



News from Congresswoman  
**Nita M. Lowey**

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*Chairwoman, State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee*

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**Statement of Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey**  
**Subcommittee on State Foreign Operations and Related Programs**  
**FY 2011 Security Assistance Budget Hearing**  
**April 14, 2010**

I welcome our distinguished panel: Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs David Johnson; Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro; and the Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Daniel Benjamin.

Our hearing today examines the security assistance programs under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of State, which total \$9.9 billion, or twenty-five percent, of the foreign assistance request for FY 2011.

Security assistance has been appropriately and significantly increased in the past four years to protect our national security in this dangerous world. Not only do these programs support key allies in the Middle East like Israel, Egypt and Jordan, and combat terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan, they also fight piracy off the coast of Somalia and protect us from drug cartels in Mexico and Colombia.

Lack of resources and capacity in the State Department to address security needs in theaters like Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere previously forced us to rely on the Defense Department. However, the provision of security assistance is integral to the conduct of our foreign policy, and aspects of our foreign affairs priorities such as human rights, civilian control of the military, unified coordination of U.S. assistance can be most effectively managed by the Secretary of State. I am pleased to see that as we increase capacity in civilian agencies, the President's budget is taking steps to reestablish the lines of responsibility for security assistance at the Department of State.

With increased resources, it is critical that the Department demonstrate capable implementation of the programs, as well as appropriate oversight to ensure programs achieve the desired objectives and that resources are not diverted or abused.

Therefore, as we proceed with the hearing, I would like the panel to address the following:

- What are the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the State Department and other agencies, particularly DOD, regarding security assistance programs?

- What role should DOD play, if any, in assisting police and other non-military security forces?
- What are we doing to address emerging threats from places like Yemen?
- How can counterterrorism assistance be leveraged to combat Al Qaeda?
- In what situations might U.S. assistance for combating terrorism be perceived negatively by recipient countries' populations?

Lastly, I would like the panel to discuss security cooperation with Mexico. Drug trafficking and other criminal enterprises have intimidated and overwhelmed government institutions in much of Mexico. News reports continue to highlight the violence related to drug cartels and organized crime, which, tragically, has touched your department with the murders of three people associated with the consulate in Ciudad Juarez, and the bombing of the consulate office in Nuevo Laredo.

Specifically, what effect is our assistance having on the flow of illegal drugs to the U.S.? What is the coordination between the U.S. and Mexico? How are the various U.S. agencies coordinating to ensure our security assistance is reinforcing our broader objectives for strengthening Mexican institutions? What more do we need to do? Is more equipment needed? How do we ensure that the roughly \$1.4 billion in assistance, this Committee has provided to Mexico, is having its intended effect? How are the various U.S. agencies coordinating assistance to ensure security programs for Mexico are enhancing and complementing efforts to strengthen Mexican government institutions?

Additionally, GAO released a report in December, 2009 which found only two percent of the funding appropriated for Mexico had been expended. What is the current status of expenditures? Are such lag times normal? Does the State Department find this acceptable? What is the State Department doing to accelerate delivery of equipment and training?

I continue to believe that the State Department must exercise management of security assistance and development programs, be they training and equipping of foreign security forces, programs to deny terrorist organizations and rogue states the ability to acquire weapons of mass destruction or providing food, water and health services to those most in need. These activities must fall within the context of our overall foreign policy, and as such the primary authority should be with the Secretary of State.

Again, thank you for testifying today. I look forward to our discussion.

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