

Why Minneapolis is the US Hub for ISIS Recruitment?



Abdi Nur, right, posted a photo online from Syria. A friend, Abdullah Yusuf, left, was stopped as he tried to depart. Top, an image of Western passports put up by a Twitter user who says she is an American with the Islamic State. Source; New York Times

The Sunday New York Times had a front page story on the chronicle of a pair Somali émigré youths in the Twin Cities, one of whom successfully traveled to Syria to join ISIS, while his friend was stopped before he could board a flight to join his fellow mujahideen, "[From Minneapolis to ISIS: An American's Path to Jihad](#)". Abdi Nur was the 20 year old community college attendee who originally wanted to become a lawyer, instead opting for becoming a Jihadist recruit for the Islamic State Caliphate in Raqqa, Syria. His unlucky comrade, 18 year old, Abdullah Yusuf didn't make it and finds himself sentenced by the court to the equivalent of a re-education program by a federal judge. Both boys may have been recruited by a youth leader at a Bloomington, Minnesota Al Farooq Mosque. The article covers the story we [wrote](#) about last September concerning the death of Abdirahmaan Muhumed an ISIS jihadi, a 29 year old Somali Emigre from Minneapolis, who had airport security access while working as a airline cleaner. The article attempts to explain what attracted Somali émigré youths and other American Muslims to the Salafist Jihadist Takfir doctrine. Why they were motivated to pick up stakes, abandon their families, cruise IS social media, eventually downloading a veritable *Fodor* -type guide for Hijrah (immigration) to the Islamic State and obtain free plane tickets to travel to the Caliphate. The *Times* authors focus on federal investigations and local community intervention and re-education programs that appear to offer few if any relevant answers.

This is the latest story of how the [US humanitarian refugee program](#), controlled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, flooded this major Midwestern community with 100,000 East Africa Muslims. Many of them failed to assimilate into American culture with radical Mosques [recruiting](#) dozens of native born jihadists to fight and die for first al Shabaab in Somalia and now for ISIS in Syria. We have [written](#) about this repeatedly since 2008. The *Times* article didn't delve into how the Somali refugees came to the Twin cities with the assistance of voluntary agencies paid by the State Department and Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement to process them, provide cash assistance, Medicaid and receive a green card to eventually citizens. All while many of these Muslim émigrés rejected American values, instead seeking to impose their Sharia law on the host non-Muslim community.



Erick Stakelbeck on Tuesday, March 17th, aired his version of this story on CBN's *The Watchman*, ["Minneapolis- the US Capital of ISIS"](#) – a prelude for his latest book, [ISIS Exposed: Beheadings, Slavery and the Hellish Realities of Radical Islam](#), by Regenery Publishing. We are rapidly ploughing through it and will review it for the April NER; hopefully along with a short interview with Stakelbeck about ISIS and the failure of US policy. Stakelbeck's latest book, like his previous books on [The Brotherhood; America's Next Great Enemy](#) and [Terrorist Next Door: How the Government is Deceiving You About the Islamist Threat](#) reads like a thriller, but with a very important message. Stakelbeck knows the Somali émigré terror recruit story and how our humanitarian refugee program played a major role in creating the radical Muslim environment in these communities that indoctrinated and recruited these youths. He visits the areas that have the look and feel of Mogadishu in Minnesota. He speaks with frustrated Somali community and former law enforcement officials about the

futility of trying to divert these youths from a likely dead end that have befallen dozens who preceded them. He also delves into what attracts these young American Somali and other Muslim émigrés and converts to follow this delusional self destruction jihadist cause.

[Watch](#) Stakelbeck CBN ISIS program.

Last Monday, March 16th, Dr. Michael Welner, Chairman of The Forensic Panel was [interviewed](#) on Bill Bennett's *Morning America* program about what attracts Western and other foreign Muslims, to join the barbaric cause of the Islamic State. Welner provided insights as to what attracts Islamic State recruits that raise serious questions about the social media messaging initiatives of the Obama Administration. Forensic Psychiatrist Dr. Michael Welner explains the root of ISIS's appeal and why people continue to join its cause.

In the face of the rise of ISIS and its attraction of Muslims to Syria and Iraq from all over the world, syndicated radio host Bill Bennett welcomed Michael Welner, M.D. back to his program to discuss the apparent popularity of ISIS. Dr. Welner, known to NER readers, is Chairman of The Forensic Panel and one of America's most highly-regarded forensic psychiatrists. He is routinely consulted on the most complex forensic cases across the United States, such as the ongoing New York trial of the accused kidnapper of young [Etan Patz](#), and known to our readers for his work on the [Omar Khadr Guantanamo case](#) and in pioneering research an evidence-based standard of the worst of crimes, the [Depravity Standard](#).

In response to Bennett's invitation, Dr. Welner confronted the apparent paradox of ISIS recruitment successes in the face of its disturbing beheadings. As he explained to Bennett, Dr. Welner noted that non-Muslims do not appreciate the significance of the Caliphate declared by ISIS leader al-Baghdadi. ISIS is attracting followers of a utopian and unadulterated Islam abandoned over 1000 years ago, of a faith

of strict dogmatic adherence to the Qu'ran. These Caliphate ideals prompt an obligation among the devout to serve the Caliphate in whatever capacity needed, and involve a plan of nation building of the idealized Muslim society on land the Caliphate controls. Beheadings (and enslavement and immolation) are proscribed by the Qu'ran for cleansing those Muslims deemed to be apostate, and followers allow for these methods as necessary measures in the building of a messianic ideal, evoking the cleansing of Pol Pot's Cambodia. ISIS exploits these punitive options to inspire fear of the consequences of resistance among its local opponents. At the same time, ISIS inspires quiet among Muslims generally because to contest its methods would be to contest the Qu'ran. This psychological control, explains Dr. Welner, is an adaptation of political correctness, Muslim style.

While the West and its feckless academia-media ruling classes muddle through looking away from how ISIS is laying waste to all religions in the Arab world, consistent with the intelligentsia's uselessness in genocide historically, Dr. Welner lays out an approach for how America should confront the ISIS threat militarily and in its public information, in a segment Bennett termed "masterful." Readers of the NER will be familiar with how American exceptionalism is key to the solution from our interview with Dr. Welner in the aftermath of the [\(Oklahoma Beheading NER interview\)](#).

[Listen](#) to this informative You Tube interview with Dr. Welner by Bill Bennett: