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## CSIS – Venues of Sunni Islamist Radicalization in Canada

Original address: <http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/01/03/islamist-extremists-radicalizing-canadians-at-a-large-number-of-venues-secret-report-reveals/>

Source: Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)

Type of document: Intelligence Assessment (Secret)

Date: February 14, 2012

This CSIS report was released under the Access to Information Act at the request of Stewart Bell from the National Post. Most of its content was deemed too sensitive to be divulged to the public. A large portion of the original report was censored before being released.

Stewart Bell's article was published on January 3, 2013 by the National Post.

The section entitled *Where Does Radicalization Take Place?* contains at least 15 sub-sections. Of those, only 6 are partially available.

### SECTION *Where Does Radicalization Take Place?*

- Sub-section 8. Prisons
- Sub-section 9. Family Settings
- Sub-section 10. Abroad
- Sub-section 12. On-Line Radicalization
- Sub-section 13. Just about Everywhere
- Sub-section 15. Implications



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Canadian Security Intelligence Service

# Intelligence Assessment

**SECRET**

**CSIS IA 2011-12/103  
2012 02 14**

## Venues of Sunni Islamist Radicalization in Canada

### Summary

Radicalization leading to Sunni Islamist extremist violence is occurring in Canada

Radicalization has been detected in a number of venues

Radicalization is not limited to religious centres

Radicalization can occur in non-traditional locations

The Service assesses that radicalization will continue to develop in the foreseeable future in Canada

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### Introduction

1. Sunni Islamist radicalization leading to violence is a serious threat to both Canada and its Allies. Over the past decade, much research has been carried out to understand radicalization and its manifestation to the extent that the Service has a solid grasp on this topic. One of the areas of interest with respect to radicalization relates to the locations in which it has taken place. This intelligence assessment will examine venues where radicalization has been detected in Canada.

### What is Radicalization?

2. Radicalization is defined as the process through which an individual or a group moves from mainstream, socially acceptable beliefs and activities to those which exist on the fringes of society and are increasingly unacceptable. In its most dangerous form, radicalization leads to the use of or the support for violence. The Service has been studying radicalization for a number of years and has published many assessments on aspects of this phenomenon. At its heart, radicalization to violence is an individual process that remains impervious to profiling or

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simplistic categorization.

**Where does Radicalization Take Place?**

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**Page 4 of 8 is entirely missing in the copy of the report released by CSIS under the Access to Information Act.**

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### **Prisons**

8. Many intelligence services have examined the phenomenon of radicalization in the context of correctional institutions. Both the Service and the Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC) have examined the issue from a Canadian perspective<sup>5</sup>.

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### **Family Settings**

9. Parents have radicalized children

<sup>5</sup> See CSIS Intelligence Report IB 2004-5/39 Is radical Islam a problem in Canadian prisons?, issued 2004 12 10.

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husbands have radicalized wives (and some wives have radicalized or supported their husbands and siblings have radicalized each other

The Service has examined the role of families in the radicalization process in previous assessments.<sup>6</sup>

**Abroad**

10. On occasion, the radicalization process appears to take place largely outside Canada, either prior to the extremist's arrival in our country or after a conscious decision to leave Canada.

<sup>6</sup> See

CSIS IA 2007-8/22 The Islamist Radicalization of Youth: Echoes in Canada, issued 2008 04 09,

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**On-Line Radicalization**

12. The ubiquity of jihadi websites, chat rooms and fora has led some to suggest that radicalization is taking place increasingly on-line.

**Just About Anywhere**

13. As radicalization involves the mutual confirmation of extreme views among a group of people, it can occur wherever these people gather.

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**Implications**

15. **As this assessment has demonstrated, a large number of venues have been, and continue to be, used to further Islamist extremist ideology.**

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**As radicalization is usually a social process, it can occur wherever humans interact, in the real world or in virtual ones.**

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