

HPSCI Chairman Mike Rogers Quotes

February 10, 2011 - Worldwide Threat Hearing

Link to Statement - <http://intelligence.house.gov/sites/intelligence.house.gov/files/documents/021011RogersOpeningStatementWWTHearing.pdf>

"Al Qaida has increased the use of westerners and Americans to penetrate our defenses. As we saw with the Fort Hood tragedy, this threat is further complicated by acts of violence by homegrown and "self-radicalized" American militants. We depend on the FBI's unique role to address these complex and growing threats."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

February 21, 2012 - USA Today

Link to Article - <http://usat.ly/1qqmQi7>

"Ayman al-Zawahri, the successor to Osama bin Laden as al-Qaeda's global leader, favors operations that give the militant group territory, Rogers said. "This is very much a Zawahri planning event," he said."

"Zawahri was always arguing, 'We need to go places to hold ground to get involved to stay there,' " Rogers said.

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

March 15, 2013 - Washington Post

Link to Oped - http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/syrias-assad-must-not-be-allowed-to-use-chemical-weapons/2013/03/15/93e74006-8cf0-11e2-b63f-f53fb9f2fcb4_story.html

"[W]e must renew our efforts to create a more stable Syria. It is clear that the current U.S. approach — focusing on diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions while offering next to no military assistance — simply has not worked. For far too long, the United States has ignored pleas for military aid and avoided opportunities to shape both the nature of the Syrian opposition and the direction of this conflict. Because of this passivity, our allies and the Syrian opposition are skeptical of our support and credibility."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

April 11, 2013 - Worldwide Threat Hearing

Link to Statement -

<http://intelligence.house.gov/sites/intelligence.house.gov/files/documents/ChairmanWWT04112013.pdf>

In Syria, Bashar al-Assad responded to civil protests with murderous violence, and after two years of chaos, and 70,000 dead, the country is caught in a bloody

civil war that plays out under the shadow of chemical weapons. The chaos places the entire Levant at risk, and without a change in course, it provides a new safe haven for al-Qaeda to plan future attacks, this time while controlling some of the world's most deadly weapons.

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

June 11, 2013 - USA Today

Link to Oped – <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/06/11/syria-conflict-obama-column/2400617/>

“The conflict in Syria has devolved into an all-out, sectarian-fueled proxy war that is spilling over throughout the Middle East, directly threatening America's national security interests now and teetering on the brink of complete disaster in the near future. We must act urgently to shape the outcome to one that is more in line with America's interests before it's too late.”

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

June 11, 2013 - USA Today

Link to Oped - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/06/11/syria-conflict-obama-column/2400617/>

“Preventing man-portable, air-defense systems and other advanced weapons systems from flooding the Levant and the greater Middle East is in our interest. And eliminating an Iranian proxy regime is in our interest.”

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

June 11, 2013 - USA Today

Link to Oped - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/06/11/syria-conflict-obama-column/2400617/>

“With each passing day of U.S. inaction or pursuit of unrealistic, half-hearted diplomatic efforts, we are losing our credibility with the opposition and harming our ability to get to a political solution in Syria that ends the killing.”

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

June 11, 2013 - USA Today

Link to Oped - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/06/11/syria-conflict-obama-column/2400617/>

“Simply pulling the covers over our eyes and hoping for the best is not an acceptable policy for the most powerful nation on Earth, which the rest of the world looks to for leadership. The Obama administration must decide to stand firmly against the Assad regime and its henchman who are massacring tens of thousands of innocents and unleashing a tornado of chaos in the heart of the Middle East that if left unaddressed could have serious consequences for the rest of the world for years to come.”

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

September 9, 2013 - WDIV's Flashpoint

Video Link - <http://bit.ly/1tAnJWw>

"The President, candidly, in the last five years has tried to disengage and, I argue, has had an abysmal foreign policy record that we are now seeing the price for that. Syria out of control. the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, now that collapsed over, all of those problems, Al Qaeda on the rise in Iraq and now sending people in to Syria. All of the decisions he has made about disengagement and not being interested and not giving and directing foreign policy of the United States, we are paying a price for that today."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

November 14, 2013 - National Journal

Link to Article - <http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/the-next-bin-laden-20131114>

"I think al-Qaida's capabilities for a strike into the United States are more dangerous and more numerous than before 9/11."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

December 1, 2013 - CBS News (from CNN Interview on State of the Union_

Link to Article - <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/rogers-feinstein-us-not-safer-today-than-in-years-past/>

"I absolutely agree that we're not safer today for the same very reasons. So the pressure on our intelligence services to get it right to prevent an attack are enormous. And it's getting more difficult because we see the al Qaeda as we knew it before is metastasizing to something different, more affiliates than we've ever had before, meaning more groups that operated independently of al Qaeda have now joined al Qaeda around the world, all of them have at least some aspiration to commit an act of violence in the United States or against Western targets all around the world."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

December 5, 2013 - Washington Times

Link to Article - <http://bit.ly/1q2hRUV>

Westerners have joined al Qaeda-linked groups in Syria in unprecedented numbers, increasing the risk that they will strike their home countries, including the U.S., a key Republican lawmaker said Thursday.

Rep. Mike Rogers, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said al Qaeda's core group, based on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, sees such Westerners as a means to conduct "external operations."

"Al Qaeda core ... is saying, 'We have so many Westerners who have showed up, who we're training, who we are putting through their paces ... we're giving combat experience to that we are ready to do external operations,'" the Michigan Republican said. "I don't know about the rest of you; that's going to cost me about a week's nights sleep."

Those Westerners have passports from their home countries to which they eventually will return, Mr. Rogers said at a conference in Washington hosted by the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and Al-Monitor, a media site focused on the Middle East.

"We have never seen this number before in the history. That's a problem, a huge problem," he added.

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

May 28, 2014 - Statement by HPSCI Chairman Mike Rogers

Chairman Mike Rogers Statement on President Obama's Foreign Policy Speech at West Point

Link to Statement - <http://intelligence.house.gov/press-release/chairman-mike-rogers-statement-president-obama%E2%80%99s-foreign-policy-speech-west-point>

"I appreciate the President's intentions, but the United States of America must act boldly as we confront a dangerous world. And we must not only speak as if we are an exceptional nation – we must act like it. America has a unique place in the world as the global leader and stabilizing force. A coherent national security strategy requires a recognition of the world the way it is, and not the way we wish it were.

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

June 15, 2014 - FOX News Sunday

"This is an Al Qaeda-inspired group that certainly has al Qaeda ties, that now has the capability to tap people with Western passports to send them back to Europe and the United States for terrorist activity. That's a problem for us."

"Right now, the threat is to the United States and to our European allies, and a rising al Qaeda army. These are not monkey bar terrorists out in the desert somewhere planning some very low-level attack. These are sophisticated, command and controlled, seasoned combat

veterans who understand the value of terrorism operations external to the region, meaning Europe and the United States. That is about as dangerous a recipe as you can put together."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

June 25, 2014 - Christian Science Monitor Press Breakfast – Washington Times Article

Link to Article - <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/25/house-intel-chief-obama-ignored-iraq-warnings/?page=all>

That Washington has been slow to respond to ISIL's rise as leading terrorist organization — seizing a vast swath of territory between Syria and Iraq over the past two weeks — ***"is a result of an indecision, which is a policy failure," Mr. Rogers told reporters*** Wednesday morning at a briefing hosted in Washington by the Christian Science Monitor.

"This is not an intelligence failure, it's a policy failure," said the congressman, who will retire from Congress at the end of this year to host a syndicated radio program.

"Not responding is a decision, not making a decision is a decision," Mr. Rogers said Wednesday, asserting that President Obama's own national security advisers received the same intelligence briefings about ISIL that he and other lawmakers were receiving on Capitol Hill more than a year ago.

"It's not like they didn't get the same stuff that we got," Mr. Rogers said. "And some notion that if we don't do anything really hard, that everything will be just fine, is absolutely — I think it's a bit naive. It's a bit politically self-serving, that you're more concerned about what ratings you have at home than what threats happen overseas."

"We get all the raw intelligence," he said. "It was very clear to me that years ago, ISIL/ISIS was pooling up in a dangerous way — building training camps, recruiting, drawing in jihadists from around the world. We saw all of that happening.

"So some [notion] that we wouldn't have seen this coming, means that you weren't paying attention to the intelligence that was afforded us," the congressman said.

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

August 24, 2014 - Meet the Press (NBC)

"They (ISIL) are one plane ticket away from U.S. shores."

-- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers

