



Committee supports re-listing of Hizballah's External Security Organisation as a terrorist organisation

Parliament's Intelligence and Security committee has today tabled a report supporting the re-listing of Hizballah's External Security Organisation (ESO) as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code.

Section 102.1A of the Criminal Code provides that the Committee may review the regulations, specifying an organisation as a terrorist organisation, as soon as possible after the making of the regulation.

Originally listed in 2003, this is the fifth time Hizballah's ESO has been proscribed by the Australian Government.

The listing encompasses only the ESO and is not a listing of the entire Hizballah organisation. The ESO is a discrete branch within Hizballah responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of terrorist attacks against Hizballah's enemies outside of Lebanon.

The Committee found that the ESO continues to engage in terrorist activities.

Committee Chair, Mr Dan Tehan said "In conducting this review, the Committee carefully examined the basis for the Government's listing of Hizballah's ESO rather than the entire organisation, and accepted that the ESO can be identified as the distinct part of the organisation purely responsible for its terrorist acts".

The listing makes it an offence to direct the activities, become a member of, recruit, train or receive training, get funds to, from or for Hizballah's ESO, provide support to or associate with it.

A copy of the report is available on the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjicis>.

For media comment, please contact the Office of the Chair, Dan Tehan MP, on 6277 4393 (Parliament House) or 03 5572 1100 (Electorate).

For inquiry information, please contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email pjicis@aph.gov.au.