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Boston Marathon bombing suspects' Chechen roots being scrutinized

UCSD prof says some in Chechnya have radicalized

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SAN DIEGO - In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings, the suspects' Chechen roots are being scrutinized.

Horrific bombings near the finish line at the Boston Marathon killed and injured and maimed countless others.

It remains unclear what may have motivated the suspects, 26-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and his brother, 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Their uncle tried to distance his nephews' actions from a Chechen background. "It has nothing to do with Chechnya," he told reporters.

UC San Diego professor Marc Andre Meyers has spent 20 years in Chechnya, and says that some in the region have become radicalized. He even wrote a book about it in 2011.

The region has fought for its independence from Russia for decades.

"There were Chechens fighting in Afghanistan with the Taliban, and then with the Taliban," said Meyers during an interview.

They were fighting with the mujahideen, which included Osama bin Laden.

"There was infiltration from Saudi Arabia into Chechnya," said Meyers.

The region is largely Muslim. Meyers said extremists were reawakened after a brutal suppression in 2002. Two years later, the town of Beslan was the site of a hostage crisis, eventually killing 380 people.

"Their main enemy was Russia," said Meyers. "Then, they felt that the world had abandoned them. Europe didn't do it, and the United States didn't do it. They were dependent on Russian oil and nobody took a strong stance to defend them... This grew into a rage, and I think into a rage against the world."

Counterterrorism expert Glen Winn said a recent trip aboard may be key to the investigation.

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"We also have to remember that his brother had gone back to Chechnya for a six-month period of time and returned that six-month period of time?" said Winn.

The Tsarnaev family moved to the United States about a decade ago. The younger brother became a U.S. citizen last

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NicoleGiberson

What I find to be so uniquely original about the Boston Marathon bombing is this, the following terrorist groups have completed at the outset of the attack. Even to the point of making their announcements's known almost immediately after:

Hezbollah

Hamas

The Mujahideen

The Chenchen rebel army

and last but not least, even the Al-Qaeda. All have denied and even condemned the bombing, seriously that's huge. The reason someone else's terror group take's credit for another group's terrorist act, especially if a self-sacrificial martyr is involved. They alternating periods of time, went to the Grozny/Chechnya/Chechen area of Russia, got some training and then returned to do independently rogue, on their own and solely.

4 Months Ago · Reply



SandraHennessy

@002. I remember that. 380 slaughtered. Including kids. I believe the older brother brainwashed his young brother to help with brother,he would never have done this. Sad how one wierdo extremist can ruin his whole family. He was f---n evil.

4 Months Ago · Reply



JoseGrecko

I think you are totally whacked in your thinking. The younger brother did this. There is no excuse. He stood there next to him to kill him. So please stop the liberal madness that excuses such total evil. The gun was Islam, these two just a country overrun with Islam knows how that works. History proves how it works. And liberal thinkers pretend to know

4 Months Ago · Reply



NicoleGiberson

"And liberal thinkers pretend to know something.' - 'JoseGrecko' - And you can't even pretend you know something... squat..."

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