

# What Came First, The Violent Extremists Or The Violent Extremist Breeding Ground?

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# Thesis

The policy efforts which are succeeding are largely domestic, pertaining to both law and policy advances, by preventing extremist individuals from traveling abroad. International agencies, while attempting to address poverty and humanitarian needs, have a more harmful than helpful impact, as it relates to countering violent extremism.

# Research Questions

- What accounts for the difference in dataset information?
- How does federal agency mission influence its development of an approach to an overarching countering violent extremism policy?
- Which type of agency, international or domestic, is more effective with countering violent extremism?

# Dataset Findings

Dataset	Chesney	Fordham Law	GW Program
ISIS-related Charges or Prosecutions	70	97	115
Total Records	114	97	150
Total Mentioned	<b>125</b>		

**Chesney:** Relies on press releases and criminal charges from the DOJ website; encompasses terrorist organizations, including al-Shabaab, Al Qaeda, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the KKK.

**Fordham Law:** Relies on press releases and criminal charges from the DOJ website along with media reports, social media monitoring.

**GW Program:** Relies on press releases and criminal charges from the DOJ website along with media reports, social media monitoring and interviews; however, limitations exist about reliability and amount of publicly available information

I categorized the results with certain priorities in mind: whether they relate to ISIS and the commensurability of cases, by case name, and identifying case facts.

# International: United States Agency for International Development

- Somalia and Kenya

Somalia: population has doubled since 1970, but food production and levels of community resilience have not.

US AID 2009: \$406 million to Somalia to, in pertinent part, invest in people, humanitarian assistance, security and counterterrorism

Al Shabaab: an insurgent group dedicated to making a greater Somalia

**2009-2011:** 1,000 to 7,000 fighters

Two attacks per month roughly killing 12 people

Influence over 55 percent of Somalian population

**2011-2016:** 3,000 – 8,000 fighters

Between 35 and 71 people are killed per month in al Shabaab attacks

# Domestic: Department of Homeland Security

New Dataset	
ISIS-Related Charges or Prosecutions	48
From	8
Traveled	5
Attempted*	25

\* Attempted refers to: attempted, discussed, expressed interest, wanted and wish to travel overseas

# Domestic: Department of the Treasury

- Executive Order: 13,224
- Office of Foreign Asset Control
  - Several hundred million dollars
  - Designated over 500 individuals

# Implications

- Congress along with safety and security agencies, are developing CVE laws and policies relying upon inconsistent data.
- Some CVE efforts abroad are less harmful than helpful to the overall mission to end violent extremism.



# Recommendations

- A new dataset, focusing specifically on CVE and ISIS-related crimes, should be developed and maintained.
- Monetary allocation should be reevaluated to maximize CVE efforts, focusing domestically.