

JOHN GUANDOLO

Profile of an Anti-Muslim Extremist

From the Center for New Community

John Guandolo is the founder and president of Understanding the Threat, a counter-terrorism consulting firm he created to profit from instilling anti-Muslim bigotry in law enforcement agents.

Guandolo resigned in disgrace from the FBI in 2008 amid [controversy](#) involving a relationship between him and a key witness under his protection in a corruption case. Since then, he has leveraged his FBI background to gain legitimacy as a full-time consultant providing trainings on anti-Muslim bigotry masquerading as counter-terrorism to law enforcement professionals and civilians.

Guandolo has [claimed](#) Black Lives Matter activists are working “in conjunction” with “jihadis” and “Marxist” groups in order to “impose Sharia Islamic law” on America.

He has also [accused](#) CIA director John Brennan of being a secret Muslim convert and [alleged](#) that the sole purpose of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), a student group on college campuses, is to “recruit jihadis.”

During a 2011 training, Guandolo [claimed](#) Muslims in America “do not have a First Amendment right to do anything.”

Guandolo promotes the idea that operatives associated with foreign entities like the Muslim Brotherhood are actively working to infiltrate the U.S. government and other cultural institutions, a tactic he refers to as “stealth jihad.”

Guandolo’s fear mongering targets all Muslims living in the United States. He has [claimed](#) Muslims are purchasing hotels, gas stations, and convenience stores in the name of preparing for “a jihad here in the United States.” He has also [warned](#) against “sharia-compliant” taxicab drivers and TSA employees working in and around U.S. airports.

Guandolo’s work to target and influence local law enforcement is strategic and explicit. He has sought to establish relationships with local sheriffs and other high ranking state law enforcement officials to gain audiences for his anti-Muslim trainings, which are often taxpayer-funded. He admitted as much in a 2014 radio [interview](#) with anti-Muslim

conspiracy theorist Frank Gaffney, saying, “I always focus on the sheriffs because the sheriffs are the most powerful law enforcement officer in the country. Get them to understand this ... I believe that it’s at the local level that this has to be handled.”

And Guandolo has had success. In 2016, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana Sheriff Greg Champagne co-hosted Guandolo along with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. Champagne is also the president of the National Sheriffs’ Association and, in this role, has officially [endorsed](#) Understanding the Threat’s (UTT) trainings.

Guandolo also remains close to Culpeper County, Virginia Sheriff Scott Jenkins. Despite criticism from civil rights organizations, Jenkins remains committed to Guandolo’s bigotry and has sponsored his trainings more than once. According to UTT [materials](#), Guandolo is “currently a Special Deputy Sheriff in Culpeper County, Virginia.”

Guandolo appears to have no plans to slow his work under the new administration. In a [blog post](#), he wrote that the president has made “great strides” in identifying the alleged Muslim enemy in the U.S., but that local police are going to be the ones on the frontlines in this “coming battle.”

“Even if President Trump does everything he promised and acts flawlessly as our Commander in Chief, local and state police must carry the burden to identify and uproot the enemy from their communities,” he wrote.