



ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

04 APR 2007

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Secretary:.....	

MC07/6822, 07/520

Ms Margaret Swieringa
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Swieringa

I refer to your letter of 13 March 2007 in response my letter of 2 March 2007 in relation to the re-listing of Ansar al-Sunna.

I confirm I do not have any concerns in relation to the publication of my letter of 2 March 2007.

Please find enclosed a document detailing the process undertaken for the re-listing Ansar al-Sunna. The Committee may treat this letter and the attached document as a submission. I do not have any concerns in relation to the publication of this submission.

The action officer for this matter in my Department is Annabel Knott who can be contacted on (02) 6250 5423.

Yours sincerely

Philip Ruddock

organisation was attached to the letters. To date, no correspondence from the States or Territories has been received in relation to this re-listing.

9. The Attorney-General wrote to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security on 2 March 2007 advising of his decision to re-list Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code.
10. The Governor-General made the regulations on 22 March 2007.
11. The regulations were registered with the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments on 23 March 2007 and commenced on 24 March 2007.
12. A press release was issued on 26 March 2007 and the Attorney-General's Department's National Security web site has been updated.

Process for the 2007 re-listing of Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code Act 1995

The following process was undertaken for the purpose of re-listing Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation:

1. A separate unclassified Statement of Reasons for Ansar al-Sunna was prepared by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, detailing the case for re-listing Ansar al-Sunna.
2. Mr Henry Burmester QC, Chief General Counsel of the Australian Government Solicitor provided written confirmation on 24 January 2007 that the Statement of Reasons prepared by ASIO was sufficient for the Attorney-General to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that Ansar al-Sunna meets the requirements to be proscribed as a terrorist organisation under s102.1 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (the Criminal Code).
3. The Director-General of Security, Mr Paul O'Sullivan wrote to the Attorney-General on 31 January 2007 outlining the background, leadership, membership, leadership and membership of Ansar al-Sunna and attached a Statement of Reasons in respect of the organisation.
4. A submission was provided to the Attorney-General on 28 February 2007 attaching:
 - a. A copy of the Statement of Reasons prepared by ASIO in respect of Ansar al-Sunna;
 - b. Advice from the Chief General Counsel in respect of Ansar al-Sunna; and
 - c. Regulations and Federal Executive Council documentation in respect of Ansar al-Sunna.
5. Having considered the information provided in the submission, the Attorney-General signed a statement confirming he is satisfied on reasonable grounds that Ansar al-Sunna is directly or indirectly engaged in preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act, whether or not the act has occurred or will occur.

The Attorney-General also signed regulations with respect to Ansar al-Sunna and approved associated Federal Executive Council documentation including Explanatory Memorandum, Executive Council Minute and Explanatory Statement.

6. A letter dated 2 March 2007 from the Attorney-General was sent to the Prime Minister advising of the Attorney-General's intention to re-list Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code.
7. The Attorney-General advised the Leader of the Opposition by letter dated 2 March 2007 of the proposed re-listing of Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code. The Leader of the Opposition was offered a briefing in relation to the re-listing of the organisation, however he has not taken up this offer.
8. The Attorney-General wrote to the Attorneys-General of the States and Territories on 2 March 2007 advising them of the decision to re-list Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code. A copy of the Statement of Reasons re-listing Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist

organisation was attached to the letters. To date, no correspondence from the States or Territories has been received in relation to this re-listing.

9. The Attorney-General wrote to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security on 2 March 2007 advising of his decision to re-list Ansar al-Sunna as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code.
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