

RECRUITING ONLINE

Since our launch in 2014, CEP has tracked terrorist recruiters and propagandists operating on behalf of [ISIS](#) and [al-Qaeda](#). CEP's [Digital Disruption](#) project highlights the systemic problem of online recruitment by profiling [dozens](#) of terrorist-affiliated operatives, and calling for action on the part of businesses and service providers to systematically address this major public safety issue.

As part of this effort, CEP has studied the influence and danger of **terrorist recruiters operating online**. Although many of the extremists listed below are subject to U.N. sanctions, the corresponding arms embargo, travel ban, and assets freeze have done little to address the issue of online recruiting and trafficking. Indeed, individuals working on behalf of such notorious terrorist recruiters as Australian-born ISIS recruiter Neil Prakash and British-born Sally Jones have operated freely online even following their designations in June 2015 and September 2015, respectively.

Following the tragic June 12, 2016, Orlando attack, then-President Barack Obama pointed out that extremist content online is “pervasive” and “easily accessible.” Clearly, the ability of terrorist recruiters to successfully use social media, private messaging applications, and other Internet services to recruit remotely to terror remains an ongoing and dangerous problem.



Neil Prakash, also known as Abu Khaled al-Cambodi, is an Australian recruiter and facilitator for [ISIS](#) who was detained by Turkish authorities in late 2016. Prior to his detention, Prakash was the most senior Australian fighting with the terrorist group and was sanctioned by the United Nations in June 2015. In the spring of 2015, an ISIS guidebook named Prakash as one of its top recruiters and facilitators. Prakash survived a U.S. airstrike that reportedly targeted him in April 2016. He is reportedly in Turkey and the Australian government has sought his extradition.

For more on Prakash, see CEP's [Neil Prakash](#) report.

Sally Jones is a British recruiter for [ISIS](#) who has been sanctioned by the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the United Nations. Despite these restrictions—including an international assets freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo—Jones has repeatedly reappeared on Twitter, where she has published kill lists of U.S. veterans and threatened terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom.

For more information on Jones, see CEP's [Sally Jones](#) report.



Omar Hussain is a U.S.- and U.N.-designated British-born jihadist who reportedly traveled to Syria under the guise of a humanitarian mission to take up arms with ISIS. Since arriving in Syria in January 2014, Hussain has repeatedly taken to social media to threaten attacks on the United Kingdom, as recently as March 2016. He

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has also promoted what ISIS heralds to be its social welfare via his posts and videos on Facebook, Tumblr, and Twitter.

For more on Hussain, see CEP's [Omar Hussain](#) report.

Aqsa Mahmood is a Scottish propagandist and recruiter for ISIS. In 2013, then-19-year-old Mahmood reportedly left her Glasgow home and moved to ISIS-held territory in Syria. Mahmood has propagandized for ISIS on various social media platforms, including Twitter and Tumblr. British authorities suspect that Mahmood used social media to help radicalize British teenagers Shamima Begum, Khadiza Sultana, and Amira Abase, who left their homes for ISIS-held territory in February 2015.

For more on Mahmood, see CEP's [Aqsa Mahmood](#) report.



Nasser Muthana, also known as Abu Muthana al-Yemeni, is a British propagandist, recruiter, facilitator, and foreign fighter who has lured individuals to ISIS-held territory via Twitter, Surespot, and other online services. Muthana appeared in the ISIS video, “There Is No Life Without Jihad,” boasting that ISIS will “come back and we will even go to Jordan and Lebanon with no problems, wherever our sheikh [Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi] wants to send us.”

For more on Muthana, see CEP's [Nasser Muthana](#) report.

Raphael Hostey, also known as Abu Qaqa, is a British propagandist, recruiter, and facilitator for [ISIS](#). CEP has monitored Hostey's use of Twitter and other social media platforms—including Tumblr, Ask.fm, and Askbook—to promote and recruit. On Hostey's [@Khattab10794099](#) account, he called himself a co-worker of Australian operative [Neil Prakash](#) by linking to Prakash's Surespot account. Hostey was reported killed in Syria in late April or early May of 2016, although the United Kingdom has not formally confirmed his death.

For more on Hostey, see CEP's [Raphael Hostey](#) report.



Jihad Serwan Mostafa is an American citizen who moved to Somalia in 2005 and joined al-Shabab, earning him a place on the FBI's Most Wanted list. Mostafa is believed to have trained and instructed al-Shabab militants as well as recruited foreign fighters. He also reportedly carries out social media activities for the terror group.

For more on Mostafa, see CEP's [Jihad Serwan Mostafa](#) report.

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Ahmad Musa Jibril is an American Islamist preacher who has reportedly influenced Westerners to fight in Syria. From his home in Michigan, Jibril posts Internet lectures praising jihad and Syrian rebels, although Jibril does not specifically call upon his followers to join terror groups. According to a 2014 report by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), Jibril is one of the most influential figures for Western foreign fighters to Syria. He “adopts the role of a cheerleader: supporting the principles of armed opposition to Assad.”



For more on Jibril, see CEP’s [Ahmad Musa Jibril](#) report.

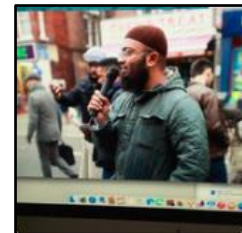


Abdullah Faisal, born Trevor Forrest, is an internationally banned propagandist currently operating from Jamaica. Faisal is the leader of Authentic Tauheed, a radical organization aligned with [ISIS](#), with a website available at [authentictauheed.com](#). According to the U.K. government, Faisal played a role in radicalizing December 2001 shoe bomber [Richard Reid](#). Faisal has also been linked to July 2005 London bomber [Germaine Lindsay](#), as well as [Zacarias Moussaoui](#), the only person to have been convicted in a U.S. court for involvement in the 9/11 attacks. The United States has sought Faisal’s extradition from

Jamaica.

For more on Faisal, see CEP’s [Abdullah Faisal](#) report.

Abu Sayfillah is an Islamist preacher and associate of [Anjem Choudary](#) who uses social media outlets to propagandize in support of [ISIS](#). Sayfillah has operated on Twitter and a YouTube channel, where he has touted the benefits of sharia (Islamic law), and warned against the evils of nationalism, democracy, and interfaith dialogue.



For more on Sayfillah, see CEP’s [Abu Sayfillah](#) report.



Yusuf al-Qaradawi is an 89-year-old Muslim Brotherhood radical Islamist theoretician and ideologue. His writings, speeches, and fatwas have called for the murder of American civilians and troops in Iraq, the execution of homosexuals, and the killing of Jews. Yusuf al-Qaradawi lives in Doha, Qatar, and reaches a worldwide audience both through his successful television program, *al-Sharī‘a wa al-Ḥayāhor* “Sharia and Life,” as well as through Twitter, where al-Qaradawi reaches 1.2 million followers.

For more on al-Qaradawi, see CEP’s [Yusuf al-Qaradawi](#) report.

For more on CEP’s Digital Disruption campaign and opportunities to take action, click [here](#).

For more on recruiters, inciters to violence, and terrorist-affiliated operatives online, see CEP’s profiles released in [November 2015](#) and [December 2015](#).