

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Parliamentary Inquiry: Review of the Australian Citizenship Renunciation By
Conduct and Cessation Provisions 2019 - 2020

QUESTION ON NOTICE/ Written

Parliamentary Inquiry – Hearing 02 August 2019

Topic: Managing foreign terrorist fighters

Question

1. Does the Department believe that countries should take responsibility for their citizens in Syria?
2. Does the Department believe that it is important for the international community “to work together to address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters who have travelled to fight for ISIS”?
3. Does the Department believe that terrorism is a global threat requiring an international response?
4. Does the Department believe that Australia’s citizenship revocation regime sets a good example to all members of the Global Coalition and the international community? Is it an example that the Department would like to see followed by other countries?

Answer

1. The management of foreign terrorist fighters is a shared global challenge, and we work closely with our international partners to counter any threat they pose.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. Citizenship loss is one of the range of measures to manage Australians of counter terrorism interest. We are aware of other international partners, such as the UK, who have similar measures in place, though they differ in some ways. Australia works closely with international partners to manage the common threat of terrorism.

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QUESTION ON NOTICE/ Written

Parliamentary Inquiry – Hearing 02 August 2019

Topic: Extradition process related to Neil Prakash

Question

1. Could the Department please provide an update on the status of the extradition process in relation to Neil Prakash? Specifically:
 - a. Has the Australian government appealed against the decision by Judge Ismail Deniz in July last year to deny Australia's extradition request?
 - b. If so, what is the status of that appeal?
 - c. What are anticipated to be the next steps in that extradition process?
2. If, having exhausted all rights of appeal, the extradition request fails, what is likely to happen to Mr Prakash at the conclusion of his sentence if:
 - a. Fiji refuses to issue Mr Prakash with a passport; or
 - b. Fiji refuses to allow Mr Prakash to enter that country?

Answer

1.
 - a. Australia's extradition request was declined by the Kilis Criminal Court in Turkey in July 2018. Australian authorities understand that Turkish authorities have appealed the decision of the Kilis Criminal Court on behalf of Australia. The appeal was made to the Ankara Supreme Court in September 2018.
 - b. We understand that a hearing date for the appeal is yet to be set.
 - c. We understand that Australia's extradition request will remain in place until the conclusion of any appeal proceedings and, subject to the outcome of the appeal, the conclusion of the custodial sentence imposed on Mr Prakash in Turkey.
2.
 - a. This question has been referred to the Department of Home Affairs.
 - b. This question has been referred to the Department of Home Affairs.