

Washington, DC (March 10, 2011) – At Thursday's Committee on Homeland Security hearing on the rise of homegrown radical extremism, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09) addressed the role that the Internet and social media has played in this growing threat.

"Terrorist organizations have become increasingly adept at using the Internet and social media to recruit, inspire, and motivate individuals already in the United States to carry out attacks on their behalf," Bilirakis said. "We must combat the use of the Internet and other technology by terrorist organizations to inspire and encourage attacks by those who are already here."

Bilirakis also questioned the witnesses about the most popular demographics that are being targeted for radicalization by terrorist groups, and the extent to which youth are at-risk.

The hearing was the first of a series of hearings to understand why homegrown radical extremism is on the rise and what can be done to combat the growing problem.

"Some individuals in the U.S. are working to harm us, and we cannot continue to sweep this issue under the rug," Bilirakis said. "We have to engage in important dialogue to address a rise in extremism that is harming this country."

[Watch Rep. Bilirakis question the witnesses here](#)

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