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PJCIS review of the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group

Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism (***Special Envoy***) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (the ***Committee***) into the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group under the Commonwealth Criminal Code.

The Special Envoy was appointed by the Prime Minister on 9 July 2024.

The Terms of Reference for her appointment note:

> *"The surge of reported antisemitic incidences… threaten the safety and security not only of Australia's Jewish community but also of Australia as a whole and its future as a peaceful, free, cohesive and diverse multicultural society."*[1]

Relevantly, a key element of the Government's consideration for listing Hizb ut-Tahrir is whether:

> *"specifying the organisation as a prohibited hate group is reasonably necessary to protect the Australian community or part of the Australian community against social, economic, psychological and/or physical harm, or from the promotion of violence"*.[2]

While the Special Envoy does not propose to restate in detail the legal and factual basis for Hizb ut-Tahrir's listing as a prohibited hate group, she supports the assessment of the Minister for Home Affairs – made on the recommendation of the Director-General of Security – that the organisation meets the legislated requirements, as summarised in the Explanatory Statement issued by the Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs.

In the Special Envoy's view, Hizb ut-Tahrir has engaged in sustained antisemitic conduct and broader incitement activities over an extended period of time.

[1] https://www.aseca.gov.au/about/terms-reference
[2] See the *Criminal Code*, paragraph 114A.4(1)(b).

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As the Executive Council of Australian Jewry has observed:

> *"On several occasions since 2014, the principal figures of Hizb ut-Tahrir in Australia have brazenly whipped up crowds of their followers with blood-curdling cries of hatred and violence directed not only against Jews but also against moderate Muslims."*[3]

This includes the repeated praising of acts of terrorist violence, such as the brutal massacre carried out by Hamas and associated terrorist groups on 7 October 2023.[4]

The group has also been implicated in hate preaching, violent protests outside a Melbourne synagogue and the infiltration/inspiration of university encampments during 2024.[5]

Together with the inflammatory and potentially radicalising effect of this conduct, the impact of such incitement – within Australia – on the already-traumatised Australian Jewish community cannot be overstated.

Moreover, as a pan-Islamist political organisation dedicated to the establishment of a global caliphate governed by sharia law, Hizb ut-Tahrir has sought to undermine core Australian values – and our future as a peaceful, free, cohesive and diverse multicultural society – by advocating for the imposition, including in Australia, of a theocratic dictatorship.

The Special Envoy notes that the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir brings Australia into line with like-minded democracies such as the United Kingdom and Germany, as well as a number of Muslim majority countries, including Egypt, Jordan and Indonesia, all of which recognise its malicious impact.

For these reasons, the Special Envoy supports the Government's listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group and recommends that the Committee endorse the Minister's decision.

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[3] 'ECAJ welcomes Hizb ut-Tahrir ban', *Executive Council of Australian Jewry*, 6 March 2026, https://www.ecaj.org.au/hizb-ut-tahrir-ban-welcomed/

[4] Alexi Demetriadi, 'Extremists "are a Terrorist Group"', *The Australian*, 25 June 2024, https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/hizb-uttahrir-extremists-are-a-terrorist-group/news-story/65430041fe179425d2c5b218032b6635

[5] 'Australian Islamist Leader Ismail Al-Wahwah Incites to Wage Jihad Against Jews: "They are the most Evil Creates of Allah"', *MEMRI*, 3 March 2015, https://www.memri.org/tv/australian-islamist-leader-ismail-al-wahwah-incites-wage-jihad-against-jews-they-are-most-evil; Nick McKenzie, Marta Pascual Juanola and Anne Worthington, 'Hate Comes to University Campus but Hides Its Face' *The Sydney Morning Herald* 16 June 2024, https://www.smh.com.au/national/hate-comes-to-university-campus-but-hides-its-face-20240613-p5jlif.html.

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