

Newsfront



PC Policies in Brussels Threaten US Safety as Well



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As President Obama and Hillary Clinton worry about Islamophobia, **Peter Hoekstra** and **Fred Fleitz** say terrorists are plotting devastating attacks on our shores.

BY REP. PETER HOEKSTRA
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NEWSTHAT SEVERAL OF THE radical jihadists behind the Nov. 13, 2015, Paris attacks were able to escape to Belgium and commit the deadly Brussels bombings stunned many observers.

Why did these Islamist terrorists seek refuge in the heart of Europe rather than fleeing to Syria or Iraq? The chilling answer: Because they had

secure safe havens in Europe. Politically correct thinking by European leaders about radical Islam has led to major intelligence and security failures. Given that President Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton share this thinking, the United States faces similar threats.

For decades, European leaders were more concerned with not offending Muslim populations. They even tolerated so-called limited “no-go” zones —

Islamist safe havens in Europe where jihadists try to prevent security forces and law enforcement from entering. Authorities politely ignored foreign-born radical Islamist clerics. Radical mosques went unmonitored. Radicalized European Islamists were allowed to travel to war zones — including Syria and Iraq — and return to Europe.

Europe’s denial of the threat was made crystal clear after Turkey revealed it had deported Ibrahim El Bakraoui, one of the Brussels suicide bombers, to the Netherlands in June 2015. El Bakraoui, a Belgian citizen, was kicked out of Turkey for being a foreign terrorist fighter. But when the Belgian government failed to establish El Bakraoui’s links to terrorism, Dutch authorities let him walk.



TERROR ABROAD Memorial for victims of Brussels attacks, in which terrorists (inset) killed 35. Secretary Kerry, Belgium Prime Minister Michel, and Foreign Minister Reynders discuss the tragedy.

On the morning of March 22, El Bakraoui and two accomplices carried out devastating attacks at the Brussels airport and at a metro station, claiming 35 lives and leaving more than 300 wounded.

In the past two years, Europe has admitted hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers into the EU. Officials now realize most of them were not refugees, nor were the majority from Iraq and Syria.

About 60 percent were economic migrants pretending to be Syrians from North Africa, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The majority have been military-age men. ISIS has stated it is using these refugee flows to penetrate Europe.

While many European countries have done little to integrate Muslim immigrants into their societies, this is an especially serious problem in Belgium because it is a country long divided between Dutch- and French-speaking communities.

Indeed, Brussels has six separate police forces, and the country's entire security force numbers just 1,500.

The Molenbeek neighborhood of Brussels is an Islamist enclave that has essentially become a no-go zone for Belgian security forces.

The unregulated migration to Europe from terrorist safe havens in Syria, Iraq, and Libya has created a very difficult threat environment throughout Europe.

The influx of Muslims to Sweden over the last two years has trans-

formed the country.

After the Paris and Brussels terrorist attacks, French and Belgian officials launched new investigations and made several arrests. An agreement has been reached to send future Syrian and Iraqi refugees to Turkey. Some refugees will be deported. But these steps fail to address radical Islam as a global ideology at war with Western civilization.

Could America face similar threats due to Obama's approach to radical Islam — and Clinton's if she wins the 2016 election? Both Obama and Clinton refuse to name the enemy — radical Islam — and do not acknowledge it as a global ideology at war with the West. The president plans to admit 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016, even though FBI Director James Comey said last October there is no reliable way to vet them.

Every time there is a radical Islamist attack in the United States like the San Bernardino shooting, Obama and Clinton give lectures on Islamophobia and meet with Ameri-

Night Raids Inconceivably Barred in Belgium

Terrorists in Belgium can always count on getting a good night's rest — police there are not permitted to conduct night-time raids.

Unless police witness a crime in progress, any suspect inside a dwelling after 9 p.m. is beyond the reach of the law until 5 a.m. Several other European nations have similar policies, intended to constrain abuse of police power.

But the cost of that ban may be already etched in blood.

Just days after the Paris attacks that claimed 130 lives, authorities learned suspect Salah Abdeslam was hiding at a specific address in Brussels' Molenbeek district. Because it was already after 9 p.m., however, police could only sit and watch.

Somehow, the Paris bombing suspect slipped away during the night.

When police raided the residence the next morning, Abdeslam — later shown to have ties to at least one of the Brussels suicide bombers — was long gone.

Abdeslam would elude authorities for four more months, before he was finally arrested on March 18 — just four days before the Brussels attack.

After the tragic suicide bombings in Brussels, police showed Abdeslam pictures of the suspects. They asked if he recognized them. "I don't know," he replied. — *Andrew Henry*

can Islamist groups like the Council on American Islamic Relations, which has ties to the terrorist group Hamas. This directly echoes the PC views of EU leaders.

When Americans go to the polls this November, they will have an opportunity to protect our nation and reject the PC thinking of Europe, Barack Obama, and Hillary Clinton.

The stakes for American security could not be higher. □

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