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5th June 2018

Dear Home Secretary,

Firstly, may I congratulate you on your new position. Having met you on a number of occasions, I know you as a thoroughly decent man who is a firm friend of the Jewish community. We have enjoyed excellent relations with your two predecessors and we look forward to continuing our work with the Home Office and to holding discussions with you in due course.

I am writing to you urgently however, regarding the proscription of Hizballah in its entirety, and the proposed pro-Hizballah parade this Sunday. These are separate matters and so I have addressed them in separate sections of this letter, however I wish to particularly draw your attention to the following:

- I submitted a Parliamentary Petition<sup>1</sup> calling on you to proscribe Hizballah in its entirety, which has in just a few days significantly surpassed the 10,000 signatures required in order to solicit a response from you. The petition has been signed by people in 647 of the 650 Parliamentary constituencies, from Orkney to St Ives. This is unsurprising, considering that 81% of the British public and 71% of British Muslims with an opinion on the matter support the full proscription of Hizballah.<sup>2</sup> **An early response to that petition, preferably well in advance of Sunday's march, would show the Jewish community and the British public that you continue to listen to them.**
- **We are extremely concerned that this year's pro-Hizballah parade will become disorderly and violent, and will be very different to parades in past years.** We have set out our reasons, and we are conscious, of course, that last year's parade was the original intended target of the convicted terrorist, Darren Osborne.

1. See <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/219020>

2. See [http://www.comresglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Jewish-News\\_January-2018-poll\\_Hezbollah.pdf](http://www.comresglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Jewish-News_January-2018-poll_Hezbollah.pdf)

## PROSCRIPTION OF HIZBALLAH IN ITS ENTIRETY

We have called on you, through my Parliamentary Petition, to fully proscribe Hizballah. Our call has been echoed by Muslim leaders such as Fiyaz Mughal OBE, founder of TellMAMA, the leading charity combatting anti-Muslim hatred, with whom I wrote a joint letter to you on this subject last month. Our call has also been backed by military experts such as one of Campaign Against Antisemitism's Honorary Patrons, Colonel Richard Kemp, the former commander of British forces in Afghanistan.

Our rationale is clear and has long been stated.

Hizballah seeks the extermination of Jews. Its Secretary-General, Hassan Nasrallah, could not have been plainer when he said: "If Jews all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide."<sup>3</sup>

Hizballah has acted on its murderous mantra, bombing Jewish civilians all around the world, from Buenos Aires to Burgas, and it has even been blamed for two bombings targeting Jews in London in 1994. In the words of Hizballah operative Hussam Yaacoub, who was caught plotting an attack in Cyprus in 2012: "I was just collecting information about the Jews, and this is what my organisation is doing everywhere in the world."<sup>4</sup>

Unlike the United States, Canada, some of our European allies, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, the British Government has proscribed the "military wing" of Hizballah under the Terrorism Act 2000, but the "political wing" is not proscribed, despite the fact that Hizballah's founding document states: "As to our military power, nobody can imagine its dimensions because we do not have a military agency separate from the other parts of our body."<sup>5</sup>

Hizballah finds the British Government's distinction between a "military wing" and a "political wing" ridiculous. Indeed, its Deputy Secretary-General, Naim Qassem, mockingly said in 2012: "We don't have a military wing and a political one; we don't have Hizballah on one hand and the resistance party on the other... Every element of Hizballah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance, and we have nothing but the resistance as a priority."<sup>6</sup> The message was reinforced by Hassan Nasrallah in 2013 when he said: "The story of [a] military wing and [a] political wing is the work of the British."<sup>7</sup>

3. See <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/23/books/the-enemy-within.html>

4. See <https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-Ed-Contributors/Hezbollahs-global-footprint-325783>

5. See <https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/home-affairs/terrorism/opinion/house-commons/92314/joan-ryan-mp-if-hezbollah-doesnt>

6. See <http://www.thetower.org/e-u-blacklists-hezbollah-military-wing-calls-attention-to-debates-over-whether-different-hezbollah-wings-exist/>

7. See <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-01-25/debates/DB6D525D-BFD3-479E-8E78-94CDB2E2F28F/ProscriptionOfHezbollah>

**This loophole enables brazen shows of support for Hizballah and fundraising and even recruitment for any supposedly non-military activities conducted by Hizballah are permitted in Britain. It is extremely likely that such funds are used to finance terrorist activity, and could be used to target British subjects.**

Hassan Nasrallah, shares our assessment of the impact of full proscription. He said that if Hizballah were to be proscribed in its entirety, it “would dry up the sources of finance, end moral, political and material support, [and] stifle voices, whether they are the voices of the resistance or the voices which support the resistance”.<sup>8</sup>

We have repeatedly been told that the reason that the Government does not proscribe Hizballah fully is that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has resisted full proscription on the grounds that this may hinder diplomacy in Hizballah-controlled parts of Lebanon. However, failing to fully proscribe Hizballah shows Britain to be appeasing terrorists and isolates us from important allies. For example, on 16th May, the United States and allies in the Gulf imposed additional sanctions on Hizballah’s leadership, including Hassan Nasrallah and Naim Qassem. In announcing the new sanctions, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said: “By targeting Hizballah’s Shura Council, our nations collectively rejected the false distinction between a so-called ‘political wing’ and Hizballah’s global terrorist plotting.”<sup>9</sup>

In any event, perceived diplomatic inconveniences are irrelevant to determining whether the entirety of Hizballah is a terrorist organisation meeting the criteria for proscription under the Terrorism Act 2000, in order to protect the British public.

The case for total proscription is clear. Hizballah, on the command of its single, unified leadership, has committed countless terrorist atrocities worldwide, including carrying out or attempting many terrorist attacks against British, Israeli and Jewish targets.

One of its most notorious atrocities was the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association Jewish centre in Buenos Aires in 1994, in which 85 people were killed. In the same year, it was blamed for two bombings in London. Hizballah is also responsible for the Burgas bus bombing against Jewish tourists in Bulgaria in 2012, in which five Israeli citizens and the Bulgarian bus driver were killed. It fired hundreds of rockets at Israeli civilians during the 2006 Second Lebanon War and has an estimated 120,000 missiles aimed at Israeli cities now.<sup>10</sup> Hizballah is also allegedly responsible for a bombing in Beirut in 1983 that killed 241 US marines, 58 French paratroopers and six civilians. These are only a fraction of the terrorist attacks conducted worldwide by Hizballah.

Today, Hizballah terrorists are in Syria committing countless war crimes in support of the despot Bashir al-Assad, in a civil war that has left approximately half a million people dead.

8. See <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/16/world/europe/hezbollah-banned-in-us-operates-in-europes-public-eye.html>

9. See <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm0387>

10. See <https://www.algemeiner.com/2016/07/12/israels-un-ambassador-to-security-council-hezbollah-has-120000-hidden-missiles-more-than-all-of-nato-possesses/>

**In summary, the notion that Hizballah has a wing that is not engaged in terrorism does not withstand scrutiny, not least because Hizballah itself denies the existence of separate political and military wings. Within Hizballah, their political and terrorist military activities are inseparable, and all elements of Hizballah believe that Jews should be sought out wherever they are in the world and murdered.**

**When it comes to Britain's security, and the safety and wellbeing of British Jews, half-measures simply do not stack up strategically. Due to Hizballah's clear and overriding objective of conducting acts of terrorism against Jews worldwide it must be proscribed in its entirety in the UK. Through your Great Office of State, your signature, and yours alone, can achieve this.**

## **LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE AT THE PRO-HIZBALLAH PARADE THIS YEAR**

Each year, supporters of Hizballah parade through London's most iconic streets flying the flag of Hizballah. They drape the flag around the shoulders of their children whilst chanting antisemitic slogans.

The parade is a rallying point for anti-Muslim bigots who wish to portray all British Muslims as terrorist sympathisers, and for antisemites, who admire Hizballah's stated mission to seek out and murder Jews around the world.

**The danger posed by this parade to British Muslims and Jews is clear and present.**

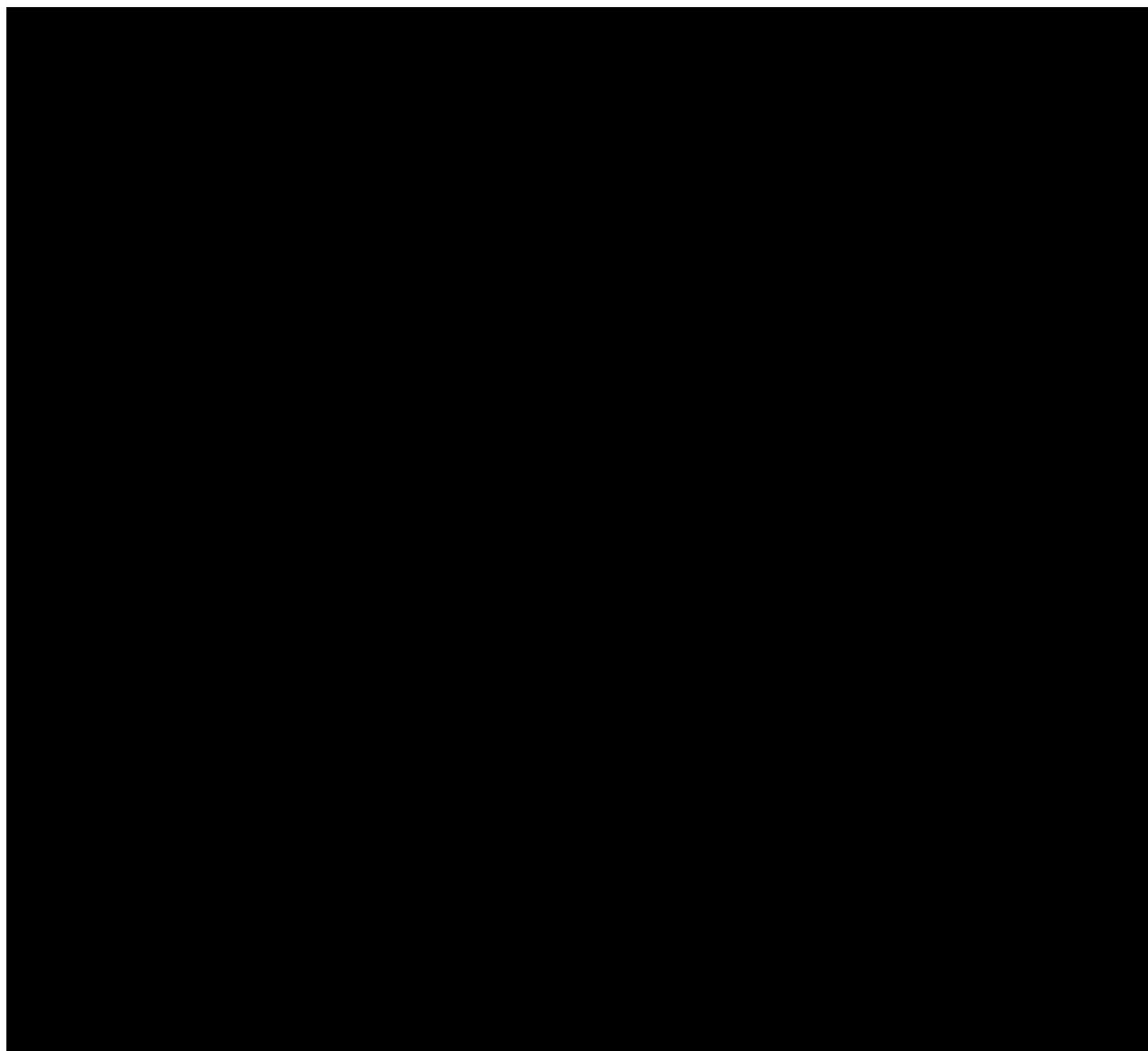
**Last year, the terrorist Darren Osborne intended to ram the march with his car but due to difficulties in targeting the parade he instead rammed his car into a mosque, killing one and injuring twelve.**

**Simultaneously, the march itself is a font of antisemitic invective, last year even featuring claims bellowed by its leader, Nazim Hussain Ali, that 'Zionists' paid your Government to burn down Grenfell Tower. Due to the Crown Prosecution Service's failure to act, Campaign Against Antisemitism is now privately prosecuting him.**

We appeal to you not to permit terrorist supporters who profess only to support Hizballah's "political wing" to brazenly parade through our capital. For the reasons already stated, there is a clear case for proscribing Hizballah in its entirety, and we implore you to uphold British values by laying an Order before Parliament ahead of the next parade this Sunday, 10th June.

By doing so, you will help us to thwart those who seek to portray all Muslims as terrorist sympathisers, and those who would walk our streets carrying the flag of an organisation whose sworn mission is the genocide of Jews.

**Additionally, we believe that there is a much greater likelihood of violence at the parade this year** for the following reasons:



Even if you proscribe Hizballah, for the reasons above, we are also making representations to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis urging that she use her powers under the Public Order Act 1986 to prohibit the parade from taking the form of a procession, instead requiring that it be held as a static public assembly, preferably in the purpose-built 'kettling' pens on Whitehall where all parties can be separated and where the demonstrators and counterdemonstrators can more readily be protected against acts of terror.

Home Secretary, you are well-known to the Jewish community for your principles and your determined opposition to extremism and those who sympathise with terrorism. Our community is hopeful that you will now avail yourself of the powers of your Great Office of State to defend British values by proscribing Hizballah in its entirety.

If I may, I would urge you to make your decision public by responding directly to the thousands of people who have signed our Parliamentary Petition.

Yours sincerely,

Gideon Falter  
**CHAIRMAN**