

20th January 2022

## Submission to the Inquiry into Listings of Terrorist Organisations

I note that the government has designed Hizballah and The Base as terrorist organisations, making it a criminal offence to be involved with them. The government actions in designating these groups as terrorist organisations is appropriate. We should recognise and condemn groups that are involved in terrorist actions - which cause abhorrent violence and destruction. With these groups organising violent activities, people being involved with them is a serious concern and should be criminalised.

The Base is an American based white supremacist group, that is seeking to expand their activities globally - including in Australia. An ABC investigation notes how The Base sought Australian recruits with “access to firearms, security licences, combat training, and a commitment to racial purity” - which raises immediate concerns about the violent intentions of the group.<sup>1</sup> It is important to recognise the increasing threat posed by white supremacist or radical far-right organisations. Notably, the worst terrorist attack in our region in recent times was the Christchurch mosque shootings, with 51 fatalities caused by a white supremacist. We have also seen increased prominence and actions by far-right organisations in the United States, such as the 2017 Charlottesville rally (1 fatality, 35 injured in a car attack) or the 2021 January 6 Capitol attacks (leading to 5 deaths and various injuries). There are serious concerns about how far-right groups could undertake violent actions to harm the community, especially minority groups, or threaten our democracy. Hence, it is prescient for the government to focus on organisations such as The Base and discourage their activities.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.

### References

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<<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-26/the-base-tapes-secret-recordings-australian-recruitment/13255994>>.

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<sup>1</sup> See Mann and Nguyen 2021.