategic partners. *For more information, visit the CITF community site available in Justice Connect.*

^aThis task force is listed to illustrate the variety of offerings and is not to be considered endorsements of the content of the material or training offered

OTHER RESOURCES

For copies of these products and other information, please reach out to JCAT@nctc.gov.

NCTC

- Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) First Responder’s Toolbox: [Possible Indicators of Criminal Offenders Mobilizing to Violent Extremism](#)
- JCAT First Responder’s Toolbox: [Reentry Service Partnerships Important to Terrorist Prevention](#)
- JCAT First Responder’s Toolbox: [Reporting Suspicious Activity - Critical for Terrorism Prevention](#)
- JCAT First Responder’s Toolbox: [Mixing Ideologies Requires Multipronged Terrorism Prevention Efforts](#)
- [US Violent Extremists Mobilization Indicators](#) (2021 Edition), NCTC, DHS, FBI
- [NCTC International Terrorism Guide](#)

DOJ/FBI

- The *Identifying and Mitigating Extremist Activities in Corrections (2020)* booklet offers guidance to help correctional staff identify signs of potential VE activity within their facilities and to prevent VE activity occurrence and spread. *For more information, contact your local JTTF and contact the FBI-CIP coordinator in your area of responsibility.*

DHS

National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Office equips FSLTT and private sector partners with tools and resources to identify, report, and mitigate threats of terrorism and targeted violence through the **Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI)** and **Behavioral Threat Assessment Integration (BTAI)**. <https://www.dhs.gov/nter>

- The NSI is a collaborative effort by DHS, FBI, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners. It establishes standardized processes and policies that provide the capability for FSLTT, college campus police, railroad law enforcement, and homeland security agencies to share timely, relevant SAR through an information-sharing system while protecting individual privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. <https://www.dhs.gov/nationwide-sar-initiative-nsi>
 - Joint DHS-FBI eGuardian Awareness flyer; https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/23_0929_ia_joint-dhs-fbi-eguardian-awareness-campaign-slick-sheet.pdf
 - NSI-SAR Probations, Parole, and Corrections training; <https://courses.dhs.gov/courses/course/nsi-training-probationparolecorrections>
- BTAI oversees the Master Trainer Program (MTP) and certifies FSLTT partners in the instruction of behavioral threat assessment and management techniques and best practices. <https://www.dhs.gov/mtp>
 - *Foundations of Targeted Violence eLearning* training: <https://www.dhs.gov/form/foundations-of-targeted-violence>

UNITED NATIONS^b

- *UN Office on Drugs and Crime: Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Handbook_on_VEPs.pdf

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GREAT

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS.

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?

