

TRUMP'S ANTI-ISLAMIC BIGOTRY HEIGHTENS TERRORISM RISK

Federal Security Officials Should Condemn His Statements and Threaten to Resign

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(DURHAM, NC)

David Schanzer, Director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, today called on high ranking federal security officials to condemn President Trump's statements recommending the use of "pigs blood" on bullets as a means of combating terrorism associated with ISIS, al Qaeda, and like-minded groups.

Schanzer said:

"For the President of the United States to use the most grotesque stereotypes against the world's Muslims is a stain upon our great country and a further demonstration of Mr. Trump's unfitness for the presidency."

"Worse yet, his statements are making the world more dangerous."

"We know that ISIS tries to inspire disaffected Muslims around the world to engage in violence by convincing them that the United States and its allies are in a war against Islam. Advocating the use of bullets dipped in pigs blood will ratify ISIS's claim that the West hates Islam and possibly inspire more attacks against innocent civilians like we saw yesterday in Spain."

Schanzer also noted that "Trump is also making it harder for us to catch the terrorists before they engage in violence."

"The best way to preempt a terrorist attack is to get a tip from people who know the individuals and suspect that they may be planning to engage in violence. Creating a climate of bigotry and fear throughout Muslim communities with the kind of statements the president made yesterday will intimidate people from coming forward with information, thereby making terrorism prevention far more difficult."

Schanzer also called on federal officials to condemn the statements and threaten to resign if Trump does not retract them:

"I very much respect those who have answered the call to public service and are working very hard in the Trump Administration to protect national security and advance the cause of peace. But they also have an obligation to speak out against actions by this reckless president that are endangering our citizenry and making the world less safe."

"The heads of agencies such as Department of Defense, State, Homeland Security, Justice, and the FBI should all condemn President Trump's bigoted statements and call on him to retract them. If he refuses, I believe it is time for people of good faith to start resigning from their positions in protest."

David Schanzer is the lead author of multiple studies about countering violent extremism in the United States including: United States Attorneys' Outreach and Engagement Efforts to Counter Violent Extremism (2016), <https://sites.duke.edu/tcths/files/2016/12/USAOCounteringExtremismReport.pdf>, The Challenge and Promise of Using Community Policing Strategies to Prevent Violent Extremism (2016),

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249674.pdf>, and Anti-Terror Lessons of Muslim-Americans (2010), <https://sites.duke.edu/tcths/2010/01/06/report-anti-terror-lessons-of-muslim-americans/>.