



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP  
Shadow Home Secretary  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Ref: HoC/SR

Dear Diane,

I write to you urgently concerning Labour's position on the proscription of Hezbollah.

An article in the Daily Telegraph on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 revealed how Hezbollah-linked operatives were caught stockpiling tonnes of explosive material in north London in 2015. More explosive was discovered at this bomb factory than was used in the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people and damaged hundreds of buildings.

It was only thanks to the bravery of our security and intelligence services that this plot was foiled and no innocent lives were lost. Hezbollah is a deeply antisemitic terror organisation that has ruthlessly targeted Jews across the world. These bomb materials may have been gathered as part of a plot to kill British Jews.

I, together with many MPs, have long campaigned for the full proscription of this terror group as we are aware of the danger it poses. We reject any attempt to distinguish between a "military" and a "political" wing; a distinction that Hezbollah itself has repeatedly and explicitly denied. Any organisation that stockpiles bomb making equipment on the streets of Britain is a terrorist group and must be treated as such. I am deeply concerned that Labour has refused to support calls for the full proscription of Hezbollah, even after the government's U-turn on this issue. In light of today's revelations, continued opposition to the full proscription of Hezbollah by the Labour party is untenable.

Could you clarify Labour's position and make it clear that Labour now supports the full proscription of Hezbollah in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise".

Louise Ellman

Vice-chair, Labour Friends of Israel