Homegrown Jihad in America

Adam Kredo writes in the <u>recent figures</u> published by New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

The largest number of homegrown extremists were caught providing material support to various terror organizations, while at least 21 percent of the terrorists were found to be planning attacks in the United States, according to the figures.

Another 10 percent successfully carried out terror attacks in California, New York, Tennessee, and Massachusetts, according to the data, which shows that the New York City area was home to the largest number of violent extremists.

Violent extremists were found be operating across the continental United States, including California, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, and states along the East Coast, according to the data, which confirms separate reports showing that there were <u>unprecedented rise</u> in the number of foiled terror plots in the United States.

Congressional attempts to investigate the immigration histories of at least 113 foreign-born individuals snagged on terror charges since 2014 have been stymied by the Obama administration. There remain at least 1,000 open investigations into ISIS members residing in the United States.

Officials with New Jersey's homeland security agency determined that radicalized extremists have demonstrated a continuing ability to operate across the United States, prompting concern from some terrorism experts who warn that the American homeland remains highly vulnerable to violent extremists.

"In 2015, [homegrown violent extremists] demonstrated an

ability to operate in New Jersey and throughout the United States while connecting with like-minded individuals online and acting independently from organized terrorist groups," New Jersey's homeland security agency stated in a brief of the latest terror figures. "Since late 2014, a variety of radical groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have encouraged [extremists] to attack in their home countries."

At least 87 percent of these terrorists are connected to ISIS, while the rest have aligned themselves with the al Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra Front and other Salafi jihadi groups.

The data shows that 23 of the 75 extremists discovered by authorities were either plotting attacks on the United States or caught after successfully conducting them, according to the figures.

A portion of these individuals, at least 4 percent, has fled overseas, the data shows. The rest were arrested or killed by authorities.

Nearly half of the 75 extremists attempted in some way to travel overseas, in many cases to receive training or resources from foreign terror groups.

Federal and local authorities continue to disrupt terror plots across America.

At the same time, the Obama administration is