

Beat: Politics

PRESIDENT OBAMA PROVIDES PREVIEW ON HIS SPEECH ON EXTREMISM

STILL FACING THREATS OF SMALLER ATTACKS?

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USPA NEWS - The U.S. is announcing a plan to streamline its online counter-terrorism efforts, according to The New York Times. Video provided by Newsy Newslook.

"Our campaign to prevent people around the world from being radicalized to violence is ultimately a battle for hearts and minds," Obama writes.

Saying that "we know that military force alone cannot solve this problem," Obama writes that "we also have to confront the violent extremists -- the propagandists, recruiters and enablers -- who may not directly engage in terrorist acts themselves, but who radicalize, recruit and incite others to do so."

That is one of the purposes of the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, which Obama addresses on Wednesday and Thursday.

The summit takes place as conservatives criticize Obama for avoiding the term "Islamic extremism."

In his Los Angeles Times op-ed, Obama says that groups like the Islamic State -- also known as ISIL -- as well as the Pakistan Taliban, al-Shabaab, and Boko Haram pervert religion with attacks in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

"Groups like al Qaeda and ISIL promote a twisted interpretation of religion that is rejected by the overwhelming majority of the world's Muslims," Obama writes. "The world must continue to lift up the voices of Muslim clerics and scholars who teach the true peaceful nature of Islam."

At the extremism summit, community leaders from Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Boston will discuss ways in which their cities "are helping empower communities to protect their loved ones from extremist ideologies," Obama writes.

The president also says "the world has to offer today's youth something better," including a guarantee of basic human rights.

Saying that "the United States has made significant gains against terrorism," Obama writes that American efforts have decimated the al Qaeda leadership "and worked to prevent another large-scale attack like 9/11."

But "the threat has evolved," Obama notes, citing the murders of American citizens in places ranging from Benghazi, Libya, to Fort Hood, Texas, to Boston, Mass.

Muslims, Jews, and a variety of religions have also been terror targets, Obama notes.

He adds: "Americans of all faiths and backgrounds must continue to stand united with a community in mourning and insist that no one should ever be targeted because of who they are, what they look like, or how they worship."

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