

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 359

Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.

Whereas in July 2012 a Hizballah terror attack in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists and one Bulgarian;

Whereas in March 2013 a Hizballah operative in Cyprus was convicted of planning terror attacks after admitting he was a member of Hizballah, was trained in the use of weapons, and used a dual Swedish-Lebanese passport to travel around Europe on missions as a courier and scout for Hizballah;

Whereas though such Hizballah operative was convicted on criminal-related charges, authorities had to drop ter-

rorism charges against him because Hizballah was not listed as a terrorist organization;

Whereas the European Union (EU) in July 2013 designated Hizballah’s so-called “military wing”—but not the organization as a whole—as a terrorist organization;

Whereas despite restrictions put on Hizballah since the designation of its military wing, the group continues to conduct illicit narco-trafficking, money laundering, and weapons trafficking throughout Europe;

Whereas EU designation of Hizballah’s military wing has enabled substantial and important cooperation between United States and European authorities aimed at uncovering and thwarting Hizballah’s international criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering, the proceeds of which are used to purchase weapons and advance Hizballah’s terrorist aims;

Whereas in December 2015 the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102) was signed into law in the United States, broadening financial sector sanctions against Hizballah to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group;

Whereas in February 2016 the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection partnered with counterparts in France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium to arrest top leaders of the European cell of Hizballah’s External Security Organization Business Affairs Component—a cell that engages in international money laundering and drug trafficking to support Hizballah’s terror activities;

Whereas for many years, the Governments of Iran and Syria have been the prime sponsors of Hizballah, harboring, financing, training, and arming the group;

Whereas Department of Defense officials estimate that Iran provides as much as \$200,000,000 per year to Hizballah in the form of financial and logistical support, weapons, and training;

Whereas Hizballah now has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 missiles and rockets, many of which can reach deep into Israel, at a time when Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is threatening to attack and invade Israel;

Whereas Hizballah fighters have been supporting the Assad regime in Syria, often leading operations in the conflict which has left more than 465,000 dead;

Whereas Russia has established fusion centers in Syria to coordinate with Iran, the Assad regime, and Hizballah, and Russian air cover has given Hizballah an advantage on the battlefield against Syria rebels;

Whereas the conflict in Syria has fueled a migrant crisis that has brought nearly 400,000 migrants and refugees to Europe in 2016 and 2017 alone;

Whereas Lebanon continues to be plagued by instability and violence;

Whereas due to Hizballah's actions in Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has carried out retaliatory terrorist attacks in Beirut;

Whereas the Lebanese Armed Forces, the legitimate security establishment of the country as set forth in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), are strug-

gling to control the flow of weapons and Hizballah fighters at its borders;

Whereas Hizballah trains and provides weapons for Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, further destabilizing the region and perpetuating violence in those countries;

Whereas in October 2012 Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem stated that “[Hizballah does not] have a military wing and a political one . . . Every element of Hizballah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance”;

Whereas the United States, Canada, Israel, and the Netherlands have designated Hizballah in its entirety as a terror organization, while Australia and New Zealand have applied the designation to the organization’s so-called military wing;

Whereas in March 2016 the Gulf Cooperation Council, the bloc of six Gulf Arab nations, formally branded Hizballah, in its entirety, a terrorist organization, and the League of Arab States shortly thereafter adopted the same designation;

Whereas in April 2016 the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, denounced Hizballah’s “terrorist acts” in the Middle East;

Whereas Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah said in May 2017 that the conflict in Syria had entered a “new and critical phase” in which Damascus, Moscow, Tehran, and Hezbollah were “in more harmony politically and militarily than at any time”; and

Whereas in May 2017 the United States and Saudi Arabia sanctioned Hashem Saffiedine, a member of Hizballah’s executive council which oversees the organization’s polit-

ical, organizational, social and educational activities, for his involvement in terrorist activity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses appreciation to the European
3 Union (EU) for the progress made in countering
4 Hizballah since the EU designated Hizballah’s mili-
5 tary wing as a terrorist organization;

6 (2) applauds and expresses support for the con-
7 tinued, increased cooperation between the United
8 States and the EU in thwarting Hizballah’s criminal
9 and terrorist activities;

10 (3) supports transcontinental efforts within Eu-
11 rope to share intelligence information among police
12 and security services to facilitate greater cooperation
13 in tracking, apprehending, and prosecuting terror-
14 ists, foreign fighters, and potential offenders;

15 (4) encourages the EU to, whenever possible
16 and applicable with due process standards, imple-
17 ment sanctions against Hizballah-affiliated terrorists
18 in tandem with the United States; and

19 (5) urges the EU to designate Hizballah in its
20 entirety as a terrorist organization and increase
21 pressure on the group, including through—

22 (A) facilitating better cross-border coopera-
23 tion between EU members in combating
24 Hizballah;

1 (B) issuing arrest warrants against mem-
2 bers and active supporters of Hizballah;

3 (C) freezing Hizballah's assets in Europe,
4 including those masquerading as charities; and

5 (D) prohibiting fundraising activities in
6 support of Hizballah.

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