

Ahmet S. Yayla, Ph.D. is co-author of the just released book, *ISIS Defectors: Inside Stories of the Terrorist Caliphate*. He is Deputy Director of the International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism (ICSVE) and is also Adjunct Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University. He formerly served as Professor and the Chair of the Sociology Department at Harran University in Turkey. He is the former Chief of Counterterrorism and Operations Division for the Turkish National Police with a 20-year career interviewing terrorists.

Dr. Yayla's research mainly focuses on terrorism, radicalization, countering violence extremism (CVE) and the Middle East. He has authored and co-authored several articles and books on the subject of terrorism and violence including *First Responders' Guide to Professionally Interacting with Muslim Communities: Law Enforcement, Emergency and Fire Fighters*, *Understanding and Responding to Terrorism: A Complete Model to Deal with Terrorism* and *Terrorism: A Global Perspective*.

His work was primarily concerned with terrorist and related activities of ISIS, al-Qaeda, al-Nusra, Hezbollah, the PKK, and other global terrorist organizations and he was responsible for several successful operations against the above-listed terrorist organizations. Dr. Yayla designed and administered counter-terrorism and intelligence activities and operations for precautionary measures in city of Sanliurfa, located at the Turkish-Syrian border and at the borders of the current ongoing war-zone in Syria.

Dr. Yayla was invited on October 21, 2006 to the U.S. Senate, Homeland Security Committee and Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attacks as an expert witness to testify on local law enforcement preparedness for countering terrorism threats in the USA and Turkey, including dealing with urban terrorism as a criminal activity. He was also appointed as an Official Advisor by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security between November 2006 – March 2007 to advise on understanding and building connections with terrorism-targeted international communities living in the United States.