



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Minister for National Security and Intelligence:

Managing Foreign Terrorist Fighters

The following document has been included in this release:

Minute of Decision: Managing Foreign Terrorist Fighters (ERS-19-MIN-0002)

No redactions have been applied to this document.



Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Managing Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Portfolio **National Security and Intelligence**

On 19 February 2019, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee:

- 1 **noted** that a very small number of New Zealanders have travelled to the Middle East to join Daesh's caliphate;
- 2 **noted** that foreign terrorist fighters are increasingly seeking to leave the conflict zone or are being detained by local forces;
- 3 **noted** that a New Zealand foreign terrorist fighter could also emerge from a conflict zone in another part of the world;
- 4 **agreed** that New Zealand's objectives in taking decisions about New Zealand foreign terrorist fighters be to:
 - 4.1 support the protection of New Zealand's national security;
 - 4.2 bring foreign terrorist fighters to justice, where possible;
 - 4.3 rehabilitate, where possible;
 - 4.4 treat children of foreign terrorist fighters with particular care;
- 5 **agreed** that in pursuit of these objectives, decisions about individual foreign terrorist fighters be guided by:
 - 5.1 the individual's circumstances and risk profile;
 - 5.2 determining whether New Zealand has the appropriate jurisdiction;
 - 5.3 international and domestic law;
 - 5.4 principles of necessity, proportionality and practicality;
- 6 **agreed** that where New Zealand is taking actions concerning the children of foreign terrorist fighters in the exercise of its jurisdiction, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration;

- 7 **directed** officials, in taking decisions about individual foreign terrorist fighters, to consult with the Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for the NZSIS on the application of the objectives and principles described above.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Ron Mark

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Defence

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister of Justice

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