

PRESCRIPTION FOR DEFEATING
THE ISLAMIC STATE



We The People



HEAL + INSPIRE + REVIVE



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DR. BEN CARSON

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A STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT
FROM RADICAL ISLAMIC TERRORISM

America's most urgent foreign policy priority is to defeat and destroy the Islamic State, but we currently have no coherent strategy for doing so. Our country should also have a plan for eliminating the broader threat from transnational organizations that wage jihad against the United States, our allies and our interests; yet, 14 years after 9/11, we not only have no plan, but we have no direction.

It is time to make a change. Atrocities such as the terrorist attack in San Bernardino last year remind us of the ultimate price Americans pay for their political leaders' inaction. As president, I will wage war on radical Islamic terrorists and protect the homeland. I will formally declare war on the Islamic State as part of a comprehensive strategy that focuses the national will, targets our existential threat at its source and protects the American way of life.

None of what I propose will be easy, but America can no longer dawdle while the Islamic State continues to persecute Christians, enslave young girls, oppress civil societies and perpetrate terrorist attacks against the free world. We must destroy the terrorists' caliphate and

prevent its members from infiltrating our homeland. My strategy offers a path forward for confronting these threats and protecting this great nation.

**Identifying and Understanding
the Enemy**

At the outset, it is important to identify the radical Islamic terrorists with whom America is at war. In short, our enemies are transnational jihadist organizations. Based on their understanding of the tenets of Islam, these enemies are intent on imposing a supremacist and totalitarian form of government on others,

whether through violence, sedition, subversion or displacement of native populations.

We are not at war with a religion, an ethnic group or people from certain troublesome parts of the world. Rather, we are at war with those who seek to impose their beliefs violently and to supplant existing cultures and duly constituted governments across the globe.

Instead of facilitating openings for terrorists, I plan to fight and win on any battlefield we choose.

The terrorists' ideology is as grotesque as their actions are barbaric. Yet America has faced similar threats before. In World War II, we decisively defeated Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, two expansionist, supremacist and totalitarian adversaries. During the Cold War, we confronted and defeated the Soviet Union, an adversary driven by similarly expansionist and totalitarian ambitions.

Today, we have the ability to defeat radical Islamic terrorists as well, but we must frame the fight with clear rhetoric and forceful ideas. This is a task at which the Obama administration has failed.

In response to the religious justifications of our enemy's hostile ideology, the Obama administration has offered up political correctness and paralysis: the President painstakingly avoids any official reference to or consideration of those elements of Islam that fuel the terrorists' wrath and pose a threat to the United States and the civilized world.

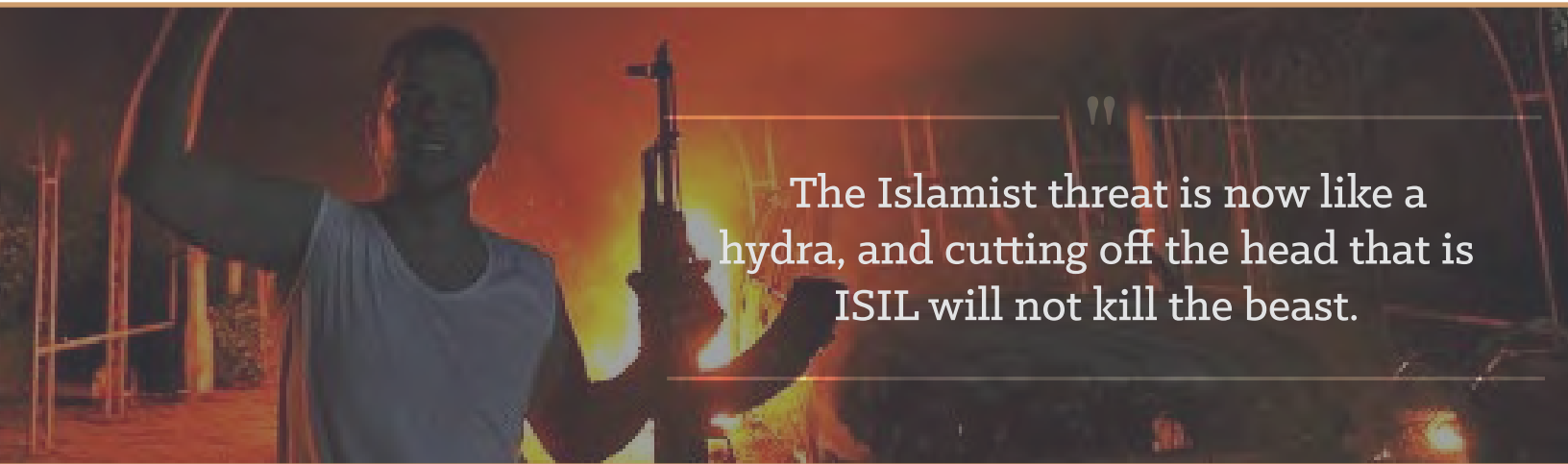
This failure to identify and confront the enemy is detrimental to our national interests and national defense. While acknowledging that Islam is a complex religion, we must recognize that among its radical adherents, Islam requires conversion, submission or death for those who worship differently. As such, we must carefully craft a strategy that targets and defeats the expansionist, bloodthirsty and supremacist inspirations that fuel jihadist groups while not abridging the peaceful and tolerant worship of God. My plan accomplishes these goals.

non-violent ways, such as through past attempts to outlaw criticism of Islam at the U.N. Human Rights Council.

The Islamist threat is now like a hydra, and cutting off the head that is ISIL will not kill the beast. The defeat of the Islamic State and elimination of its caliphate is necessary but insufficient to ending our broader conflict against radical Islam. A Carson administration will wage war against radical Islamic terrorism as a global movement, not just as discrete entities.

Know Our Enemy

As president, I will ensure that America fully understands its adversary's head — not just its disparate acts — so that we can begin to anticipate its next move. Under the Obama administration, we have failed to take into account how radical Islamic terrorists think and behave. As a result, every new development is a surprise to those charged with maintaining our national security. Every response comes too late. This was painfully evident after the San Bernardino attack. While the first responders performed heroically, our political leaders never saw the atrocity coming. One might be tempted to call the terrorist attack an intelligence failure. In truth, it was a failure of imagination and political will. In a Carson administration, we will not repeat the same mistake, and will spare no effort to study the objectives, strategies and tactics of the Islamic State.



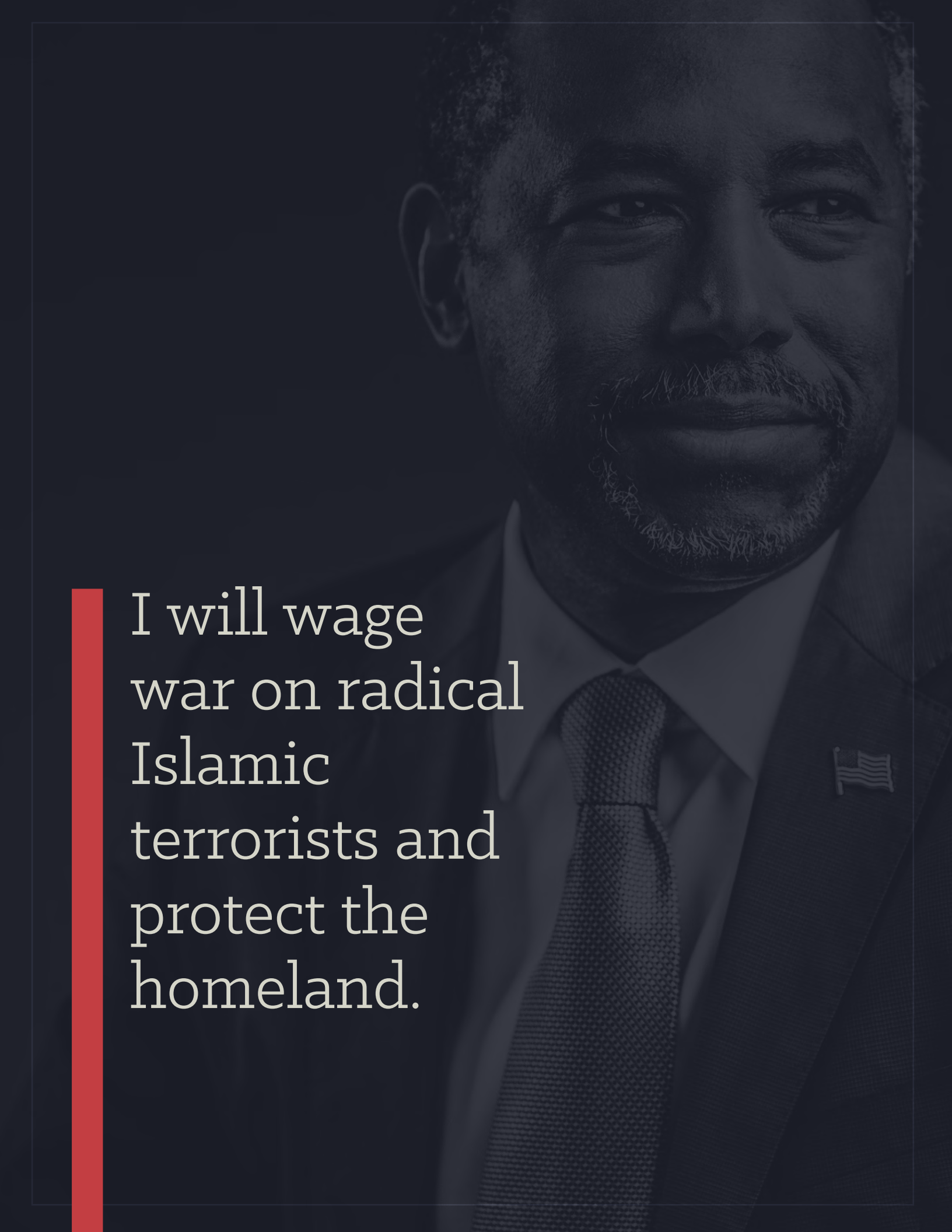
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BEYOND ISIL

My plan also identifies the enemy by the global nature of its jihadist movement. Currently, America must focus on defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (also known as Islamic State in the Levant, or ISIL), but our country faces a threat that is much bigger than ISIL alone. From al Qaeda in Afghanistan to al Qaeda in Iraq, from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and in the Islamic Maghreb to al Shabab and Boko Haram, the radical Islamic terrorist threat has mutated and grown since 9/11. It is spreading, too, in

Already, we know the Islamic State needs to continue expanding its caliphate in order to maintain legitimacy, recruitment and growth. To further that goal, the Islamic State employs a strategy that consists of both violent and nonviolent components. For the former, the Islamic State uses combat operations within Iraq and as well as terrorist operations abroad as the high-visibility parts of its strategy.

Such violence is complemented by combat operations and terrorism stretching from West Africa to Southeast Asia, where the Islamic State seeks to expand its caliphate



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through global jihad and by working with affiliates ranging from Boko Haram in Africa to the Islamic Maghreb, from jihadists in Central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula and Indonesia, to those infiltrating Europe by taking advantage of the migrant crisis. No doubt the Islamic State will persist in its attempts to perpetrate additional terrorist attacks in Europe, Russia and in the United States.

On the non-violent front, the Islamic State utilizes means ranging from information operations through asymmetric cyber attacks to the use of social media to conduct subversion, agitation and recruitment. Any plan to defeat the Islamic State will require thwarting their objectives along their multiple lines of operation. My plan will do just that.

Defeating the Islamic State and Radical Islam

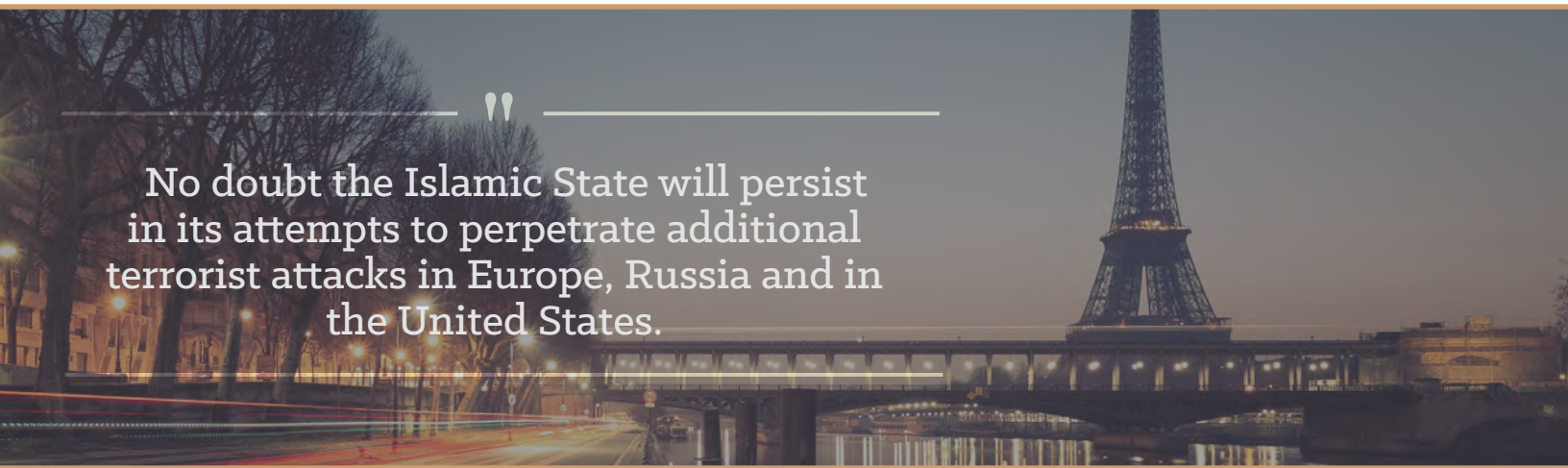
My plan for defeating the Islamic State and eliminating the threat from radical Islamic terrorists rests on the following principles: focusing the national will, engaging the threat at its source and protecting the American way of life.

ENGAGING THE THREAT AT ITS SOURCE

Just as the United States opposed the spread of Communism in every form and in every place, it must now oppose the spread of the terrorists' supremacist, totalitarian and radical Islamism whenever and wherever it arises.

We must impose tough sanctions on countries, organizations and individuals that commit terrorist acts or provide material or moral support to radical jihad, and we must be prepared to engage in economic warfare against those countries that propagate terrorism. We will wage information campaigns to persuade countries and individuals to choose freedom, tolerance and modernity. We will engage Muslim leaders at home and abroad with a message that they must choose between radical jihad and peaceful coexistence. We will study the jihadists' ideology and anticipate their next move.

Additionally, I will block the Islamic State's moves into North Africa through the unstable state of Libya. At the moment, an Islamic State affiliate has taken control of parts of the country and has established a Libyan enclave of the caliphate. We cannot allow this enclave to unite with its fellow terrorists in Iraq and Syria. An Islamic State



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FOCUSING THE NATIONAL WILL

I will focus the national will on fighting against radical Islamic terrorists. I will seek a formal declaration of war by the U.S. Congress to unleash the resources of the federal government and to signal to friends and foes that the American people are united in this fight.

Under a Carson administration, the United States will reassert its strategic leadership in the world and rally all civilized nations — including an expanded coalition consisting of moderate Arab states and newly formed regional forces comprised of Sunni Syrian and other men displaced by war — to join the fight against the terrorists' barbarism.

stronghold in the Maghreb would not only prey upon vulnerable African nations, it would provide yet another gateway for terrorism into southern Europe, and eventually into America. I will put a stop to such terrorist expansion. Under a Carson administration, the United States will anticipate and thwart the Islamic State's strategy. Instead of facilitating openings for terrorists, I plan to fight and win on any battlefield we choose.

PROTECTING THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

As president, I will not only wage war overseas; I will protect America at home. I will deny radical jihadists entry into the United States by securing our borders, hardening our air and sea ports of entry and revamping our visa entry systems.

I will also counter radicalization of the U.S. Muslim community, and root out enemy elements already inside the country through constitutionally-sound means, including investigating and prosecuting groups with extensive terrorist ties, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

I will enhance the capabilities of federal investigatory agencies by deputizing local law enforcement personnel to serve as U.S. Marshals; expand our capacity to track the movement of funds and crack encrypted communications, secure our infrastructure, communications and financial systems from cyber attack, and provide additional resources to local, state and federal law enforcement, including the National Guard.

DEFEATING AND DESTROYING ISIL

I will also defeat and destroy ISIL. My first step is to decisively end the caliphate in Iraq and Syria by increasing the tempo and effectiveness of the U.S.-led anti-ISIL air campaign.

The United States will utilize airpower in support of Iraqi/Kurdish ground forces to split the Islamic State into separate Syria and Iraq parts, denying them internal lines of communication and mutual support and making it easier to defeat each part separately. The United States will also reinforce the success of Free Syrian and Kurdish elements and other rebel forces with greater airpower, logistics and advisory support, including by increasing the number of U.S. advisors in the region. We will conduct other military operations — including the potential introduction of ground forces — as the situation warrants and in consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With allies and partners, the United States will establish a safe area, supported by a no-fly zone, along the Turkish-Syrian border to allow sanctuary and humanitarian support for refugees still trapped in the theatre of war.

As president, I will fully support Israel's efforts to maintain its territorial integrity and internal security in light of Hezbollah and Islamic State activities in Lebanon, and likely Islamic State instigation of Palestinian unrest in the West Bank.

By clearly identifying our adversaries and their supporters, and by studying their ideology and doctrine in an honest and unconstrained way, the Carson administration will take the initiative away from the jihadists and start the process of out-thinking them, and fighting them simultaneously by all means on all fronts.

A Stronger, Safer America

As president, I will protect Americans at home and defend our vital interests abroad. I will secure our borders and deny entry to radical Islamic terrorists; increase our domestic capabilities to identify and defeat terrorism and subversion at home; and bolster and unleash all elements of our national power — in addition to our military might — to confront and defeat our enemies.

A Carson administration will work toward a more peaceful and secure world that is free from the threat of radical jihad for generations to come. Under my leadership, America will be stronger and safer, and will resume its rightful role of leading the world.



Dr. Ben Carson

¹ Throughout this paper, I will use the term Islamic State to signify the global jihadist movement and the term Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) to signify that portion of the Islamic State that resides and operates in Iraq and Syria and their immediate environs.



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