

Minneapolis Chapter

Debbie Anderson, Coordinator for the Minneapolis Chapter of ACT for America

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

While talking about hate crimes, we need to address the issue of Islamic terrorism, also known as Jihad (which Islamic law defines as warfare against non-Muslims). Since 9/11, there have been over 29,000 lethal attacks across the globe motivated by Islamic doctrine, and as we have witnessed during the last year, this security problem is getting worse, not better.

During the second week of September, 2016, in my home state Minnesota, a Somali Muslim entered a shopping mall, asked shoppers if they were Muslims, and stabbed those who were not. After stabbing 9 persons, including a pregnant woman, the attacker was shot and killed by an off-duty police officer.

This was clearly a violent "hate crime" against non-Muslims.

Disturbingly, and in spite of the evidence, the American authorities did not address the motivations and aims of the perpetrator adequately, contrary to OSCE recommendations. To adequately put an end to the threat of terrorism, our authorities have as their professional duty to clearly identify the motivations and aims of the perpetrators.

Unfortunately, Minneapolis, MN is a model city for Countering Violent Extremism (aka CVE), this attack can be considered an example that the CVE strategy is not achieving its stated goals.

In the necessary effort of protecting the safety of non-Muslims from jihad, ACT for America recommends:

- That Jihad (which Islamic law defines as warfare against non-Muslims) be included in the OSCE guidelines as a hate crime.
- That OSCE recognize jihad as part of an attempt to replace democratic law with shariah, and thus, an assault on the freedoms of non-Muslims as well.
- Finally, that the US authorities recognize that CVE is not working, and apply an analytical approach to identifying the nature of these security threats.