Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

CHRISTOPHER RAIA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AT A HEARING ENTITLED
"WORLDWIDE THREATS TO THE HOMELAND"

PRESENTED
NOVEMBER 18, 2026

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Chairman Garbarino, Ranking Member Thompson, and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to appear before you today to discuss the threats that our great Nation faces, and the role of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in countering these threats. Each day, the men and women of the FBI are making a real impact in communities across the Nation, tackling some of the most complex national security and criminal threats we face with perseverance, professionalism, and integrity—sometimes at the greatest of costs.

Keeping Americans safe at home and abroad is a no-fail mission. Our work to combat terrorism, espionage, cyber threats, violent crime, gangs, cartels, fentanyl, fraud, and a myriad of other threats has never been more important. Under the leadership of President Trump, the FBI's priorities are to crush violent crime, defend the homeland, rebuild public trust, and ensure fierce organizational accountability.

Counterterrorism

For more than a century, the FBI has held a critical role in defending the homeland from threats of terrorism. Domestic terrorists motivated by a range of ideologies exploit a variety of popular social media platforms, smaller websites with targeted audiences, and encrypted chat applications. They leverage these platforms to recruit, plan, garner support, and disseminate materials encouraging radicalization and mobilization to violence. The greatest domestic violent extremism threats we currently face is from anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists (AGAAVE), nihilistic violent extremists (NVEs), and racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (REMVE). NVEs, threat actors driven by hostility toward society and a desire to destabilize it through chaos and destruction, pose a growing threat—with about an 85% increase in cases just this year.

The FBI remains committed to protecting the public from domestic terrorism as reflected in the recent disruption of eight extremists who were plotting an attack on government officials and others at the UFC Freedom 250 event in Washington, DC; and the arraignment of the first minor charged under the Juvenile Delinquency Act (JDA) for child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse material distribution in an NVE case.

In September 2025, President Trump signed National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 (NSPM-7), directing the FBI and our Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) to coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to investigate, prosecute, and disrupt entities and individuals engaged in acts of political violence and intimidation designed to suppress lawful political activity or obstruct the rule of law. As a result, the FBI now oversees the recently created NSPM-7 Joint Mission Center (JMC), which is composed of personnel from 10 agencies possessing counterterrorism, criminal operations and analytic expertise. The JMC is actively working to counter domestic terrorism and organized political violence by integrating intelligence, operational support, and financial analysis to proactively identify networks and prosecute domestic terrorists and related criminal actors. In total, JMC efforts to date have resulted in over 200 total arrests and more than 250 indictments or judicial complaints. The FBI has also created the NVE Fusion Cell, a centralized, cross-programmatic entity where our experts in counterterrorism and violent crimes against children are co-located to tackle the growing threat, and work with foreign partners to disrupt and dismantle networks in the United States and abroad. So far under Director Patel's leadership, the FBI has over 1,474 pending nihilistic violent extremism cases.

International terrorists continue to pose one of the most immediate threats to the homeland. The greatest international terrorism threat we currently face is from homegrown violent extremists (HVE). HVEs inspired by violent extremist ideologies aspire to carry out attacks in the United States or travel overseas to participate in terrorist activity. Meanwhile, the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) continues to seek direct confrontation with the United States and will exploit any opportunity to attack the homeland or our interests. Al-Qa'ida senior leadership and its affiliates continue to issue statements and publish media calling for attacks against the United States, some of which include guidance on how to acquire materials and ways to conduct attacks. Similarly, Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) also threatens U.S. officials and encourage lone actor attacks. The FBI continues to monitor the Government of Iran's intent to pursue violent efforts within the United States. In recent years, we have disrupted multiple Iranian plots targeting U.S. officials and activists living in the United States. The FBI's Iran Threats Mission Center—a cross-programmatic effort between the FBI's Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence and Espionage, and Cyber Divisions—has been working to synchronize intelligence and operations to increase our understanding of the Iranian threat, in line with the President's direction in National Security Presidential Memorandum-2.

Our JTTFs continue to aggressively work to prevent terrorist attacks on the homeland; stationed in all 55 field offices and composed of Federal, state, and local law enforcement working together under one roof to combat the threats from a variety of groups, including Iranian proxies. The most significant demonstration of the FBI's dedication to protecting the homeland from international terrorism threats was through the four major disruptions accomplished all within December 2025 around the holiday season—the Turtle Island Liberation Front Attack in which the FBI arrested four members of a far-left, anti-capitalist, anti-government group who were organizing a New Year's Eve bombing plot targeting U.S. businesses across Southern California; the arrest and disruption of an ISIS sympathizer in Texas, who was intending to provide bombmaking material to a foreign terrorist organization; the disruption of an individual in North Carolina who allegedly wanted to be a soldier for ISIS and made plans to commit a violent, ISIS-inspired, mass casualty attack on New Year's Eve; and the arrest of an individual in

Pennsylvania who had been researching ISIS propaganda to use in an explosives attack campaign.

So far under President Trump and Director Patel's leadership, the FBI has made over 6,744 Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)-related arrests, dismantled 76 FTOs, and made over 1,290 arrests of counterterrorism subjects. In addition, we have seized more than 430 firearms, worked with the Department of Justice on 476 counterterrorism convictions, and conducted 1,312 disruptions. (*Note: FTO-related arrest stats include counterterrorism and transnational criminal organization FTOs.*)

Counterintelligence

Counterintelligence operations against Nation-state adversaries mitigate grievous risk to U.S. national security. U.S. adversaries, including Russia, the PRC, and Iran continue to undermine our core institutions, and they are becoming more aggressive and more capable. Our adversaries target U.S. national defense information, attempt to recruit former or current Federal employees and military members to obtain sensitive information, gain insight into decision making, create vectors for foreign malign influence, and undermine U.S. intelligence operations. Guarding against the intelligence services of hostile states is indispensable to national security. Russia, the PRC, and Iran are all working to erode our institutions, and each is growing bolder and more capable. It is also hard to overstate the economic-espionage threat from the PRC. We have open investigations in all 55 field offices, and we are making significant headway defending American breakthroughs in semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum computing, and Super Intelligence.

The FBI's National Counterintelligence Task Force (NCITF) and multiple FBI-led, field-based Counterintelligence Task Forces (CITFs) drive a whole-of-government approach to addressing counterintelligence matters, combining the authorities of the Intelligence Community (IC) with our Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners. The FBI also continues to facilitate robust engagements with the private sector to aid us in understanding and mitigating risks to critical infrastructure and to protect our intellectual property from adversaries. Additionally, leading up to the recent midterm elections, the FBI has worked closely with our IC and state and local partners to address any credible threats to local, state, and Federal election officials and infrastructure across the country.

In fiscal year 2026, the FBI has made 101 counterintelligence-related arrests, a 26% increase over fiscal year 2025; and has removed 90 foreign intelligence actors from the United States, a 143% increase since fiscal year 2025. So far under President Trump and Director Patel's leadership, the FBI has made over 167 counterintelligence and espionage arrests, 75 People's Republic of China (PRC)-related arrests, 34 global arrests, 18 Iran related arrests, 40 Russia-related arrests, and close to 499 counterintelligence and espionage disruptions. Over the past year we also charged seven Chinese researchers with trying to smuggle biological material into the country, five of whom have since been deported.

The FBI remains aggressive in the counterintelligence space, which has been demonstrated through some of our recent successes. In October, the FBI arrested a U.S.

Government contractor for allegedly leaking classified national defense information to someone not authorized to receive it, who then posted the classified information to an online publication. In February, the FBI arrested a former U.S. Air Force pilot accused of supplying unauthorized defense information to Chinese military aviators—a betrayal that put both our service members and our national security at risk. In January, the FBI also secured its first Super Intelligence (SI)-related theft of trade secrets conviction, against a Google engineer who attempted to funnel trade-secret SI technology to China. The FBI had several different cases where we disrupted various individuals who were circumventing export control laws to sell advanced U.S. technology, research and military-grade weapons and ammunition to Russia and Iran, respectively.

Cyber

Cyber espionage, theft, and outright attack from both Nation-states and criminal groups continue to escalate against the United States. Increasingly, state actors make common cause with financially driven hackers, producing a blended threat that the FBI—uniquely holding both criminal and intelligence authorities—is built to counter. This is not just an abstract problem. Ordinary Americans feel it directly through identity theft, hijacked accounts, business email compromise, and cyberstalking. In 2025 alone, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) received over one million complaints and overall cybercrime losses of nearly $21 billion. IC3 reports by victims reflect almost $57 million in ransomware losses so far in 2026. The rise of cryptocurrencies enables these criminal actors to acquire tools, collaborate, and launder their proceeds in new and challenging ways that are outside the regulatory framework.

The PRC, and in particular the operators that grew out of the publicly tracked Salt Typhoon campaign, keep pressing to breach telecommunications infrastructure and other critical networks. Alongside CISA, NSA, and industry, the FBI has dismantled a number of persistent-access operations aimed at both government and private systems. Other adversaries—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, and Russia—remain active in cyber espionage, in enabling ransomware, and in pre-positioning on U.S. critical infrastructure for use in a future crisis or conflict.

The FBI's Cyber Strategy is in full alignment with the Administration's Cyber Strategy for America, specifically focused on four of the six pillars: Shape Adversary Behavior, Secure Critical Infrastructure, Sustain Superiority in Critical and Emerging Technologies, and Build Talent and Capacity. Through this strategy, the FBI imposes costs on cyber adversaries through unique authorities, world-class capabilities, and enduring partnerships. Human and technical resources enable the FBI and our partners to defend networks, attribute malicious activity, sanction bad behavior, and attack adversaries overseas. The FBI has also elevated the leadership, engagement, and coordination assets of the FBI-led, multi-agency National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (NCIJTF), creating new mission centers based on key cyber threat areas.

In support of President Trump's Executive Order 14390, "Combating Cybercrime, Fraud, and Predatory Schemes Against the American People," and the National Cyber Strategy, Operation Riptide demonstrated the impact of sustained, coordinated action; participating with our partners in 13 joint sequenced operations, making over 200 arrests, freezing/seizing over $23 million in illicit cryptocurrency and other funds, and initiating the return of $31 million in virtual

assets stolen by North Korean cybercriminals. The FBI has also launched Operation Winter SHIELD, a first-of-its-kind 60-day campaign to drive measurable progress across industry, government, and critical infrastructure. All 55 field offices were engaged in the campaign and conducted over 600 engagements across 14 critical infrastructure sectors.

So far in 2026, the FBI has made 159 cyber arrests, which is a 4% increase, claimed 193 indictments had 93 convictions, disrupted 240 malicious cyber operations which is an 11% increase, 11 ransomware convictions, which is an 450% increase, 40 ransomware charges, which is a 111% increase, 375 ransomware cases, which is a 21% increase, and completed 15 dismantlement's of Business Email Compromised networks, criminal enterprises, and criminal marketplaces and forums; all of which are increases from the same time in 2025. Under President Trump and Director Patel's leadership so far, the FBI has made 368 cyber arrests, claimed 544 indictments, and disrupted 557 malicious cyber operations.

Violent Crime

The FBI's continued and dedicated focus on combatting violent crime has led to historic results. So far under President Trump and Director Patel's leadership, the FBI has captured 10 of its Top Ten most wanted fugitives, made over 71,650 violent crime arrests, arrested over 47,000 violent criminals and gang members, and seized over 4,616 kilograms of fentanyl, enough lethal doses to potentially kill over 350 million Americans. The FBI has had many successful violent crime initiatives so far this year, to include Operation New Dawn in Illinois, Operation Southern Star in Alabama, Operation Gangsta's Paradise in California, and Operation Spring Cleaning in Alabama and Missouri. Together, these initiatives have led to the arrest of nearly 200 violent offenders, and a significant number of seizures of firearms, drugs, and money. Most recently in October of 2026, the FBI began its newest nationwide violent crime initiative, Operation Cold Front. All 55 field offices will work with their local, state and Tribal partners on a united front against violent crime. Since President Trump returned to office, there has been a 30% decrease in the murder rate nationwide, and violent crime rates may have dropped to the lowest levels ever, but the FBI will maintain its course and continue to bring criminals to justice.

The FBI's partnerships are key force multipliers, with over 550 unique task forces and over 6,000 members to tackle violent crime threats. In cities where crime is higher than the national rate, the FBI is sending Violent Crime Rapid Deployment Teams consisting of agents and intelligence personnel nationwide to surge resources to cities that need them most, and since January of this year, these teams have arrested over 600 subjects and seized over 250 firearms. Specifically, Operation Summer Heat was a multi-agency effort to make our communities safer across the Nation. It resulted in 7,617 violent crime arrests, 725 arrests of predators committing violent crimes against children, 3,279 drug seizures- including 436 kg of fentanyl and 55,772 kg of cocaine, and 2,451 weapons recovered. Specifically, in Louisiana, we saw a 56% decrease in homicide rates in New Orleans and a 42% decrease in homicide rates in Baton Rouge. In Memphis under the Memphis Safe Task Force, FBI surged personnel who participated in over 2,800 arrests. In one year of FBI efforts, under Director Patel's tenure, Memphis has seen a 26% decrease in homicides, a 22% decrease in aggravated assault, a 31% decrease in robberies, and a 48% decrease in carjackings.

Safeguarding children sits at the very top of the Bureau's priorities. Violent crimes against children such as financially motivated sextortion, Sadistic Online Exploitation, and SI-generated content are ushering in a host of new actors spread globally, who are committed to exploiting children and thwarting the FBI's efforts to capture them. Thanks to the leadership of President Trump and Director Patel, the FBI has identified 7,228 child victims, located 5,801 child victims, and arrested over 6,000 child predators and human traffickers.

To specifically combat violent crimes against children, the FBI has over 90 Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Forces, which hosts over 90 task force officers, including over 90 international TFOs from over 60 countries. The FBI has efforts like the Innocence Lost National Initiative to address the growing issue of children recruited into commercial sex trafficking by going after the resources of those criminal enterprises that are exploiting children. Additionally, the FBI's four dedicated surges this year—Operation Restore Justice, Operation Enduring Justice, Operation Relentless Justice, and Iron Pursuit—have led to the arrest of over 1,000 predators this year. In February 2026, under Director Patel's tenure, the FBI also joined Europol's EMPACT initiative, Operation Global Chain, as the first U.S. Agency to formally participate. In 2026, this annual weeklong global human trafficking interdiction event resulted in 1,024 arrests, including 334 human trafficking arrests, 2,070 victims and potential victims identified, 465 new investigations opened, and 80 cases of document fraud detected worldwide.

Under President Trump and Director Patel's leadership, the FBI has put unprecedented attention on combatting violent crime, gangs, and criminal enterprises that have exploited Tribal lands and communities. We have launched a series of initiatives and coordinated operations, such as Voices Not Forgotten, a new initiative intended to generate new public tips to help close unsolved Indian Country investigations; Operation Steadfast Promise, a sustained commitment to address violent crime and improve public safety in Indian country, resulting in 890 new opened cases, over 450 arrests, over 130 child victims identified or located, and over 1,300 weapons seized; Operation Not Forgotten, an initiative to surge investigative, intelligence, and victim services support to field offices working Indian Country investigations; Operation Ballistic Backlog, designed to develop actionable leads on unresolved cases by testing and processing the backlog of seized firearms; and Operation Trusted Trails, initiated to disrupt criminal organizations and gang networks that are flooding Indian Country with drugs and violence, spanning 14 states and 31 Indian reservations.

The FBI has over 4,400 open investigations and over 300 full-time employees dedicated to making Tribal communities safer. The FBI continues to strengthen partnerships with Tribal law enforcement and communities through our 30 Safe Trails Task Forces, two of which were established under Director Patel's tenure, spanning 16 FBI field offices where violent crime, drug trafficking, fraud, and public corruption in Indian Country are rampant. Since Director Patel's tenure, he has attended over 18 Tribal events, including unveiling the Billings Field Office in December 2025 to further strengthen Tribal partnerships in Montana's Indian Country.

Cartels

Pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order 14159, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion," the FBI joined the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in co-leading 59 Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) nationwide, with a combined roster of more than 9,000 Federal agents, Task Force Officers (TFOs), and analysts. The HSTFs bring together over 20 Federal agencies and 440 state, local, and international law enforcement partners in a whole-of-government model. The creation of the HSTF represents the partnership, combining Federal, state, and local resources and integrating IC and Department of War (DoW) information into a whole-of-government approach to dismantle the most prolific Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)-Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) operating globally. The Administration's FTO designations are an example of how the government is more united than ever. The FBI – which has unique authorities and tools available to us to counter both violent crime and terrorism – is empowered to use counterterrorism tools to combat cartels and gangs, who are terrorizing our communities.

Since the establishment of the FTO designations of cartels, the FBI has over 2,200 ongoing investigations related to the 22 designated cartels and transnational gangs. To illustrate the power of the FTO designations and the HSTFs, from August 25 to October 7, 2025, HSTF participating agencies surged in a unified approach to combat TCOs in the United States and around the world. Those efforts resulted in 400 operations, 3,266 Federal arrests, 91 metric tons of drug seizures, 1,067 weapons seized, and over $3.2 million in seized U.S. currency.

Fraud and Scams

The FBI is aggressively working to address the fraud and scam activities impacting Americans, much of which is being conducted by actors virtually and overseas. The FBI is a key leader supporting Executive Order 14390, "Combating Cybercrime, Fraud, and Predatory Schemes Against American Citizens," which mandates a whole-of-government approach to prevent, disrupt, and dismantle Cyber-Enabled Fraud actors, scam compounds, and the TCOs operating them. The FBI is coordinating efforts to support the mission with personnel embedded in the HSTF National Coordination Center (NCC), HSTF investigative squads around the country, as well as forward-deployed Law Enforcement Attache Offices.

On June 4, 2026, the FBI created the Most Wanted Fraudsters list to publicly identify individuals charged with defrauding the American people. Within two months of launching the list, the FBI arrested four subjects across three continents and to date, six of the FBI's top Most Wanted Fraudsters have been arrested, responsible for almost $2 billion dollars in losses. Other efforts to combat fraud include Take a Beat to raise public awareness, our IC3 Recovery Asset Team who work directly with financial institutions to freeze fraudulent wire transfers, Operation Level Up which uses sophisticated techniques to identify victims who are actively being defrauded, increased foreign engagement to combat the global nature of modern fraud with over 60 countries, and fortifying relationships with private sector partners.

Additionally, FBI launched Operation Blackout, a global campaign to identify, disrupt, and dismantle large-scale international scam compounds and the criminal networks that operate them. This year the campaign resulted in more than $15 billion in seized illicit assets, arrests of

over 300 individuals, and significant disruption of criminal infrastructure, including the disabling of internet terminals used by scam syndicates across Southeast Asia and the Middle East. In April 2026, the FBI—working with partners in Dubai and China—executed the largest FBI-led scam compound takedown in history. Nine compounds were raided, over 300 individuals arrested, and thousands of devices were seized.

Reforms and Accountability

The FBI continues to anchor the national Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) effort. Through our National Counter-UAS Training Center (NCUTC) in Huntsville, Alabama and consistent with our Joint Interim Final Rule on the SAFER SKIES Act, we have continued to certify hundreds of State, local, Tribal, and Territorial partners against a shared national standard and those certified officers worked roughly 80% of the operational hours across World Cup counter-drone missions. Over the course of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, FBI deployed 5,000 personnel, conducted over 300,000 background checks, seized over 700 drones, and supported 104 matches with approximately 6.8 million attendees. More than a year of preparation made that possible, and it positions the FBI well for what is ahead with the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

The FBI supports the reauthorization of FISA 702 as a critical national security tool that cannot be replaced by other legal authorities or open-source investigative tools and methods. The FBI has implemented approximately 56 reforms as required by Congress under RISAA. During Director Patel's tenure, we have improved our query standard compliance rate from 82% in 2020, to higher than 99% in 2025, implemented a continuous double audit – one by FBI's Office of Internal Audits and one by DOJ, cut user access to the FISA 702 database data by 50%, further restricted U.S. Person Queries approvals to attorneys only, and terminated employees who have intentionally misused the FISA 702 database. We remain committed to being transparent with Congress on our use of FISA Section 702.

In conclusion, the threats we face as a Nation have never been greater or more diverse and the expectations placed on the FBI have never been higher. The members of this committee are important partners in our fight against every threat out there – and in our efforts to build trust and credibility.

Chairman Garbarino, Ranking Member Thompson, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.