

From: e-Dear Colleague
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 1:44 PM
To: E-DEARCOLL_ISSUES_A-F_0000@ls2.house.gov
Subject: ForeignAffairs: Dear Colleague: Urge the EU to Designate Hizbollah as a Terrorist Organization

Urge the EU to Designate Hizbollah as a Terrorist Organization

From: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Sent By: mira.resnick@mail.house.gov
Date: 2/11/2013

February 11, 2013

Dear Colleague,

Last week, the Bulgarian government released their findings in their investigation into the 2012 Burgas bombing, which concluded that Hizbollah financed, planned and executed the attack in 2012 on European soil. In light of this recent development, we plan to send a letter to the European Union, urging them to list Hizbollah as a terrorist entity. Members of Congress sent similar letters in September 2012.

The Bulgarian report demonstrates clear evidence that Hizbollah was responsible for the Burgas bombing. Hizbollah's actions in Europe must be met with a response to prevent further attacks in Europe and around the world.

Please join us in sending a letter to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Cathy Ashton, urging the EU to designate Hizbollah as a terrorist organization and to the Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov, supporting Bulgaria on their findings and on their next steps.

If you would like to sign the letter or if you have any questions, please contact Mira Resnick with Representative Waxman (5-3976) or Miriam Keim with Representative Bilirakis (5-5755).
Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

February X, 2013

Baroness Catherine Ashton
High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the European Commission
European Union

Dear High Representative Ashton:

We are writing to urge you to designate Hizbollah as a terrorist entity. Recalling the letter that members of the US Congress sent in September, 2012, Hizbollah is seeking to destabilize the Middle East and the world, with the bombing in Bulgaria as only one of the most recent examples of the threat it poses. The foiled plot in Cyprus, now on trial, demonstrates a pattern of targeting in Europe. In light of the Bulgarian government's thorough and credible investigation into the Burgas bombing, which concluded that Hizbollah financed, planned and executed the attack in 2012 on European soil, we urge you to take action now to ensure that a similar terrorist attack does not happen again.

The Bulgarian report demonstrates clear evidence that Hizbollah was responsible for the Burgas bombing. We applaud the Bulgarian authorities for their comprehensive report, and we welcome your subsequent statement seeking to ensure that the perpetrators of the attack be held accountable. There is now clear imperative for action. Hizbollah's actions in Europe must be met with a response to prevent further attacks in Europe and around the world.

The investigation of the Burgas bombing, coupled with the deep body of evidence and intelligence that supported the decisions by the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands to classify in its entirety Hizbollah as a terrorist organization, and action by the United Kingdom and Australia to place the "Hizbollah External Security Organization" on their terrorist lists, demonstrates an unmistakable path forward for the European Union to isolate Hizbollah over its support for terror and incitement.

Moreover, there is precedent in the European Union for action to place Hizbollah on the terrorist list. In May 2002, the European Union froze the assets of seven Hizbollah leaders in its financial sanctions list for terrorism. In March 2005, the European Parliament adopted a resolution recognizing that "clear evidence exists of terrorist activities on the part of Hizbollah," and called on the European Union Council to take "all necessary steps to curtail them." And, France, Spain and Germany have taken measures to restrict Hizbollah's al-Manar media station.

Placing Hizbollah on the terrorist list would be the next logical step, in light of the terrorist attack on European soil. Hizbollah is already a main source of instability in Lebanon and increasingly, in Syria. Blocking Hizbollah from fundraising and travel would make it more difficult for Hizbollah to plan, finance and execute terrorist activities in Europe and around the world. We fear that failure to add Hizbollah to the terror list will allow, perhaps even encourage, the terror organization to exploit the lack of unity in the European Union Member States, and attempts to launch additional attacks on civilians. Furthermore, if Hizbollah's ability to maintain fundraising networks in Europe remains intact, this threatens to undermine the European Union's significant efforts towards Middle East peace.

We hope you will act to build the consensus among European Union members that is urgently needed to weaken Hizbollah's terrorist infrastructure. We look forward to working with you and your counterparts to increase engagement between the United States and the European Union to prevent future Hizbollah terrorist operations.

Sincerely,

CC: Foreign Ministers of the European Union

February X, 2013

Tsvetan Gentchev Tsvetanov
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Interior
Bulgaria

Dear Minister Tsvetanov:

We are writing to express our support for your recent report on the 2012 Burgas bombing. Your comprehensive investigation builds a sound foundation for further action against Hizbollah, and we look forward to supporting you in your next steps.

The Bulgarian report demonstrates irrefutable evidence that Hizbollah was responsible for the Burgas bombing. There is now clear imperative for action. Hizbollah's actions in Europe must be met with a response to prevent further attacks in Europe and around the world.

The investigation of the Burgas bombing, coupled with the deep body of evidence and intelligence that supported the decisions by the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands to classify in its entirety Hizbollah as a terrorist organization, and action by the United Kingdom and Australia to place the "Hizbollah External Security Organization" on their terrorist lists, demonstrates an unmistakable path forward for the European Union to isolate Hizbollah over its support for terror and incitement.

Placing Hizbollah on the terrorist list would be the next logical step, in light of the terrorist attack on European soil. Blocking Hizbollah from fundraising would make it more difficult for Hizbollah to plan, finance and execute terrorist activities in Europe and around the world. We fear that failure to add Hizbollah to the terror list will allow, perhaps even encourage, the terror organization to exploit the lack of unity in the European Union Member States, and attempts to launch additional attacks on civilians. Furthermore, if Hizbollah's ability to maintain fundraising networks in Europe remains intact, this threatens to undermine the European Union's significant efforts towards Middle East peace.

We hope you will act to build the consensus among European Union members that is urgently needed to weaken Hizbollah's terrorist infrastructure. We look forward to working with you and your counterparts to increase engagement between the United States and the European Union to prevent future Hizbollah terrorist operations.

Sincerely,