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SYRIAN REFUGEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Woodall). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, although there are apparently those in the media that think it is fun to belittle people who express their great sympathy, thoughts, and prayers for the victims and their families out in San Bernardino, California, right now, those of us who care do extend our thoughts and prayers for those people.

We don't know quite yet who the perpetrators were. I think this is important, as we have been talking about Syrian refugees quite a bit the last few weeks, and the President's intention to bring Syrian refugees into this country.

Our friend, Senator Jeff Sessions, provided a list of 12 vetted refugees from areas where we actually had material, where we had information. Unlike the Syrian refugees, the FBI and Homeland Security felt they had plenty of information to vet these individuals, did vet them, thoroughly checked them out, and then brought them into the country.

This article from Neil Munro is dated November 24, 2015. He mentions: ``Senator Jeff Sessions is out with a list of 12 vetted refugees who quickly joined jihad plots to attack the United States.

``He's spotlighting the refugees-turned-jihadis because he's trying to prod GOP leaders into halting Congress' normal practice of giving the President huge leeway to import foreign migrants and refugees into the United States.''

It goes on: ``Obama says the new refugees will be vetted. But top security officials say the Syrians can't be vetted because the U.S. doesn't know what they were doing in Syria before they applied for refugee status.''

{time} 2045

The article goes on:

``Besides, many of the jihad attempts in the United States are launched by the children of Muslim refugees and migrants. That list include the two Chechen brothers who bombed the Boston Marathon, and Anwar al-Awlaki who was killed by a U.S. missile strike when he fled to Yemen after the 9/11 atrocity. That means the Americans' federal government is actively importing national-security problems that will eventually cost billions of dollars to manage, but cannot be eliminated.''

And this list only covers 2015. There may be many more from 2015. There are certainly many more from prior years.

But here are just some of the individuals that this administration completely vetted, made sure they were not a threat to the United States and our people, and, yet, brought them in only to find they were and are terrorists.

On January 29, 2015, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, a Federal warrant was unsealed for the arrest of Liban Haji Mohamed--a native of Somalia who sources indicate came to the United States as a refugee, adjusted to lawful permanent resident status, and subsequently and applied for and received citizenship.

``Mohamed is believed to have left the U.S. on July 5, 2012, with the

intent to join Al-Shabaab in East Africa. Mohamed previously lived in the metro D.C. area and worked as a cab driver, and is believed to have snuck across the border to Mexico after being placed on the no-fly list. Carl Ghattas, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Washington, D.C. Field Office, emphasized the importance of locating Mohamed: 'Because he has knowledge of the Washington, D.C., area's infrastructure such as shopping areas, Metro, airports, and government buildings, this makes him an asset to his terrorist associates who might plot attacks on U.S. soil.' ' ' One refugee.

Second refugee: On February 5, 2015, a native of Somalia came to the United States as a refugee. And this was done under the Bush administration. Abdinassir Mohamud Ibrahim came at the age of 22, in 2007, and then was later adjusted to lawful permanent resident status.

But, on February 5, he was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for conspiring to provide material support to Al-Shabaab, a designated foreign terrorist organization. He lied on his application for citizenship, lied on his request for refugee status, and falsely claimed--these are what he was convicted of and charged with--falsely claiming that he was a member of the minority Awer clan in Somalia and subject to persecution by the majority Hawiye clan. However, Ibrahim was actually a member of the clan that was the persecutor and not the persecuted. That was Mr. Abdinassir Mohamud Ibrahim.

Also, in Missouri, Abdullah Ramo Pazara, a native of Bosnia, came to the United States as a refugee, completely

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vetted, adjusted to lawful permanent resident status, was made a citizen in 2013, 5 years into the President's administration.

He has been named in an indictment with five other individuals as a terrorist. He is thought to be dead, but the others listed provided material support to Pazara who allegedly left the United States to go to Syria and fight with ISIS just 11 days after becoming a U.S. citizen.

Then there is also Ramiz Zijad Hodzic. A native of Bosnia, he is a purported Bosnian war hero who came to the United States as a refugee. He is charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists and providing material support to terrorists.

You also have this year Sedina Unkic Hodzic, wife of Ramiz Zijad Hodzic, also a native of Bosnia. She came to the U.S. as a refugee. She is charged this year with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists and providing support to terrorists.

Then you have Armin Harcevic. He came to the United States as a refugee from Bosnia and subsequently had that adjusted to lawful permanent resident status. He is charged with providing material support to terrorists. He collected money from third parties and wired it and his own funds to terrorists.

Then you also have Nihad Rosic, a native of Bosnia, who sources indicate came to the United States as a refugee. He applied for and was granted citizenship and has been charged with conspiring to provide material support and actually providing material support to terrorists.

He is a truck driver and a former mixed martial arts fighter. He previously had been charged with endangering the welfare of a child after punching a woman in the face while she held a child. In a separate incident, he was charged with assault after allegedly beating his girlfriend. But, apparently, nothing came of those charges until he was charged with supporting terrorism.

Mediha Medy Salkicevic, a native of Bosnia, came to the United States as a refugee, applied for and was granted citizenship, was also charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists and providing that support to terrorists.

Salkicevic was formerly an employee with a cargo company that deals with items coming in and out of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, another refugee alleged by this administration to now be a terrorist.

Jasminka Ramic, a native of Bosnia, came as a refugee, applied for

and was made a citizen, was charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists and providing that support to terrorists by this administration.

You have got Abdurahman Yasin Daud, born in a refugee camp in Kenya. He came to the United States as a refugee when he was a child and was subsequently adjusted to a lawful permanent resident, has been charged with conspiracy to attempt to provide material support to ISIS. He and another individual are alleged to have driven from Minnesota to San Diego to attempt to get passports, cross the border in Mexico, and fly to Syria.

Also, this year you have Guled Ali Omar, born in a Kenyan refugee camp. He came to the United States as a refugee. The United States gave him citizenship. This administration has charged him with conspiracy and attempting to provide material support to ISIS.

Another one of his brothers, Mohamed Ali Omar, was convicted in March of threatening Federal agents when they came to the residence to interview Guled Omar.

The U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota said that Omar "never stopped plotting" and had previously attempted to leave the United States, another one of the refugees turned U.S. citizen, all the while, at least part of the time, a terrorist.

And then also this year, in August, a native of Uzbekistan, Fazliddin Kurbanov, came as a refugee in 2009, was found guilty on charges he conspired and attempted to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and possessed an unregistered destructive device.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Carlin stated that he conspired to provide material support to the Islamic movement of Uzbekistan and procured bomb-making materials in the interest of perpetrating a terrorist attack on American soil.

According to press reports, Kurbanov began his life as a Muslim, supposedly faced persecution when his family converted to Christianity and came to the United States with his family as a refugee, and, as it turned out, he is Islamic and radicalized.

So it is interesting. This administration assures us we have nothing to fear, nothing to be concerned about. I am not afraid, but I am concerned about the oath that every one of us take.

We are supposed to provide for the common defense in this country. It is an obligation we have. I think it is the most important obligation we have. We are supposed to protect the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

As Andrew McCarthy pointed out this past week in one of his articles on National Review Online, it should be important not merely to check to see if we have any information about an individual wanting to come here as a refugee or gaining a visa, however they intend to come, illegally, as millions have, more are every day.

It would be important to ask not simply is this person a terrorist right now, but it would also be important to ask: Are you one of the two-thirds or so that have been reported to be in the United States or wanting to come into the United States as a Muslim who believes that Shari'ah law should replace the Constitution?

Because, if those reports are accurate, that two-thirds of the Muslims here believe Shari'ah should replace the Constitution, and they are immigrants and they become citizens, then it means that they absolutely perjured themselves in their oath.

That should be grounds for revoking their citizenship. And if it can't be used as such, we need to make sure it is used as such by what we do here in Congress.

In the meantime, we have heard Ben Rhodes and so many others say: Oh, yeah. No. The FBI, Homeland Security, are going to be able to vet everybody really well.

FBI Director Comey has made clear publicly--regardless of what he said privately, that does not change anything he said publicly. Publicly he has made clear: Yeah. We will vet them. But when you tell

us their names, we have nothing to either verify or disprove what they have said.

We have got nothing. We don't have any records from Syria. We don't know if they are even from Syria. We don't know. We don't have the information to vet them.

FBI had more information to vet people coming from Iraq, and we know that they missed a couple of terrorists that were in Kentucky that were allowed in. I think it was 2009. And it turns out they just missed that their fingerprints--at least one of them--was on an IED in Iraq. The guy is a terrorist.

{time} 2100

So despite what this administration tries to assuage, the borders are open. We have Syrian refugees that the President is bringing into the United States, even when Governors say: We understand you can't vet these people, so you are not bringing them into our States.

I see this afternoon that the Governor of my State, Greg Abbott, has sued the administration because the administration has made clear: We don't care what you think, we don't care that you are Governor of your State, and we don't care about the 10th Amendment. We say we are putting Syrian refugees in Texas, and there is nothing you can do about that.

Mr. Speaker, that kind of reminds me of the kind of things that King George and his bureaucrats used to say before the Revolution. When King George decided he would put his British soldiers anywhere he wanted to and there was nothing the people here could do about it, he would put them in their houses. He didn't care what it did to their property values. He didn't care anything about that. We don't need a revolution. We just need to have Congress hold the President accountable for his administration's lawlessness.

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Mr. Speaker, the President has got to secure our borders. He is putting American lives at risk every day. He is putting American lives further at risk since we know now we routinely have people that are completely vetted by the FBI, Homeland Security, and it turns out they are terrorists. The Tsarnaev brothers, even after Russia warned the CIA and the FBI that this guy, this older brother, has been radicalized, the FBI talked to him. He said: I am not radicalized. It is not his exact words. You talk to his mother, she said: No, he is a good boy. And then he went and killed people at the Boston Marathon with his brother.

If we can't even stop people when we are alerted that they are terrorists, how in the world does this President and this administration think they are going to keep the American people safe?

The report here, December 1, Tom LoBianco with CNN, said: ``President Barack Obama's former top military intelligence official said Tuesday that the White House ignored reports prefacing the rise of ISIS in 2011 and 2012 because they did not fit their reelection `narrative.'

`` `I think they did not meet a narrative the White House needed. And I'll be very candid with you, they just didn't,' retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, the former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency . . . `I think the narrative was that al Qaeda was on the run, and Osama bin Laden was dead . . . they're dead and these guys are, we've beaten them,' Flynn said, but the problem was that despite how many terrorist leaders they killed they `continue to just multiply.'

``Obama has been criticized by opponents for referring to ISIS as the `JV squad' and apparently underestimating the group's threat.''

Well, Mr. Speaker, since we know the President has underestimated ISIS as a threat, clearly underestimated them, and there is no clear strategy to deal with them, what makes us think that this administration is going to do a better job of vetting potential terrorists coming into this country and underestimating them the way

they have so many other refugees that have been brought into the country?

Another article from Jim Hoft, December 2, 2015, quoting the President: ``Yes. He really said this.

`` `You go down to Miami and when it's flooding in high tide on a sunny day, the fish are swimming through the middle of the streets.' ''

The Wall Street Journal reported the same thing, the same quote. But The Wall Street Journal reported: ``We go down to Miami with some frequency and have never seen any such thing. And believe us, we know how to troll.''

But the President can find fish in the streets of Miami that nobody else seems to see, but he can't seem to notice how wide open our border is, what a threat to our security it is, and what a threat refugees are who we cannot determine who they are, where they came from, what they did, if they kill people, if they are terrorists. He didn't see any of that.

There was a report from today, 4:20 actually, from Adam Kredo from freebeacon.com: ``More than 179,000 illegal immigrants convicted of committing crimes, including violent ones, continue to roam free across the United States, with reports indicating that these illegal immigrants commit new crimes `every day,' according to lawmakers and the director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, also known as ICE.

``Sarah Saldana, ICE's director, disclosed to Congress on Wednesday that the agency is apprehending and removing fewer illegal immigrants than in past years.

``Somewhere around 179,029 `undocumented criminals with final orders of removal' from the United States currently remain at large across the country and are essentially untraceable, according to Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who disclosed these numbers during a Wednesday hearing.

``The total number of criminal illegal immigrants in the United States is in the millions.

``Illegal immigrant criminals are known to be committing new crimes `every day,' according to Sen. Jeff Sessions, another member of the committee.

``Focus on the threat of criminal illegal aliens comes amid a wider national debate on immigration to the United States and the threat posed by potential terrorists and other criminals.

``The Washington Free Beacon disclosed in August that the Obama administration had been keeping secret the release of violent criminal illegal immigrants and only began notifying local law enforcement agencies about this within the last several months.

``The administration is continuing a policy of hiding information about this issue, as `several administration officials informed the committee they were unable to testify because the hearing wasn't ``in response to a particular crisis,' '' Grassley said.

``Saldana revealed at the hearing that somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 illegal immigrants previously convicted of crimes have been released from custody in recent years due to legal restrictions on how long the agency can detain an individual.''

Here is a quote from Saldana. She said: `` `Whether it's a result of protracted appeals or refusal of a country to accept its nationals back, this decision accounts for somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 convicted criminal alien releases in recent years' . . . noting that the number has dropped over time.

``Lawmakers remain concerned that the Obama administration is dragging its feet when it comes to taking action to deport criminal illegal immigrants. While President Obama has vowed that this would be a priority for his administration, these criminals continue to be released into the United States.

`` `Many criminals remain in our communities,' Grassley said. `When will enough be enough? Even those with violent criminal histories aren't being removed as promised . . . American citizens are paying the price while law enforcement officers are instructed to look the other

way.'

``There have been `thousands of victims' of crimes committed by illegal immigrants and `many of the agency's own officers are unable to do the job they signed up to do,' Grassley said.

``The Obama administration is removing fewer total illegal immigrants from the United States than it was just a few years ago, according to Senator Sessions.

`` `Not only are total removals down, but the number of removals of criminal aliens from the interior of the United States, the so-called priority, has decreased significantly,' he said. `The reason for this decrease is not because there are fewer criminal aliens in the U.S. today than just a few years ago, there are hundreds of thousands of known criminal aliens in the United States.'

`` `New crimes are committed every day by criminal aliens, so while we're not seeing a decrease in crimes committed across this country, we are seeing a decrease in removals of criminal aliens,' Sessions said.

``This cannot be blamed on a lack of financial resources, Sessions said, as Congress has increased funding. Still, deportations have plummeted and the administration is `doing substantially less with substantially more.'

`` `Our goal should be to keep 100 percent of all criminal aliens out of the United States. . . . There's nothing wrong or controversial about such a policy.'

``Saldana confirmed that `overall apprehensions on the border are declining' and the agency's `removal numbers are lower than they have been in recent years.'

``However, she maintained that the administration is removing `at a greater proportion' dangerous criminals.

``Of the 235,000 deportations, 59 percent of them were convicted criminals, according to Saldana . . . Yet she said, `there are also times when despite our best efforts' criminal illegal immigrants `get released from our custody.' ''

An article today from Dianne Solis, Tom Benning, and Brandi Grissom:

``The State of Texas is suing the federal government and the International Rescue Committee, after the New York-based aid agency announced plans to resettle Syrian refugees in Dallas later this week over the strong and repeated objections of Gov. Greg Abbott.

``The State Health and Human Services Commission, filed on Wednesday the suit in U.S. District Court, saying those groups worked to resettle `refugees in Texas without consulting with

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Texas or working in close cooperation with the Commission.'

``The agency, citing `reasonable concerns about the safety and security of the citizenry of the State of Texas' is seeking a temporary retraining order.

`` `We have been working diligently with the International Rescue Committee to find a solution that ensures the safety and security for all Texans, but we have reached an impasse and will now let the courts decide.' ''

That is Health and Human Services spokesman Bryan Black.

Tonight at 6:30, I got this article from Tanya Somanader, President Obama on the shooting in San Bernardino. Here is the transcript of the President's comments. This is in an interview with CBS that President Obama spoke about the ongoing situation in California--going on right now--and the unacceptable pattern of mass shootings the U.S. is facing.

Mr. Speaker, let me just parenthetically insert before reading his quote, we don't know who these shooters are yet. We don't know. We don't know their reason for doing what they did. I mean, some on the left have already tried to report that it was right by a Planned Parenthood facility when that was a mile away, trying to do whatever they can to try to avert responsibility--any responsibility--that the administration has. We have seen Kathryn's Law come about because

Kathryn was shot in California in a sanctuary city that protected people who were illegally in this country and criminals like the one that shot Kathryn. And this administration protects sanctuary cities and lets them continue to just ignore Federal law. The lawlessness of this administration seems to know no bounds. If lawlessness breeds lawlessness, then the lawlessness of this administration has put this country in severe jeopardy.

{time} 2115

But here is what the President said, part of his quote from this evening, about the shooting in California. And I am quoting the President.

``And for those who are concerned about terrorism, some may be aware of the fact that we have a no-fly list where people can't get on planes, but those same people who we don't allow to fly could go into a store right now in the United States and buy a firearm, and there's nothing that we can do to stop them. That's a law that needs to be changed.''

The President, the entire time he has been in office, has tried to subvert the Second Amendment to our United States Constitution and our Bill of Rights. He has tried every which way he can, whether using Social Security laws or all kinds of ways, to take away Americans' Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

As we see that the administration has been knowingly allowing criminals into this country illegally and allowing refugees to come into this country that were terrorists and even finding out, getting word that there were people who have become terrorists and not taking action to stop the death that followed, how dare anyone allow people to come into the United States illegally, knowing that there are some criminals coming in with people that are coming in illegally, knowing that there are criminals in the United States that this administration has allowed to be released after they have committed crimes.

And then coming to the point now today where he says, you American citizens are going to have to give up your Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms because I have allowed so many people who are terrorists in here and we don't want terrorists to get guns. That is an outrage. It should not be allowed to stand against any kind of legitimate reasoning.

You can't bring people into this country that are a threat to the country and then, because all these people are here and they might get a gun, you are going to keep law-abiding people from getting guns. That is wrong, and it has to be stopped.

I hope and pray our Congress will stand up and stop the lawlessness and say, we are not letting you bring more refugees into this country that will have some terrorists within their group, as you have already done, and then tell us we have to give up our constitutional rights because you brought terrorists into the country that may want to go buy a gun. Shame on you.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Allen). Members are advised to avoid engaging in personalities toward the President.