

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today renewed his request for a congressional hearing on the spread of terrorist group al-Shabaab and the precarious security situation in the Horn of Africa. Al-Shabaab is a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization that now controls most of south-central Somalia and parts of Mogadishu, and has recently spread to northern Kenya and surrounding areas. Believed to have ties to al-Qaeda, it has claimed responsibility for Sunday's terrorist attacks in Kampala, Uganda, that killed at least 74 people.

"Al-Shabaab's attacks in Kampala are particularly heinous," said Fortenberry. "It is vitally important to understand the global security implications of al-Shabaab's massive growth and extension of legitimacy within the Horn and East Africa," said Fortenberry. "As the tragic Kampala attacks have indicated, al-Shabaab's reach extends far beyond the boundaries of the Horn of Africa. With threats recently posed against Burundi as well, al-Shabaab is demonstrating an unprecedented change in its scope of operation that deserves closer attention."

On June 17, Fortenberry requested the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health convene a hearing with Administration witnesses to have a clear understanding of the current situation and U.S. policy options to help strengthen international efforts to combat Somalia's rapid devolution into a barbarous and chaotic safe haven for terrorists.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health and the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security.

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