

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2019

Honourable Heiko Maas
Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs
Auswärtiges Amt
11013 Berlin
Germany

Dear Minister:

We are writing to express our disappointment that the Bundestag failed to pass a law on June 6, 2019 to outlaw the entirety of the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah in the Federal Republic of Germany. We urge your government to take a profound step in the war against terrorism and follow in the footsteps of the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Israel and Canada and eliminate the artificial distinction between Hezbollah's military and political branches.

Hezbollah is a direct threat to the Federal Republic. The group has a long history of carrying out terror abroad, including in Germany, France, Bulgaria, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Argentina, Panama and Saudi Arabia. It is imperative that you obstruct the efforts of the record number of 1,050 Hezbollah members and supporters in your country that seek to prop up the terrorist group. At present, Hezbollah legally raises funds and support through German community and Islamic centers and meets with German politicians. As a cohesive institution whose political, social, paramilitary and terrorist elements operate in careful calibration, Hezbollah can thrive in Germany so long as one of its branches can legally raise political and financial capital there.

Indeed, there is much evidence that Hezbollah's political and military factions operate in close cooperation. In 2009, Hezbollah politician Hassan Hodroj was caught in the U.S. seeking procurement of weaponry on the black market to support Hezbollah's global operations. According to a CIA report, before Hassan Nasrallah assumed the office of Secretary General, he was "directly involved in many Hezbollah terrorist operations, including hostage taking, airline hijackings, and attacks against Lebanese rivals." Hezbollah MP and Lebanese Minister of Sports and Youth Mohammed Fneish proudly admits to having been a founding member of the terrorist group, at a time before Hezbollah even had political ambitions.

Maintaining the sentiment of many outspoken Hezbollah officials on the matter, Fneish once said, "Our entry into parliament is one form of Resistance, a political form, because naturally we men of the Resistance need political backing, and armed Resistance needs political assistance." We implore you not to provide justifications for an organization that does not bother to make those defenses for itself.

There can be no dialogue with a terrorist organization. We have a responsibility not to lend legitimacy to terrorism, nor circumvent international security to appease those that would do us harm. We applaud the steps your nation has already taken by designating Hezbollah's military branch a terrorist entity. The United States and Germany must now work in concert to stymie the flow of resources to Hezbollah and protect our two nations and partners from the terrorist group's plots and attacks. For these reasons, we urge the Federal Republic to designate Hezbollah a terrorist organization in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress




Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



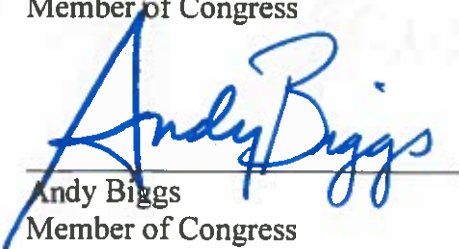
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



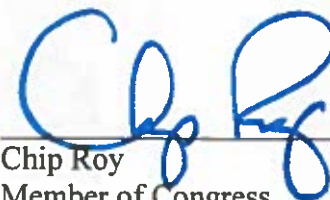
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress