

The U.S. Cannot Arrest Its Way out of Violent Extremism

by [Maxine Rich \(/experts/maxine-rich\)](/experts/maxine-rich)

Jul 2, 2017

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

[Maxine Rich \(/experts/maxine-rich\)](/experts/maxine-rich)

Maxine Rich is a research assistant in The Washington Institute's Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence.



Articles & Testimony

Without credible threat assessments, judges and prison wardens are left to rely on their individual perceptions, while worrying what their decisions will mean for public safety.

This October, the first American convicted on Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-related charges is set to be released. Shannon Maureen Conley of Colorado was convicted in 2015 for attempting travel to the so-called Islamic State. In court, she claimed to have completely rejected jihad, and her psychiatric evaluation found that she has severe mental health issues, but "she is not a terrorist." The sentencing judge [referenced \(http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/23/us/colorado-woman-isis-sentencing/index.html\)](http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/23/us/colorado-woman-isis-sentencing/index.html) her psychiatric problems and youth as an explanation for her crimes. "She has no history in the criminal justice system," Judge Raymond P. Moore pointed out. "She is very young...Teenagers make dumb decisions a lot." Prosecutors later convinced Moore to hand down a harsher sentence to deter other would-be Islamist extremists...

[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/homeland-security/340445-the-us-cannot-arrest-its-way-out-of-violent-extremism\)](http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/homeland-security/340445-the-us-cannot-arrest-its-way-out-of-violent-extremism) ❖

The Hill

RECOMMENDED

BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Unpacking the UAE F-35 Negotiations](/policy-analysis/unpacking-uae-f-35-negotiations)

Feb 15, 2022

◆
Grant Rumley

[\(/policy-analysis/unpacking-uae-f-35-negotiations\)](/policy-analysis/unpacking-uae-f-35-negotiations)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

[How to Make Russia Pay in Ukraine: Study Syria](#)

Feb 15, 2022



Anna Borshchevskaya

[\(/policy-analysis/how-make-russia-pay-ukraine-study-syria\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Bennett's Bahrain Visit Further Invigorates Israel-Gulf Diplomacy](#)

Feb 14, 2022



Simon Henderson

[\(/policy-analysis/bennetts-bahrain-visit-further-invigorates-israel-gulf-diplomacy\)](#)

TOPICS

[Terrorism \(/policy-analysis/terrorism\)](#)

[U.S. Policy \(/policy-analysis/us-policy\)](#)