

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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Chairman Shays to Hold September 19 Hearing on Alleged London Terrorist Plot

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing to examine the British success disrupting the recent alleged airline bomb plot and to determine areas where U.S. counterterrorism capabilities could be strengthened.

The disruption of this alleged plot represented a success on several different levels: UK counterterrorism, international cooperation, success in operating counterterrorism at a very local level and infiltrating communities. While American authorities praise the British system, they also raise questions about what the United States can do better to emulate what brought about Britain's success.

In the United States, the history of dealing with international terrorism acts on U.S. soil is relatively new, dating to the 1993 attacks on the World Trade Center. For the Federal Bureau of Investigation, counterterrorism operations only date to post-September 11 efforts. Since 9/11, the focus of government departments and law enforcement agencies has shifted to prioritize national security, information sharing, and other preventative measures, particularly after recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that found the national security apparatus too disjointed.

The hearing, "**Combating Terrorism: Lessons Learned from London**" is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, at 1:00 pm in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC.

Witness List

John Rollins

Specialist in Terrorism and International Crime
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service

Tom Parker

Former British Counterterrorism Official
Adjunct Professor, Bard College
Executive Director, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center

Baroness Falkner of Margravine

Member, House of Lords, United Kingdom
Fellow, Institute of Politics, Harvard University

James A. Lewis

Senior Fellow, Technology and Public Policy Program
Center for Strategic and International Studies

David B. Rivkin

Former Justice Department official during the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations
Attorney in private practice