



Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
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24 April 2026

Dear Committee Secretary

Review of the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group under the Criminal Code

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (the ECAJ) is the peak, elected, representative body of the Australian Jewish community. It was established for that purpose in 1944 by Australian Jewish organisations and their elected leaders. The ECAJ’s constituent organisations are the roof bodies of the Jewish community in each State and Territory.¹ Other Jewish organisations which operate nationally are Affiliates of the ECAJ.² Altogether, the ECAJ’s constituent and affiliated organisations, and their respective constituent and affiliated organisations, number approximately 200 major Jewish organisations across Australia.

The ECAJ thanks the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (‘the Committee’) for the opportunity to make a submission to the Review of the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group under the Criminal Code. As we noted in our submission to the Committee on the Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill dated 15 January 2026, it is essential that the Government take action to constrain hate groups, which seek to exploit the freedoms of our democratic society in order to undo them. Violent behaviour motivated by extremist religious world views which may involve the targeting of ethnic and other protected groups remains an enduring and an escalating threat not only to the personal safety of citizens

¹ Namely, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria Inc, the Jewish Community Council of Western Australia Inc, the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, the Jewish Community Council of South Australia, the Hobart Hebrew Congregation and the ACT Jewish Community Inc.
² Namely, Australasian Union of Jewish Students, Union for Progressive Judaism, Australian Federation of WIZO, Maccabi Australia Inc, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, B’nai B’rith District 21 of Australia and New Zealand, Jewish National Fund of Australia Inc, Joint Distribution Committee Australia.

PRESIDENT Daniel Aghion KC	CO-CEOs Peter Wertheim AM Alex Ryvchin	CONSTITUENTS NSW Jewish Board of Deputies Jewish Community Council of Victoria Jewish Community Council of WA Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies Jewish Community Council of SA Hobart Hebrew Congregation ACT Jewish Community The Northern Territory Jewish Community Association	AFFILIATES Australasian Union of Jewish Students Australian Federation of WIZO Union for Progressive Judaism Federation of Jewish Aged Car Services Maccabi Australia National Council of Jewish Women B’nai B’rith of Australia/ NZ Jewish National Fund of Australia Joint Distribution Committee Australia	OBSERVERS Council of Progressive Rabbis Federation of Australian Jewish Ex-Service Associations New Zealand Jewish Council Zionist Federation of Australia Council of Orthodox Synagogues of Australia
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HON. SECRETARY Anton Block AM				

but also to social cohesion. Perhaps more than any other community in Australia, the Australian Jewish community has faced a long history of sustained terrorist threat. This has included significant violent and life-threatening incidents and serious damage to property. There are often many indications that a group is engaging in or advocating the commission of hate crimes prior to it engaging in a terrorist act.

Australia's threat landscape has become more diverse and diffuse since 2023. This trend towards a diversity of threat sources has been emerging for several years³. ASIO's 2025 Threat Assessment describes a security environment marked by "multifaceted, merging and cascading threats," fuelled by the spread of extremist ideologies and accelerated radicalisation online.⁴ As the recent spate of antisemitic attacks in Australia has demonstrated, the convergence of domestic extremism, geopolitical conflict (for example, the Israel Hamas war) and digital disinformation has increased the potential for ideologically, politically and religiously driven violence, including attacks on minority communities. In this volatile climate it is important that groups be taken at their word, and that where such groups meet the threshold of prohibited hate groups, that the Committee designates them accordingly under the new listing regime.

Executive Summary

The ECAJ unreservedly supports the continued listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group under the Criminal Code. Hizb ut-Tahrir has, on more than one occasion, praised attacks that would constitute hate crimes if carried out in Australia, including the Hamas terrorist attack on 7 October 2023 which targeted Jewish people, and other attacks on Jewish people in the Middle East. Hizb ut-Tahrir has also played a role in stoking division and antisemitic conduct towards Jews through university encampments, and is linked to the organising of a protest that led to the evacuation of a Melbourne synagogue.⁵ We therefore endorse the submission of the Minister for Home Affairs, The Hon Tony Burke MP, which outlines the reasons for the listing. We also note that there is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that the listing has already had a positive impact, insofar as Jewish staff and students are reporting a decline in extremist activities at some university campuses that previously had a notable Hizb ut-Tahrir presence.

Drawing on the ECAJ's prior submissions, including its 12 February 2021 submission to the Committee⁶, and its formal referrals to authorities concerning conduct capable of breaching criminal law, the evidence demonstrates that Hizb ut-Tahrir's ideology, rhetoric, and activities satisfy the statutory criteria in s 114A.8 of the Criminal Code.

³ Hardy, Keiran; Ananian-Welsh, Rebecca; Tulich, Tamara; and Dalla-Pozza Dominique, 'Australia's legal definition of terrorism: United Nations and Five Eyes Comparison', 11 August 2025, available at: https://www.inslm.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/united_nations_and_five_eyes_comparison.pdf, see pp. 2.

⁴ Director General's Annual Threat Assessment 2025, 19 February 2025, available at: <https://www.asio.gov.au/director-generals-annual-threat-assessment-2025>.

⁵ Nick McKenzie, Marta Pascual Juanola and Anne Worthington, 'Hate comes to university campus but hides its face', Sydney Morning Herald, 16 June 2024, available at: [Israel Hamas: Hate comes to university camp but hides its face](https://www.smh.com.au/national/israel-hamas-hate-comes-to-university-campus-but-hides-its-face-20240616-p5d98g.html)

⁶ ECAJ submission, dated 12 February 2021, available at: <https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ECAJ-Submission-12.02.2021.pdf>

1. Legislative framework – Section 114A.8

Section 114A.8 requires that an organisation has engaged in or advocated conduct constituting a hate crime, and that listing is reasonably necessary to protect the community from harm or the promotion of violence.

The statutory threshold is satisfied on the presently available public material. First, the Committee’s own review notice records that Hizb ut-Tahrir has publicly praised attacks that would constitute hate crimes if carried out in Australia, including the Hamas terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023 targeting Jewish people and other attacks on Jewish communities in the Middle East.⁷ Secondly, the Australian examples set out below include repeated public exhortations to hatred and violence against Jews and the dissemination of such material online. Thirdly, the current security environment, including the sharp escalation in the number and severity of anti-Jewish incidents since 7 October 2023, and the need for the AFP and ASIO to establish [Special Operation Avalite](#), demonstrates why continued listing is reasonably necessary to protect the community from harm and the promotion of violence.⁸

2. Ideology and objectives

As set out in ECAJ’s submission to the Committee on 12 February 2021⁹, Hizb ut-Tahrir is an international Islamist organisation that seeks to establish a global caliphate governed by its conception of Islamic law, and which rejects democracy and secular governance.¹⁰

That submission emphasised that Hizb ut-Tahrir promotes an ideology fundamentally incompatible with pluralistic democratic society, and which includes antisemitic narratives portraying Jews collectively as the enemy in a religious and political struggle.¹¹

This ideological framework is not incidental, but central to the organisation’s purpose, and provides the context in which its rhetoric and activities must be assessed.

Founded in 1953, and operating in as many as 50 countries, the caliphate which Hizb ut-Tahrir seeks to establish would initially rule over all Muslim majority countries, and eventually the entire world. The Caliphate would be a theocracy. Sovereign nations and states would be abolished. The will of the people would be subordinated to the will of the caliph. Non-Muslim

Parliament of Australia, Media Release, ‘Review into the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group’, 23 March 2026, available at: [Review into the listing of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a prohibited hate group – Parliament of Australia](#)

⁸ AFP, ‘Antisemitism’; AFP, ‘AFP to lead Special Operation Avalite to investigate anti-Semitism’, 9 December 2024; AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw antisemitism statement, 21 January 2025, available at: [AFP to lead Special Operation Avalite to investigate anti-Semitism | Australian Federal Police](#)

⁹ ECAJ submission, Inquiry into matters relating to extremist movements and radicalism in Australia, dated 12 February 2021, available at: <https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ECAJ-Submission-12.02.2021.pdf>

¹⁰ Georgina Mitchell, ‘Parramatta shooting: Teen gunman Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar's alleged links to extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 October 2015, available at: [Parramatta shooting: Teen gunman Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar's alleged links to extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir](#).

¹¹ *Ibid*

subjects would be required to pay additional taxes, would have inferior rights and status to Muslims and in many instances would be subject to Islamic religious law. Men and women would be segregated except for the purposes of commerce and religious pilgrimages.

Hizb ut-Tahrir rejects the concepts of equal rights, democracy, personal freedom, human rights and the rule of secular law, international and domestic. Its rhetoric has frequently been antisemitic, homophobic, and anti-Western. Although the group publicly has claimed that it does not seek to achieve its goals through violent means, group leaders have consistently sought to foster a sense of grievance among impressionable young Muslim men in particular. Individuals affiliated with the group have been linked to violent acts in multiple countries, and Hizb ut-Tahrir disingenuously has both distanced itself from, and sought to provide a degree of justification for, their actions. Hizb ut-Tahrir has been banned in at least 13 countries, but had not been banned in Australia until recently.

Hizb ut-Tahrir Australia rejects the legitimacy of Australia's current secular democratic constitutional order in favour of a Muslim caliphate,¹² and has called for Muslim children not to have to sing Australia's national anthem.¹³ It was led for several years by the now-deceased Islamist cleric Ismail al-Wahwah. Al-Wahwah's conduct, in particular, came under the notice of law enforcement agencies. He reportedly spent time in prison in Jordan in 2018.¹⁴

On 25 July 2014 al-Wahwah delivered a violent, public diatribe in Australia against Jews, footage of which was uploaded to YouTube at the time, and again on 3 March 2015. Al-Wahwah repeated a range of shop-worn racist tropes about Jews. In Arabic, he accused "the Jews" of corrupting the world "in every respect", describing them as "the most evil creature of Allah" and threatening that:

*"the ember of jihad against the Jews will continue to burn. Judgment Day will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews ... tomorrow you Jews will see what will become of you — an eye for an eye, blood for blood, destruction for destruction. There is only one solution for this cancerous tumour: it must be uprooted and thrown back to where it came from."*¹⁵

Al-Wahwah subsequently protested that he was referring only to Israel. But his numerous references to "the Jews" as a people belied this excuse. In his language over ten years ago, one can observe some of the earlier iterations of hate phrases deployed against Jews in recent times, including "there is only one solution...".¹⁶ In another videoed speech made in Australia on

¹² *The Draft Constitution of the Khilafah State, Hizb ut-Tahrir*, February 2011, available at:

https://archive.org/download/more-media-files-for-investigation/Draft-Cons_K-State_EN_Aug_Final-24-1_2.pdf

¹³ Saffron Howden, 'Muslim children should not be forced to sing national anthem, says Hizb ut-Tahrir', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 November 2015, available at: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/muslim-children-should-not-be-forced-to-sing-national-anthem-says-hizb-uttahrir-20151101-gknwy9.html>

Elias Visontay, 'Cleric jailed in Jordan 'failed by Australia', says lawyer', *The Australian*, 1 February 2019, available at: [Jailed cleric 'failed by Australia' | The Australian](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/foreign/religious-cleric-jailed-in-jordan-failed-by-australia-says-lawyer/news-story/151101-gknwy9)

¹⁵ Taylor Auerbach, 'Hizb ut-Tahrir leader Ismail Alwahwah calls for jihad against Jews in inflammatory video', *Daily Telegraph*, 9 March 2015, available at: [Outrage over 'jihad on Jews' video | Daily Telegraph](https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/hizb-ut-tahrir-leader-ismail-alwahwah-calls-for-jihad-against-jews-in-inflammatory-video/news-story/151101-gknwy9)

¹⁶ Please refer to the ECAJ submission on NSW measures to prohibit slogans that incite hatred, dated 16 January 2026,

or about 16 December 2017 and subsequently uploaded online, al-Wahwah used similarly violent language in reference to Jews, and also towards Muslim leaders who are prepared to accept Israel's right to exist in peace alongside a Palestinian State.¹⁷

The speech followed the announcement on 6 December 2017 by the then US President Donald Trump that the United States recognises Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that he had ordered the planning of the relocation of the US. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It also referred to the Sixth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit, organised by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and held in Istanbul on 13 December 2017. The summit ended with a final communique condemning the US announcement about Jerusalem and recognising East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital, but impliedly accepting that the remainder of Jerusalem belongs to Israel.

Al-Wahwah was shown in the video to be saying (translated from Arabic):

“To the entity of the Jews we say: Do not rejoice... The day will come when you will cry blood. There will be no place for you in Palestine. We extend to you the following words of advice: Whoever among you has any brains should take his passport, leave Palestine and go back to where you came from – Paris, London, Moscow, Poland, Germany and America. Go back to where you came from as invaders, or else you shall meet your fate, and we both know what that means.”

These words are expressly directed towards “the entity of *the Jews*” (emphasis added). He calls them “*invaders*”, meaning that he thinks they do not belong in Israel because he thinks they are members of an alien ethnic or faith community. He warns them to “*go back to where you came from... or else you shall meet your fate, and we both know what that means*”. “*What that means*” refers to his statement: “*The day will come when you will cry blood*”, which is a threat that they will suffer violence and death on a mass scale. It is also incitement to violence against members of the same group (Jews) because the statement necessarily implies that they deserve to suffer violence and death.

Earlier in the same video, al-Wahwah is shown to condemn “*every Muslim ruler*” at the “*Istanbul summit*”, because these rulers “*recognise a Jewish State, or entity, on 80% of the land of Palestine, with West Jerusalem as the capital of the Jews, while (the Palestinians) are given only East Jerusalem*”. Al-Wahwah says they deserve stabbing and beheading: “*...the very knife with which you cut Palestine... will be turned against you and will cut your bodies and behead you. The knife will sever your heads from your bodies...*”. His hate-rhetoric and threats were therefore not only directed at Jews but also at Muslims who are prepared to live peacefully with them on equal terms, a foundational requirement for a peaceful, cohesive, multicultural society.

available at: <https://www.ecaj.org.au/category/our-work/submission/>

¹⁷ Excerpts from the speech, including the sections here quoted, were uploaded to YouTube by Memri TV on 31 August 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afGZKtDlatc>

The references to Israel as “*the entity of the Jews*” and Jerusalem as “*the capital of the Jews*”, rather than the capital of Israel, show that al-Wahwah readily conflated a hatred for Israel with a hatred for Jews, and his rhetoric promotes an eliminationist attitude toward both. His words also carry an unmistakable threat that Jews anywhere who manifest support for Israel’s right to exist in peace and security are to be considered legitimate targets for violence.

3. Evidence of advocacy of violence

There are other examples of Hizb ut-Tahrir advocating violence by portraying Jews as legitimate targets. Hizb ut-Tahrir played a key role in stoking antisemitism within the university encampments in mid-2024, and its links to Stand4Palestine are well known.¹⁸ Al-Aksha Bhuiyan, the multimedia organiser for Stand4Palestine, reportedly regularly reposts Hizb ut-Tahrir media releases and content on his social media profiles and believes Muslims must “continue resisting until Israel is completely wiped off the map”.¹⁹ In addition, material from a May 2021 rally in Sydney included statements such as “Destroy the Jews” and “Oh Allah, give us the necks of the Jews”, as well as chants invoking “Khaybar, Khaybar...”.²⁰ These statements were disseminated online, constituting use of a carriage service. As ECAJ has previously submitted, such conduct is capable of breaching s.474.17 of the Criminal Code.²¹ The dissemination of such material demonstrates advocacy of conduct constituting hate crimes within the meaning of s 114A.8.

On 2 October 2015, Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar, a 15-year-old boy, shot and killed Curtis Cheng, an unarmed police civilian finance worker, outside the New South Wales Police Force headquarters in Parramatta, Sydney, Australia, before he was in turn shot by police. Shortly prior to the shooting Jabar had attended a mosque and heard a lecture by the Islamist extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir.²²

There are further publicly reported examples. In the United Kingdom, when the whole organisation and all regional branches were proscribed in January 2024, the Home Secretary stated that Hizb ut-Tahrir is ‘an antisemitic organisation that actively promotes and encourages terrorism’, including by praising and celebrating the 7 October attacks, and noted that its central website had described Hamas as ‘heroes’.²³

¹⁸ Nick McKenzie, Marta Pascual Juanola and Anne Worthington, ‘Hate comes to university campus but hides its face’, Sydney Morning Herald, 16 June 2024, available at: [Israel Hamas: Hate comes to university camp but hides its face](#)

¹⁹ *Ibid*

²⁰ ECAJ Letter to AFP (17 December 2021) – statements including “Destroy the Jews” and “Oh Allah, give us the necks of the Jews”.

²¹ ECAJ Letter to Attorney-General (14 November 2021) – analysis of s 474.17 Criminal Code; ECAJ, Submission concerning the Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill, 15 January 2026, p. 25.

²² Georgina Mitchell, ‘Parramatta shooting: Teen gunman Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar's alleged links to extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 October 2015.

²³ Home Office (UK), ‘Home Secretary declares Hizb ut-Tahrir as terrorists’, 15 January 2024

4. Harm to the community

The rhetoric described above contributes to fear, intimidation and psychological harm within the Jewish community. Witness evidence indicates that such conduct is intended to threaten, harass, intimidate and exclude Jewish Australians.

It also contributes to an environment in which antisemitic incidents, including threats, harassment, vandalism and violence, are more likely to occur.

Publicly available material supports the proposition that extremist anti-Jewish discourse forms part of the climate in which antisemitic incidents proliferate. The ECAJ's 2024 Antisemitism in Australia report recorded 2,062 anti-Jewish incidents between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, up from 495 in the previous reporting year, being an increase of 316%.²⁴ The ECAJ's 2025 Antisemitism report then recorded 1,654 incidents in the following reporting year and emphasised both the persistence of weekly anti-Israel protests exhibiting anti-Jewish racism and the continuing under-reporting of incidents.²⁵ The AFP has stated that Special Operation Avalite was established to investigate threats, violence and hatred directed towards the Australian Jewish community, and Commissioner Kershaw said in January 2025 that the available intelligence pointed to the same motivation, namely 'demonising and intimidating the Jewish community'.²⁶ In that environment, rhetoric that casts Jews collectively as a malignant enemy, glorifies violence against them, or normalises slogans such as 'Destroy the Jews' contributes to intimidation, fear and a permissive atmosphere for further antisemitic offending.

5. Necessity of listing

The listing is reasonably necessary to protect the Australian community from psychological harm and the promotion of violence. The ideological nature of Hizb ut-Tahrir, combined with its public advocacy and its history of advocating violence, creates risks that justify intervention under the Criminal Code.

As the Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills said in its Fourteenth Report of 2014:

It is no longer the case that explicit statements (which would provide evidence to meet the threshold of intention) are required to inspire others to take potentially devastating action in Australia or overseas. The cumulative effect of more generalised statements when made by a person in a position of influence and authority can still have the impact of directly encouraging others to go overseas and fight or commit terrorist acts

²⁴ ECAJ Report on Anti-Jewish Incidents in Australia 2024, 24 November 2024, pp. 1-2, available at: [Over 2000 anti-Jewish incidents in 12 months - ECAJ](#).

²⁵ ECAJ Report on Anti-Jewish Incidents in Australia 2025, 2 December 2025, pp. 2, 4 and 6-7, available at: <https://www.ecaj.org.au/document/special-report-anti-jewish-incidents-in-australia-2025/>.

²⁶ AFP, 'Antisemitism'; AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw antisemitism statement, 21 January 2025, available at: <https://www.afp.gov.au/news-centre/media-statement/afp-commissioner-reece-kershaw-antisemitism-statement>

domestically. This effect is compounded with the circulation of graphic violent imagery (such as beheading videos) in the same online forums as the statements are being made. The AFP therefore require tools (such as the new advocating terrorism offence) to intervene earlier in the radicalisation process to prevent and disrupt further engagement in terrorist activity.

The listing is an essential intervention and prevents and disrupts activities that squarely fall within those that the Australian Parliament has recognised as warranting the passage into law of the ‘Prohibited hate groups’ regime.

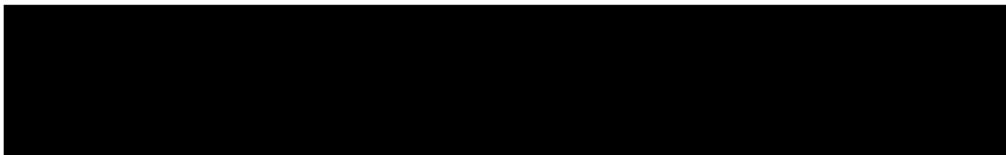
6. International context

Hizb ut-Tahrir has been banned or restricted in multiple jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, reflecting international recognition of the risks posed by the organisation. The United Kingdom’s January 2024 proscription is particularly significant because it was directed to the global organisation and all regional branches. The Home Secretary said the group ‘actively promotes and encourages terrorism’, has a history of praising attacks against Israel and Jews more widely, and that proscription was necessary to curb its ability to operate openly.²⁷

Conclusion

ECAJ submits that the statutory criteria in s 114A.8 are clearly satisfied and that the listing should be maintained.

Yours sincerely,



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President

Peter Wertheim AM
Co-CEO

Simone Abel
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²⁷ Home Office (UK), ‘Home Secretary declares Hizb ut-Tahrir as terrorists’, 15 January 2024, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-declares-hizb-ut-tahrir-as-terrorists>