



***Review of the re-listing of Al Shabaab, Hamas' Iss al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) , Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Palestinian Islamic Jihad as terrorist organisations***

**Committee to Review Re-Listing of Five Terrorist Organisations**

Under section 102.1A of the Criminal Code Act 1995 the Committee may review the regulations, specifying an organisation as a terrorist organisation, as soon as possible after the making of the regulation. The five organisations to be reviewed are:

- **Al Shabaab** objective is the establishment of an Islamic state in Somalia, based on Islamic law and the elimination of foreign 'infidel' influence.
- **Hamas' Iss al-Din al-Qassam Brigades** were officially established in 1991 to provide Hamas with a military capability. Originally, the Brigades were organized secretly, comprising compartmentalized cells that specialized in terrorist attacks, assassinations and kidnappings inside Israel. Since Hamas gained control of Gaza in 2007 and took up a governing role, the Brigades have been forced to develop, at least partially, into a more traditional military force. The Brigades operate predominantly in Gaza, with limited representation in the West Bank.
- **Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)** objectives have changed over time, in line with Turkey's evolving political environment. The organisation now calls for autonomy for Kurds within Turkey and seeks to promote and advance the rights of Kurds living in Turkey, specifically the right to maintain ethnic identity. The PKK has consistently demonstrated a willingness to use violence in order to achieve these objectives.
- **Lashkar-e-Tayyiba** is a Sunni Islamic extremist organisation based in Pakistan that uses violence in pursuit of its stated objective of uniting Indian administered Kashmir (IAK) with Pakistan under a radical interpretation of Islamic law.
- **Palestinian Islamic Jihad** is a Sunni Islamist Palestinian militant organisation committed to the destruction of the state of Israel. Accordingly, PIJ refuses to participate in the political process and rejects the possibility of a negotiated settlement to the Israel/Palestine problem.

Members of the public are welcome to make submissions to this review. Submissions are requested to be lodged by Monday 3 September 2012.

Further detail on these terrorist organisations is contained within the Attorney-General's statement of reasons for each re-listing. These can be accessed via the Committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/index.htm>

**For more information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on **02 6277 2360** or visit the PJCI's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/index.htm>