

Re: Letter to Jonathan Hall KC, Independent Reviewer of Terrorism and State Threats legislation

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Inbox



Jonathan Hall KC

Tue, Jul 8,
3:34 PM

to me

Hi Jonathan

Thanks for the follow-up letter. I do think that 'threat-neutrality' is a significant difference between us. I would encourage a distinction between the objective and the methodology. For example, people are free to support and advocate for a united Ireland, but the IRA are still terrorists. The same is true of stopping climate collapse removing 5G masts, both of which have motivated people to terrorist violence in this country. You may object that this trivialises the importance of the Gaza cause, but I think that illustrates the nature of the disagreement between us. The conclusion that Palestine Action should be proscribed as a terrorist group does not mean their cause is invalid or dishonest. I would encourage you to look where an argument based on popular or government support might go - the toleration of violence in support of causes because they are popular or supported by the government of the day would cause legitimate worry.

I have just accepted an invitation to an event in Parliament on 16th July on a panel with speakers like Prof Conor Gearty who I suspect will be sceptical of the proscription. This is a debate worth having and thank you for your two letters.

Best wishes

Jonathan