



Committee Approves Proscription of Hizballah's Foreign Terrorist Wing

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security tabled a report this morning supporting the re-listing of Hizballah's ESO as a terrorist organisation.

Hizballah's External Security Organisation is based in Lebanon and was formed in 1983. The Chairperson, the Hon Arch Bevis MP stated: "The ESO is committed to armed resistance against the state of Israel and the removal of all Western influence from the region. To achieve this aim the ESO actively promotes terrorist attacks in Lebanon, Palestinian areas and in the international arena".

Mr Bevis added: "The Committee regularly reviews proposed listings of terrorist organisations. Whilst hearings are conducted in private to enable classified information to be considered, reports from the Committee are tabled in Parliament. In addition, submissions are received from the public." Mr Bevis

The Committee received three submissions from the public. The Federation of Community Legal Centres (VIC) Inc and Dr Patrick Emerton both submitted a detailed critique of the proscription regime and stated that the statutory criteria had not been adequately made out in the case of Hizballah's ESO.

The Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council supported the re-listing of Hizballah's ESO but stated that the organisation should be proscribed in its entirety. These submissions can be accessed via the Committee's website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/hizballah_eso/subs.htm

Further detail on this terrorist organisation is contained within the Attorney-General's statement of reasons. These can be accessed via the Committee's website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/hizballah_eso/subs/sub%201.pdf

The report is available in hard copy from the secretariat and is on the Committee's web site at:

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

For media comment, contact the Chair **The Hon Arch Bevis MP** on **02 6277 4518**.

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