



**News Release**

**Report shows Muslim-American terrorism cases continued to drop in 2018**

*No cases involving illegal immigrants, despite alarms of Trump administration*

Chapel Hill, N.C. – Jan. 21, 2019 – A new report by a professor at UNC-Chapel Hill documents a continuing decline in the number of Muslim-Americans associated with violent extremism in 2018. The total for the first two years of the Trump administration continued a downward trend that was visible in the final year of the Obama administration.

The report, published annually since 2010 by the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, offers systematic evidence on the pressing issue of terrorism. Data from past reports has been cited in Congressional testimony, White House policy documents, judicial proceedings, national and international media, and scholarly work on the subject.

Fourteen Muslim-Americans were arrested for involvement with plots of violent extremism in 2018, down from 35 arrests or incidents in 2017, 45 in 2016, and 84 in 2015. “The wave of militancy associated with the rise of the self-proclaimed Islamic State appears to have dwindled substantially,” said Charles Kurzman, a professor of sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill and author of the report. “The level of alarm sounded by the Trump administration does not correspond to the decline in numbers that we’ve experienced.”

The report also presents analyses from terrorism experts, who attribute the decline in Muslim-American involvement with violent extremism to the loss of territory by the Islamic State, the reduction in online recruitment, and the already small scale of Muslim-American extremism.

According to Kurzman’s data, Muslim-American extremists have caused 141 deaths in more than 17 years since September 11, 2001. Over the same period, there have been approximately 277,000 murders in the United States, and 230 lives were lost in mass shootings in 2018 alone, none by Muslim extremists.

David Schanzer, director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, said, “The data collected over the past decade establishes that radicalization to violence is a rare phenomenon among Muslim-Americans.”

Schanzer continued, “Law enforcement and intelligence authorities must continue to pay close attention to this problem since small numbers of people can do substantial damage, but resources should be allocated commensurate to the level of the threat, which, it turns out, is small compared to mass shootings, gun violence, and even other forms of violent extremism.”

The full report is available at <https://sites.duke.edu/tcths>. The data on which the report is based can be accessed at <http://kurzman.unc.edu/muslim-american-terrorism/annual-report>.

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