



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable  
Max Rose  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

OCT 30 2019

Dear Mr. Rose:

Thank you for your October 16 letter regarding the potential designation of violent white supremacist extremist groups as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs).

The Department of State condemns the recent terrorist attack in Halle, Germany, and shares your concern about the threat posed by racially and ethnically motivated terrorists. The Department is committed to a whole of government approach that ensures appropriate action against these groups. The 2018 National Strategy for Counterterrorism specifically identified the threat posed by “terrorists who are not motivated by a radical Islamist ideology but are instead motivated by other forms of violent extremism, such as racially motivated extremism,” and was the first such strategy to address racially and ethnically motivated terrorism.

As a general matter, the Department does not comment on internal deliberations related to FTO designations. However, the Department is committed to the appropriate use of its designations authorities to target foreign groups or individuals engaging in terrorist activity to prevent them from obtaining resources and support – regardless of their ideologies or motivations. In addition, as explained in the attached publication, the Department is vigorously using its countering violent extremism efforts to combat racially and ethnically motivated terrorism around the world.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Taylor  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Enclosure: As stated.