

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

**Question No. 102**

**Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:**

According to media reports, speakers at the conference organised by Hizb ut-Tahrir (HUT) in Sydney on 4 July 2010 year included two leaders of HUT in Britain, Burhan Hanif and Salim Atchia.

- A. Why did the government decide to allow these individuals to visit Australia to participate in the Hizb ut-Tahrir conference?
- B. Did the government consider Hizb ut-Tahrir's violently anti-semitic views and the risk of such individuals encouraging extremist views and stirring up community tensions?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

A. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is the appropriate agency to comment on visa issues. Any person applying for a visa to travel to, or remain in, Australia may have the application referred by DIAC to ASIO for a Security Assessment. A risk-managed referral framework is in place so that applications likely to be of security concern are drawn to ASIO's attention.

Visa applications are referred to ASIO for assessment by DIAC based on whether they match specific criteria. The criteria are classified for operational reasons.

B. Hizb ut-Tahrir is not proscribed as a terrorist organisation under Australian law (nor is it proscribed in the United Kingdom). The organisation is entitled to hold meetings and conferences like any other group. Australia has strong laws against urging violence and inciting terrorism, but it is not appropriate to speculate on whether particular conduct would breach Australian law, as this is a matter for police. It is also not appropriate to comment or speculate on individual visa applications.