ANDREW MARR:
In the wake of the attack on tourists in Tunisia, most of them British, the prime minister appealed to the public to work together with the authorities to “combat this poisonous narrative of Islamist extremism on our own shores.” Well what can be done to prevent such lone wolf attacks both abroad and, as we near the tenth anniversary of 7/7, here in Britain? I’m joined now by the Home Secretary Theresa May. Home Secretary, thank you very much indeed for joining us. Let’s start with the kind of grisly numbers. We’ve been talking about 15 British people dead and suggesting that’s going to rise. Have we got any further update on numbers of dead?

THERESA MAY:
Well first of all, Andrew, obviously this has been an absolutely appalling attack that has taken place in Tunisia and our thoughts, my thoughts are with the families of those who have been killed and those who’ve been caught up in these appalling scenes that we have seen. The figure of confirmed dead at the moment remains at 15, but we are expecting that to rise.

ANDREW MARR:
Expecting that to rise. It’s been a rather strange situation whereby some people,
whose relatives have been on that terrible beach at the time, don’t still know whether they are alive or dead, in hospital, safe, missing, whatever. How far are we moving towards getting really clear … a clear take on what’s happened to whom?

**THERESA MAY:**
Well every effort is being made. Of course as soon as the incident took place, our embassy in Tunisia sent a team to the area, the Foreign Office have sent their rapid deployment teams out. Two teams are out there now and obviously they’ve got their 24 hour crisis centre back here in the UK. They’re working with the Tunisian authorities. Obviously we’re working closely with them. Some UK police have gone out …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* Your own department too?

**THERESA MAY:**
… and my own department, yes, and UK police have gone out too to assist in this and working of course with tour operators and others. But what’s important is of course that the information is absolutely 100 per cent correct when it is given to a family.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Of course.

**THERESA MAY:**
They need to make sure of that. And if you can imagine these are circumstances … Because of the circumstances of the attack people won’t have had documents with them ….

**ANDREW MARR:**
Yeah.

**THERESA MAY:**
… they won’t necessarily have had mobile phones with them. Some people are being moved between different hospitals. So the team on the ground are making every effort
to ensure that they get accurate information …

**ANDREW MARR:**

(over) Accurate is absolutely essential – sure, sure.

**THERESA MAY:**

(over) … so when they’re talking to the families it is absolutely the case.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Now Tunisia was always one of the more successful and safer countries of North Africa and a lot of people watching will have either cancelled holidays to Tunisia or will be thinking about what to do. So what’s your advice to people about going to Tunisia and also to other countries like Morocco, Algeria, maybe even Turkey and Egypt? What is the current state of advice for people thinking should I go on holiday to that part of the Mediterranean this summer?

**THERESA MAY:**

Well the travel advice that the Foreign Office gives has not been … the level of that advice has not changed. So they’re not saying don’t go.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Isn’t that a bit odd?

**THERESA MAY:**

Well … But what they are doing is making clear to people obviously the risks that there are in relation to … as a result of having seen this terrible attack take place. But what is important of course is that we ensure that that advice is clear to people and that’s what the Foreign Office has been doing.

**ANDREW MARR:**

This particular beach had a lot of British holidaymakers on it. Is there any evidence, do you know anything to suggest that this beach was targeted because of British holidaymakers being there or were they simply in the wrong place at the wrong time?

**THERESA MAY:**
Well obviously this is … as you’ll appreciate, this is still ongoing investigations and we’re working very closely with the Tunisian authorities in relation to this. I’ve seen no evidence so far that this was targeted because there were British tourists there, but of course we must recognise this is the most significant loss of British life in a terrorist attack since 7/7 here in the UK …

**ANDREW MARR:**

Yes.

**THERESA MAY:**

... and of course we will soon be marking the tenth anniversary of 7/7. And I’m sure as they look at these terrible scenes in Tunisia, those who went through that terrible attack here in the UK, this must be a very difficult time for them.

**ANDREW MARR:**

For them as well, absolutely. Tunisia, as I say, has been a relatively successful example of Muslim democracy and a country moving forward in a more liberal way and so on. Now they will have their entire tourism industry absolutely hammered. Are we going to do some things to help them, to keep them secure because there’s Tunisia, there’s Morocco, there’s a lot of states which have so far resisted the lure of ISIS and extremism, are relatively moderate Muslim countries, and are now presumably quaking in their boots?

**THERESA MAY:**

Well obviously we will be … there’s slightly longer term work to be done in working with the Tunisian authorities. The focus at the moment of course is absolutely on the incident that has taken place, on supporting families, on supporting those who’ve been through this, trying to get – as I said earlier – absolutely accurate information available to people. And I will after this programme be chairing another Cobra where we’ll be continuing to look at the support that we’re giving out there on the ground.

**ANDREW MARR:**

And presumably also talking about what’s happening here and the danger of lone wolf attacks because we can understand that plots can be caught and prevented by security
services and I think four major plots have been stopped in London I think in the last few months. Is that right?

**THERESA MAY:**
A number of plots have been stopped. Over the last 10 years it’s estimated that something like 40 plots have been disrupted here in the UK. But …

**ANDREW MARR:**
And it goes on recently as well?

**THERESA MAY:**
Yes. But the threat has become more diverse over time, it has changed over time. That’s why it’s important for us to sustain the capabilities …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Sure.

**THERESA MAY:**
... the counter-terrorism capabilities of the agencies. But, as you said, we see that you have not just those who will plot for some time, perhaps in a group, to undertake a complex attack, but also the possibility of more spontaneous attacks – these so-called “lone wolf” attacks. So the threat has become more diverse, which is why we need to sustain our capabilities.

**ANDREW MARR:**
And isn’t the truth that we can’t really protect ourselves completely against lone wolf attacks? If they are individuals sitting in their bedrooms, plotting and reading these ghastly terrorist manifestoes and stuff on the internet, you can’t find all of these people. Some of them eventually get through, as happened in France.

**THERESA MAY:**
The reality is that for the security services – and we have some of the best security and intelligence agencies and people working, some of the best people in the world, we also have very strong counter-terrorism policing and obviously our other police
contribute to this too. They have a constant job day in and day out of being vigilant, of monitoring these situations, of protecting us. We ensure that they have the best capabilities. We also of course, we have those effective capabilities but we do test and exercise what we’re doing. One of the ways of keeping training going is making sure we’re testing and exercising and we will be doing in the near future some more exercising.

ANDREW MARR:
But catching the lone wolves is almost impossible. I mean the French prime minister has said it’s not a question of whether there’ll be another attack on France but just when. Isn’t it the same here?

THERESA MAY:
Well it is … By definition of course, a lone wolf – somebody is on their own planning to do something. It is of course perhaps … you know that’s a different situation from a group of people plotting over a period time.

ANDREW MARR:
Yeah, yeah.

THERESA MAY:
What I would say is that this is where obviously families and communities can help us and we want to work with families and communities. So if they are seeing signs of somebody being radicalised, if they’re concerned about the behaviour perhaps of their son or daughter or perhaps of somebody’s friend, that they actually are able to come forward to the authorities and talk to us about this, so that we can perhaps stop somebody from going down that path of radicalisation. There’s some things we can do. We take material down from the internet. Since December 2013 over 70,000 pieces of material have been taken down from the internet.

ANDREW MARR:
Yeah.

THERESA MAY:
But communities working with us, spotting you know perhaps a change of behaviour of somebody is very important.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Now you’ve got the so-called Snoopers’ Charter - I say so-called – legislation coming back again in the autumn. That won’t be law, as I understand it, on the current schedule until the end of 2016. Alan Johnson was suggesting that you need to press ahead faster with that in parliament. Will you?

**THERESA MAY:**
First of all, there was never any such thing as the Snoopers’ Charter.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Yeah so-called, it’s become …

**THERESA MAY:**
*(over)* What there was was an updating of the ability of the authorities to access communications data, which is the you know who contacted whom when and how. But what we did in asking David Anderson, who is the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, to look at this more widely – he has come back with this report. It’s got 124 recommendations in it, so – as you would expect – we want to take some time in looking at those. And because this is significant … this is about some powers that are very significant, about intrusive powers – that the state has for example to intercept people’s communications as well as access the data about those communications – we want to ensure that we have proper time to discuss it, to make sure …

**ANDREW MARR:**
*(over)* So you’re not going to push it forward faster?

**THERESA MAY:**
We want to make sure that we’re going to get the regulatory framework right …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Okay.
THERESA MAY:
… for the future. And that is … it is about sustaining capabilities into the future.

ANDREW MARR:
You mentioned earlier on that we’re at the tenth anniversary of 7/7 or coming up to that. It’s also the month of Ramadan, which these characters regard as a great time to kill people. Is this a particularly dangerous period, do you think?

THERESA MAY:
Well we are vigilant all the time and we’ve seen obviously some messages in relation to Ramadan. But I think what we must recognise is that the job of keeping us safe is one that goes on day in and day out …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) All the time, sure.

THERESA MAY:
… and it is important obviously that, as I’ve said earlier, we test our capabilities – which we do. We plan these tests and exercises many months in advance sometimes and we’ll be seeing some exercise in the near future.

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Are … are we going to see, sorry, more police and more visible protection on the ground over the next few weeks?

THERESA MAY:
Well the police make these decisions as operational decisions. They’re decisions for the police to take and they will assess the situation and decide themselves whether it is necessary in any circumstance to put a greater police presence on the streets.

ANDREW MARR:
One of the things that politicians always say at these moments is this has nothing to do with Islam. Is that right?
THERESA MAY:
It is right that it has nothing to do with Islam. Islam is a peaceful religion. What it is is about a perversion of Islam – this Islamist ideology that Daesh, ISIL and others put out, propagate. And that’s why it’s so important for us I think to work with people here, with Muslim communities here, but with the wider community here in the UK – to work together to stop this radicalisation, to prevent this extremist message from being perpetrated and to prevent it from seeping through communities. And that’s why the government will be introducing a counter-extremism strategy looking at exactly these issues.

ANDREW MARR:
During the coalition years, there was clearly quite a fight going on inside the government between Nick Clegg, on the one hand, and those of you on the other who wanted to take a tougher line about radicalisation and the anti-Western bile being spewed out in this country and to people in this country and nothing happened. But we’ve got a new government, we’ve got a Conservative government. We’ve now had this ghastly episode. Is there going to be a change of tone now?

THERESA MAY:
Well one of the things that we were committed to doing – I spoke about this before the election and we will be doing this – is bringing forward this wider strategy, this counter-extremism strategy, which is saying that we do need to deal with extremist messages (where they’re being given) of all sorts actually – not just the Islamist extremism, but Neo-Nazism as well and other forms of extremism. And that’s about getting a better understanding of it – and we’ve set up an Extremism Analysis Unit in the Home Office. It’s about also promoting the positive values that we are all share, that are about what makes this country a great place to live in, the pluralistic society that we have. It’s about working with civil society, working with communities, and of course making sure that the government has the powers necessary to deal with this too.
ANDREW MARR:
Many imams and the Muslim Federation of Britain and so forth say listen, we are doing everything we can; we are condemning these attacks, we are condemning this extremism. What more do you want them to do?

THERESA MAY:
Well I think it’s about working with communities to ensure that we are together promoting the positive values that we share, the positive values about living here in the United Kingdom. It’s als…

ANDREW MARR:
And are they doing enough?

THERESA MAY:
Well it's also … I think there is always, Andrew, there is always more that we can be doing in these areas. It’s also about working with families and individuals and ensuring they have the confidence, as I said earlier – if they see something, if they are concerned about an extremist message that they feel is being given to people within their community – that are able to come forward to the authorities, so something can be done about that.

ANDREW MARR
The other great crisis on your desk at the moment clearly is the migration problem, particularly centred around Calais. I mean there’s a huge migration across the Mediterranean, but there are these awful, awful scenes at Calais. And again the question is what more can you do because clearly quite a lot of people are getting through on lorries and in cars, are arriving in this country either not picked up or are claiming asylum when they are picked up, and it’s been suggested that there should be some kind of secondary cordon around Calais and some of these ports where every single lorry, every single car is stopped and properly searched. Isn’t it time for that?

THERESA MAY:
Well we’re working very closely with the French authorities, as you might imagine, on this issue, and we have been doing a number of things to increase the security around the port. We’re making a number of changes at Calais to increase security.
We’re also going to be putting some extra security fencing at Coquelles at the entrance to the tunnel.

**ANDREW MARR:**
That’s all on the French side. I’m just wondering about the British side where you have absolute power … Not absolute power, but you can do a lot more.

**THERESA MAY:**
Well and we do and we do make sure that … And the vehicles that are going through at Calais and Coquelles, they are searched by French authorities. There will be vehicles searched by UK authorities too. We’re looking to enhance our capability of doing that. We’ve enhanced our capabilities here in the UK at UK ports too. But in terms of the Mediterranean migration that is leading people up to Calais, what we also need to do is to break the link between people making this journey and thinking it is going to lead to them being able to settle in Europe …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Sure.

**THERESA MAY:**
… and that we’re working out with other countries in Europe …

**ANDREW MARR:**
(*over*) But just … I’m sorry …

**THERESA MAY:**
(*over*) … who also have an interest in this.

**ANDREW MARR:**
… just to return to Calais. So long as a considerable proportion of people are making it through the tunnel or through the ferry port into Britain, then everybody else will want to try to do it. It’s only when you stop people actually making their way through at all that you will stop this problem. And so I come back to should you not have a
much tougher regime on this side to absolutely ensure that nobody gets through inside lorries, nobody gets through in the boots of cars even if it causes disruption and you know lorry drivers and people complain, maybe it’s time to do that?

**THERESA MAY:**
Well, first of all, I would challenge your assumption that it is a considerable proportion of those in Calais are getting through.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Well enough to encourage the others.

**THERESA MAY:**
What you’re … You’re right that we need to send a very clear message that people will not be able to get through to the UK. We do that in a number of ways. It is about what we do here in the UK. It is also though about what we do in France at our juxtaposed controls and making sure that we are identifying people there and we’re talking to the French authorities about whether there are further steps that we can take there to ensure that people aren’t even getting across to the UK, so that we can identify people who are trying to get into those lorries. I fully recognise you know the concern that hauliers and others have. The immigration minister James Brokenshire will be meeting with hauliers again this week to talk about further steps that can be taken to enhance security, to ensure that people aren’t able to get into the lorries in the first place.

**ANDREW MARR:**
The people who are trying to get through have in many cases undertaken absolutely extraordinary, incredibly dangerous and tough journeys of thousands of miles, living in appalling conditions because they are desperate to get to this country to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Do you have some sympathy with them?

**THERESA MAY:**
Well I think what we need to do is to recognise that there is more that we can be doing in terms of that journey because what is happening …
ANDREW MARR:  
*(over)* I’m just wondering if you have some sympathy with them. That was all.

THERESA MAY:  
Well what is happening is that many of these people are actually paying (often criminal gangs) to help them through on this journey. But what we need to do is look at how we can work with the aid money that we give to ensure that there is more … in some cases more stability but also a better economic prospect for these people …

ANDREW MARR:  
Yuh.

THERESA MAY:  
... in the countries from which they’re coming.

ANDREW MARR:  
None of it’s working at the moment, is it? Nothing is working at the moment. The problem is getting worse, not better. Now part of this, I suppose, is our relationship with the EU, which leads me onto David Cameron’s negotiations this week where it’s been absolutely made clear by officials that there will not be treaty change before the referendum. That means that the Yes campaign are going to have to say vote Yes to stay in Europe, and we believe these other people’s promises will be honoured in due course rather than we have got a done deal. Doesn’t that make it nearly impossible for the Yes campaign?

THERESA MAY:  
No what we anticipate, what we’re working for is a situation where we’re able to show that there is a legally binding position on these issues even if they …

ANDREW MARR:  
*(over)* … binding.

THERESA MAY:  
… legally binding position on these so that we can … people can have confidence in
what they’re looking at when they come to vote. And what’s important of course is that now, following the European Council last week, the work can start in terms of negotiations on this – which is about yes negotiations in relation to us, but also some reforms in relation to Europe, issues like the relationship between those countries outside the Eurozone and those countries inside the Eurozone, and also looking of course at this issue of free movement within Europe.

ANDREW MARR:
Boris Johnson apparently is suggesting today that there should be … we should vote no in the first referendum to create the kind of crisis which might make other European leaders really take our demands more seriously. Then there’d be a further referendum in which we could vote yes if we wanted to. What do you regard … how do you regard that?

THERESA MAY:
Well I’m approaching, as I think everybody else in government is, these negotiations that we’re undertaking with other member states in the European Union on the basis that we will be able to negotiate a deal, a positive deal, a positive package that can be put to people in the referendum. And, as I say, this is about some reforms that are of interest to others, not just to the United Kingdom in terms of how the European Union operates, but I’m going into this - as is the prime minister … You know there will bumps in the road, but we …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Okay and what for you is the absolutely crucial thing that you have to win to make it worth staying in the EU? What is the single most important issue?

THERESA MAY:
Well we will look across a number of issues, Andrew, in terms of our negotiation with them. I’m not going to set a red line out for you here.

ANDREW MARR:
Alright.
THERESA MAY:
In my area, of course, one of the key areas we’ll be talking about is free movement – looking at that whole issue of free movement – and how we can change, for example, some of our welfare benefits to ensure that there is less of an incentive for people to come here to the UK.

ANDREW MARR:
Well you’re in the middle of a very, very busy, busy morning - you’re going off to do Cobra and so forth – so thank you in particular for coming in today.