

**What's the link between terrorism and drugs trafficking? Interview on what the US and EU are doing together to combat international drugs trade with Jim Allen, Regional Director Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for Europe & Africa – 21 April 2016**

*TRANSCRIPT:*

My name is Jim Allen and I am currently the Regional Director for the Drug Enforcement Administration for all of Europe and all of Africa.

One of the top priorities is deepening the relationship between us and multilateral European law enforcement partners and entities such as Europol. There is a lot of work, ever growing amount of work at Europol, it has lead us to place one of our DEA analysts permanently at Europol.

The link between funding of terrorism with the drug trade is one of the most important things I think that the DEA does today not only internationally but domestically also. Due to the enormous profits that are associated with drugs trafficking that is never traced, that's impossible to trace to legal venues the illegal drug trade is extremely lucrative to finance terrorist activities. That's where these terrorist more times than not get their money.

Some of the current and past, narco/ terrorism organizations that use profits from drugs trafficking you can go back to the FARC in Colombia in late 70s and 80s, and we had direct proof, we continue to have direct proof that drug trafficking is directly associated with the terror activity that has, that does happen in South America. Same thing with the Taliban and Afghanistan. We know for a fact, based upon investigations and long-term investigations I may add, that the Taliban received lots of their money, lots of their backing originally from drug trafficking. I think you only have to look and see where the drugs are produced and moved to find out where the profit is.

The link that the DEA and our European partners have seen with ISIL to date is still developing. As Jim Allen as a betting man I would bet definitely that's where receiving a lot of their money. I would also venture a guess that they are receiving a lot of their energy to fight and their will to fight through illicit drugs. We have had reporting that a lot of these freedom fights if that's what you wanna call them that, are using different clandestine drugs, like captagon, like tramadol, that is clandestinely manufactured in different parts of the world and smuggled into Syria so they have a euphoric sense when they fight. So, does drugs trafficking affect what is going on in Syria with ISIL, definitely. Is the funding mechanism there that shows that they are funded with drug trafficking? It's developing. But I think given time, if they continue to stay strong and we get into the layers of their organization better, we will see a clear picture as we have historically that have seen historically that these terrorist organizations have to rely on drugs trafficking to fund their activities.