



Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP

House of Commons

London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0207 219 2442

Email: joan.ryan.mp@parliament.uk

10 June 2019

Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Home Office

Direct Communications Unit

2 Marsham Street

London, SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: JR16786

Dear Secretary of State,

I write concerning reports in this morning's Daily Telegraph that a plot by Hezbollah-linked operatives to store explosive materials in London was foiled by the security services in September 2015.

I pay tribute to both MI5 and the Metropolitan police for their role in disrupting this effort. Given that it is alleged that the terrorists were stockpiling more ammonium nitrate than was used in the Oklahoma City bombing – and that this was part of an international conspiracy stretching across several countries – we can be sure that many innocent lives would have been lost had the security services not succeeded. As you are aware, Hezbollah has murdered countless Israelis citizens and targeted Jews across the globe.

However, I am deeply concerned that information about this plot appears to have been withheld from both the public and members of parliament.

As you know, alongside colleagues from across the House I campaigned for a number of years to ensure that both Hezbollah's military and political wings were proscribed in the UK. In January 2018, I secured a debate in the House on this topic in which Home Office ministers opposed such a step. I acknowledge the fact that you belatedly banned Hezbollah in its entirety shortly before the Telegraph began its investigation. I would, though, appreciate a response from you to the following questions:

First, why were the public and MPs not informed about the stockpiling of explosive material by Hezbollah-linked operatives after the plot was discovered, especially in the light of the fact that Parliament was debating the nature and seriousness of the threat posed by Hezbollah both to the UK and to our allies abroad?

Second, considering that the Government knew about this plot from September 2015, why didn't it act to fully proscribe Hezbollah then, and, indeed, why did it continue to oppose the full proscription for a further three and a half years, most notably during the debate I organised in January 2018?

Third, both the Prime Minister and her predecessor were reportedly personally briefed on the plot. Can you confirm that nobody in Government ordered this information to be withheld from the public because of its sensitivity due to Iran's funding and support for Hezbollah and the recent conclusion of the Iran nuclear deal?

Fourth, Hezbollah was only fully proscribed in the UK in February. Can you confirm that the CPS' decision not to prosecute the individual who was arrested in relation to the plot did not result from the fact that, at this time, only Hezbollah's military wing was banned in the UK?

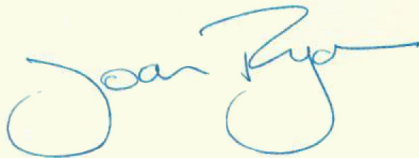
Fifth, the Labour party failed to support proscription of Hezbollah in February's debate. Was the Opposition made aware by the Government of this plot after it was disrupted?

Sixth, as you know, proscription is only the beginning of the process to counter banned terror groups in the UK. It is imperative that the UK deploys a full range of regulatory, law enforcement and intelligence measures against proscribed organisations. I would, therefore, appreciate an update on the following specific steps:

- What action your department is taking to stop Hezbollah funding sources and UK money flows?
- What action your department intends to take regarding front organisations which assist Hezbollah in the UK?
- What action your department intends to take regarding UK citizens or dual UK citizens with ties to Hezbollah?
- What action your department intends to take regarding domestic Hezbollah operatives?

Given the seriousness of this matter, I would very much appreciate an urgent response from you.

Yours sincerely,



Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP
Member of Parliament for Enfield North
Chair, Labour Friends of Israel