



# America First $\neq$ America Alone

## MOROCCO AS MODEL COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER

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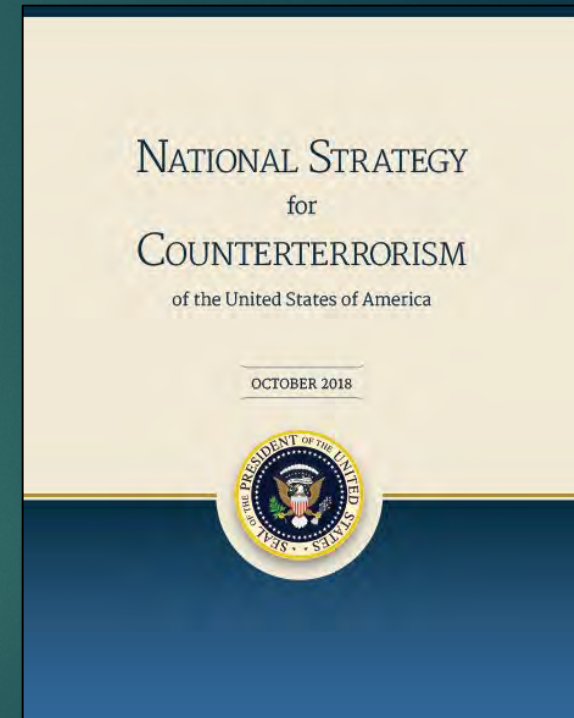


# America First ≠ America Alone

(Why We Should Care)



- ▶ October 2018 – U.S. National Strategy for Counterterrorism (NSCT) emphasizes international partnerships
- ▶ Long-term success requires affordable, sustainable strategy—sharing the burden with global partners who can act independently
- ▶ Morocco is an exemplar for its CT and CVE programs, successful policies can be exported



## LINES OF EFFORT (LOEs)

- Strengthen CT Abilities of International Partners
- Counter Terrorist Radicalization & Recruitment



# Outline



- ▶ Morocco Background
- ▶ Three Pillars of Moroccan CT Policy
- ▶ Criticisms
- ▶ U.S. Policy Recommendations





# Background (1 of 2)



- ▶ Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
- ▶ Reforms (“upgraded authoritarianism”) following 2011 Arab Uprising
- ▶ King Mohammed VI
  - Near-exclusive power over the military, foreign affairs, and religion
  - Lineage to Prophet Muhammad
  - “Commander of the Faithful”
- ▶ 99% Sunni Muslim (Maliki, Ash’ari, Sufi)
- ▶ Key gateway to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa
- ▶ Positive international relations with Europe and the U.S.





# Background (2 of 2)



- ▶ Steady economic growth and modernization
- ▶ Significant youth unemployment and inequality
- ▶ Rif Protests
- ▶ Terrorist Attacks
  - 2003 – Casablanca Suicide Bombings
  - 2007 – Casablanca Suicide Bombings
  - 2011 – Marrakech Café Bombing
  - 2018 – Beheading of Two Scandinavians





# Three Pillars of Moroccan CT Policy



- I. Enhancing Security Governance and CT Legislation
- II. Fighting Social Inequality and Promoting Human Development
- III. Reforming the Religious Field

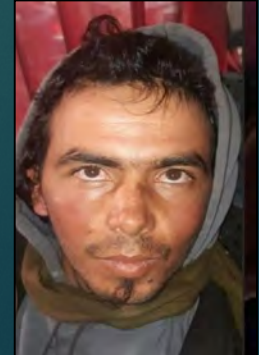




# Pillar 1: Security Governance and CT Legislation (1 of 4)

## UPGRADING CT LEGISLATION

- ▶ 2003 Law to Combat Terror (Bill 03.03)
  - Minimum 10-year sentence for terror activity
  - Selective wiretapping, seizure of property
  - 12-day preventive detention
- ▶ 2015 Amended Law
  - Addresses Foreign Fighters
  - Criminalizes joining foreign terrorist group (recruitment, training)
  - Prosecution of foreign national terrorists on Moroccan soil





# Pillar 1: Security Governance and CT Legislation (2 of 4)

## PROFESSIONALIZE THE MILITARY

- ▶ Military Modernization (F-16 Fighter Jets, M1A1 Tanks, Helicopters)
- ▶ Member of Defeat-ISIS Coalition (Syria & Yemen)
- ▶ Peacekeeping Missions (Field Hospital in Jordan, Central African Republic)
- ▶ Partnership activities with Sub-Saharan African countries
- ▶ Host to USAFRICOM's Largest Exercise – AFRICAN LION
- ▶ "Africa's Premier Security Exporter"





# Pillar 1: Security Governance and CT Legislation (3 of 4)



## PROFESSIONALIZE LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ 2013 – Central Bureau of Judicial Investigations (BCIJ)
  - “Moroccan FBI”
  - Interdicted 183 terror cells since 2002\*
  - Prevented 361 terrorist attacks\*
  - Arrested 3,129 terrorists\*
- ▶ Can conduct wiretapping, surveillance with Court of Appeals approval
- ▶ General Directorate of National Security – Border Security
  - U.S. Customs & Border Patrol Training
  - Lacks biometric screening at Ports



*\*BCIJ Data*



# Pillar 1: Security Governance and CT Legislation (4 of 4)

## PROFESSIONALIZE JUDICIARY

- ▶ U.S. State Department INL working to move from confession-based to evidence-based prosecutions
- ▶ Combating prison radicalization
- ▶ Working with Moroccan Prison Administration to modernize prison management, keep terrorists segregated from general population, enhance security
- ▶ 31 new modern prisons
- ▶ Facilitating reintegration for rehabilitated detainees
- ▶ Human rights criticisms – preventive detention, forced confessions, torture





# Pillar 2: Fight Social Inequality, **Promote Human Development** (1 of 2)

## POVERTY REDUCTION



- ▶ Economic reasons principal reason for joining terror networks
- ▶ National Initiative for Human Development (2005)
  - Over \$6B in first 10 years
  - Served 7M people with 34,000 projects targeting youth and women
  - Provides affordable housing and loans
- ▶ Compulsory Military Service
- ▶ USAID programs





# Pillar 2: Fight Social Inequality, **Promote Human Development** (2 of 2)

## EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT



- ▶ Of 1,600 Moroccans who joined ISIS, majority did not have more than primary education
- ▶ Only 18% of first graders graduate from high school
- ▶ 55% literacy rate – among lowest in region
- ▶ USAID working to enhance reading instruction
- ▶ Millennium Challenge Corporation Grant for \$450M to increase access to secondary education





# Pillar 3: Reform the Religious Field

## PROMOTION OF MODERATE ISLAM



- ▶ Satellite TV stations promoting Moroccan Islam (counter Wahhabist Persian Gulf stations)
- ▶ Mohammed VI Institute for Training Imams
  - Training Morocco's 50,000 Imams
  - Attracting Imams from Europe, Africa, Asia
- ▶ Mohammedan League of Ulema
  - Promotes research in moderate Islam
  - Ensures conformity in school curricula
  - Youth outreach
- ▶ Single religious authority for *fatwas*
- ▶ Monitor mosques and sermons
- ▶ Third Pole of Global Islamic influence





# Criticisms



- ▶ Morocco is a major exporter of terrorism
- ▶ Reported human rights abuses among security services (mass arrests, beatings, torture)
- ▶ Continued unrest (Rif protests)
- ▶ Lack of transparency/patronage in NIHD
- ▶ “Big Brother” aspect to religious surveillance





# U.S. Policy Recommendations



- ▶ Showcase Morocco as Africa's premier exporter of security; promote Moroccan leadership in multinational partnership building activities
- ▶ Improve security through provision of biometric screening at ports of entry
- ▶ Support modernization and reforms of prisons
- ▶ Support programs that ameliorate social inequality and youth unemployment
- ▶ Help Morocco eradicate torture and inhumane treatment by increasing compliance monitoring and verification
- ▶ Support Moroccan efforts to propagate its peaceful and moderate version of Islam by embracing and spotlighting modern and moderate Islamic voices





# Conclusion



- ▶ Three pillars of Morocco's CT/CVE program have proven effective, limiting attacks on Moroccan soil and attracting others in the region who want to learn from Morocco's success
- ▶ With some improvements, Morocco's policies should be exported to other potential partners
- ▶ Enabling our partners will share the burden of CT/CVE—affordable and sustainable
- ▶ Diminishes the global threat of terrorism; promotes prosperity of America and the World

**America First ≠ America Alone**



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# Questions?



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