

## **STATEMENT OF CASE TO RENEW THE DESIGNATION OF REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S LIBERATION PARTY FRONT (DHKP/C) AS A TERRORIST ENTITY**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this paper is to assess whether the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party Front (also known as Devrimci Halk Kurtuluş Partisi-Cephesi or DHKP/C) (DHKP/C) meets the statutory criteria to renew its designation as a terrorist entity within New Zealand pursuant to the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002 (TSA).
2. The paper concludes that the group meets the criteria for renewal as a designated terrorist entity under the TSA.

### **STRUCTURE OF THIS PAPER**

3. This paper sets out updated information about DHKP/C's continued involvement in terrorist activity and covers any changes and /or developments to the organisation since its original designation, including to its objectives, structure, weapons and tactics and includes any recent attacks which meet the definition of a terrorist act under the TSA.
4. This updated information, together with the information contained in the original designation paper<sup>1</sup> inform the analysis of whether reasonable grounds for designation still exist and provide the basis for the conclusion that the group meets the legal criteria to renew its designation as a terrorist entity under the TSA.

### **STATUTORY CRITERIA FOR THIS DESIGNATION RENEWAL UNDER THE TSA**

5. Section 35(1) of the TSA provides that a designation of a terrorist entity expires three years after the date of designation unless it is earlier revoked or renewed by the Prime Minister. The original designation is made pursuant to s 22 of the TSA, which provides that the Prime Minister may designate an entity as a terrorist entity if the Prime Minister believes on reasonable grounds that the entity has knowingly carried out, or has knowingly participated in the carrying out of, one or more terrorist acts ("terrorist act" is defined in s 5). Carrying out a terrorist act includes the planning, preparation or credible threat to carry out the act, whether it is actually carried out or not (s 25(1)(a) and (b)) and also includes an attempt to carry out the act (s 25(1)(c)).
6. The Prime Minister may renew that designation for a further three years under s 35(2) if satisfied that there are still reasonable grounds as set out in s 22 for the entity to be designated under that section.
7. Before the expiry of an order made under s 35(2), the Prime Minister may make another order under s 35(3) renewing the designation concerned for a further three years. The Prime Minister may make any number of orders under s 35(3) in respect of the same designation (s 35(5)).

### **CREDIBILITY OF SOURCES**

8. This paper has been prepared using open or unclassified sources which have a reputation for careful and unbiased reporting. These are: BBC, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, The

Jamestown Foundation, Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism Monitor, Global Post and Reuters.

9. A range of regional media sources were referred to including Today's Zaman and Hurriyet Daily News.

## **CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY**

10. DHKP/C was designated as a terrorist entity on 12 September 2011.
11. On 27 March 2012, nine DHKP/C militants were arrested during counterterrorism operations in Istanbul and Ankara. They were arrested on suspicion of involvement in a plot to assassinate former Turkish Minister of Justice Hikmet Sami Turk.<sup>2</sup> Police had received intelligence DHKP/C planned to kill Minister Turk on the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a prison uprising in December 2000 in which several inmates and prison guards were killed.<sup>3</sup> DHKP/C had targeted Minister Turk before in a failed assassination attempt in 2009. During the police investigation leading to the March 2012 operation, Turkish police uncovered further plans by DHKP/C to kill top state officials and bureaucrats, including Turkish Prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.<sup>4</sup> Documents found in the operation included photographs of Minister Turk's residence, as well as weapons and ammunition.<sup>5</sup>
12. On 11 September 2012, a police officer was killed and four other officers and three civilians were wounded<sup>6</sup> in a DHKP/C suicide bombing attack at a police station in the Sultangazi area of Istanbul.<sup>7</sup> In the attack a DHKP/C member entered the police station as far as the x-ray machines located just inside the entrance. He threw a grenade at police officers, but it failed to explode. He then detonated his explosive vest.<sup>8</sup> In a statement released later that day, DHKP/C claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>9</sup>
13. On 1 February 2013, DHKP member Ecevit Sanli carried out a suicide attack at the United States' (US) embassy in Ankara.<sup>10</sup> Sanli had entered the consulate using false identification, claiming that he was there to apply for a US visa.<sup>11</sup> As Sanli came to the first checkpoint on the consulate's perimeter, he detonated an explosive belt and a grenade.<sup>12</sup> One Turkish security guard was killed and three other people were injured during the explosion.<sup>13</sup> DHKP/C claimed responsibility for the attack,<sup>14</sup> stating the US Embassy was targeted as the US was the "murderer of the people of the world." The statement further condemned Turkey for reportedly allowing the US to train and arm "collaborationist looters...for [the] interests of the imperialists," whom it claimed were sent back to "massacre the Syrian people."<sup>15</sup> The 1 February 2013 attack occurred two weeks after Turkish security forces arrested 85 people in counter-terrorism operations across Turkey for alleged links to the DHKP/C.<sup>16</sup>
14. On 19 March 2013, DHPK/C carried out two attacks in Ankara, targeting the Ministry of Justice building and the headquarters of the ruling Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi (AKP) political party.<sup>17</sup> Two people were wounded in the explosive attacks. DHKP/C members threw improvised explosive devices into the annex of the Ministry of Justice and two gunmen launched an attack on the AKP headquarters using a light anti-tank weapon.<sup>18</sup> DHKP/C claimed it targeted these locations as they represented "injustice" in Ankara.<sup>19</sup> The group further claimed the locations were targeted at night to minimise casualties.<sup>20</sup>

## **Ideology and objectives**

15. DHKP/C is a left-wing militant group committed to the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist state in Turkey, as part of a global revolution.

### **Organisation and Structure**

16. DHKP/C continues to operate both political and military wings. Partisi-Cephesi ("Party/Front") refers to the group's political activities, while "Front" is a reference to a group's military operations.<sup>21</sup>
17. DHKP/C's capabilities have been considerably undermined by the extensive penetration of the group by the Turkish intelligence services, effectively dismantling its leadership, and by the self-inflicted erosion of its personnel through a campaign of hunger strikes.<sup>22</sup> In early 2013, DHKP/C was the target of a number of security operations, with nearly 300 suspected DHKP/C affiliates detained or arrested in early 2012 in raids across 28 cities.
18. Turkish authorities and European counterparts have also worked to cut off DHKP/C's funding sources.<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, despite dwindling membership, the DHKP/C continues to represent an ongoing threat to both Turkish and foreign economic and political interests.

### **Weapons and Tactics**

19. Since its designation in 2011, DHKP/C has continued to carry out a series of attacks targeting government and security forces. DHKP/C have primarily targeted state apparatuses, including planned assassinations of senior government members, military, and police officials as well as attacks against foreign diplomatic missions. DHKP/C has also ramped up attacks against Turkish and US interests since 2011, attacking both political and economic targets.<sup>24</sup>
20. Attacks are typically in the form of small arm attacks, such as assassinations, suicide bombings and bomb traps. DHKP/C has access to a widening range of weapons. On 30 July 2013, Greek police discovered a DHKP/C arms shipment including anti-tank weapons, grenades, pistols, ammunition and improvised explosive devices being transported by inflatable boat from Greece to Turkey.<sup>25</sup> Police arrested two DHKP/C militants and two other Turkish nationals (one of the men, DHKP/C militant Hasan Biber, is believed to have been involved in the 19 March 2013 attacks against the AKP headquarters and the Justice Ministry in Ankara).<sup>26</sup>
21. In March 2013 the Milli Istihbarat Teskilati (MIT)<sup>27</sup> reported that DHKP/C was using social media extensively. MIT also warned police that DHKP/C had stolen personal identification information from police officers by hacking into officers' social media accounts.<sup>28</sup>

### **Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)**

22. There have been no significant changes in the status of the conflict or in the conduct of DHKP/C to invalidate the legal analysis contained in the original designation. The situation continues to be one of sporadic violent activity by DHKP/C, and has not reached a level of intensity and continuity on the part of DHKP/C that would bring the situation within the meaning of "armed conflict" for the purposes of the exemption in section 5(4) of the TSA. Accordingly, the exemption in s 5(4) cannot apply, and the DHKP/C attacks are properly characterised as terrorist acts.

## **CONCLUSION**

23. On the evidence set out above, this paper concludes that there are still reasonable grounds as set out in s 22 of the TSA for DHKP/C to be designated under that section.
24. Since its designation in September 2011, DHKP/C has continued to carry out attacks which meet the definition of terrorist acts in ss 5 and 25 of the TSA. The acts include planning and preparation of attacks (see paragraph 11) as well as actually carrying out attacks (see paragraph 12-14). Accordingly, given there are still reasonable grounds to believe that DHKP/C has knowingly carried out terrorist acts as set out in s 22 of the TSA, DHKP/C meets the legal criteria for renewal of its designation as a terrorist entity under s 35.
25. The designation must be renewed by 12 September 2014 to be effective.

- <sup>1</sup> The statement of case, dated 15 September 2011 can be accessed at: [www.police.govt.nz/service/counterterrorism/designated-terrorists.html](http://www.police.govt.nz/service/counterterrorism/designated-terrorists.html)
- <sup>2</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>3</sup> (27/03/2012) "*Turkish police detains 9 for plot against ex-minister*", World Bulletin, accessed via <http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=87781> on 4/04/2014.
- <sup>4</sup> (28/03/2012) "*Police unearth assassination team plotting to kill top state officials*", Today's Zaman, accessed via <http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail.action;sessionId=YygTRC8yyOTjixD4dzC+Qa5l?newsId=275671&columnistId=0> on 12/06/2014.
- <sup>5</sup> (28/03/2012) "*Police unearth assassination team plotting to kill top state officials*", Today's Zaman, accessed via <http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail.action;sessionId=YygTRC8yyOTjixD4dzC+Qa5l?newsId=275671&columnistId=0> on 12/06/2014.
- <sup>6</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>7</sup> (11/09/2011) "*UPDATE 4-Suspected leftist suicide bomber kills one in Istanbul*", Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/11/turkey-explosion-idUSL5E8KB4KI20120911>. Accessed 20/03/2014
- <sup>8</sup> (11/09/2012) "*Rare suicide bombing strikes Turkey's Istanbul, 1 killed*", Global Post, <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/europe/turkey/120911/rare-suicide-bombing-strikes-turkeys-istanbul-1-killed>. Accessed 20/03/2014
- <sup>9</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>10</sup> (21/03/2013) "*Shock Waves Continue From Mysterious Suicide Blast At U.S. Embassy In Ankara*", Jamestown Foundation, Volume XI, Issue 6, [http://www.jamestown.org/uploads/media/TM\\_011\\_Issue06\\_02.pdf](http://www.jamestown.org/uploads/media/TM_011_Issue06_02.pdf). Accessed on 20/03/2014.
- Sanli had previously been imprisoned in Turkey for his role in DHKP/C attacks in 1997, but was released in 2001 after he was diagnosed with Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome, a memory disorder he contracted during a mass hunger strike in Umranive Prison in 2000.
- <sup>11</sup> (4/02/2013) "*Far-left militancy comes to the fore in Turkey as US consulate hit by suicide bomber*" Jane's Terrorism and Security Monitor. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>12</sup> (4/02/2013) "*Far-left militancy comes to the fore in Turkey as US consulate hit by suicide bomber*" Jane's Terrorism and Security Monitor. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>13</sup> (4/02/2013) "*OSINT Summary: DHKP/C claims suicide attack on US Embassy in Turkish capital*" Jane's Terrorism and Security Monitor. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>14</sup> (25/03/2013) "*Police: Terrorist DHKP/C preparing to target politicians, bureaucrats*", Today's Zaman <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-310743-police-terrorist-dhkp-c-preparing-to-target-politicians-bureaucrats.html>. Accessed 20/03/2014.
- <sup>15</sup> (6/02/2013) "*Suicide Blast in Ankara: Turkey's Terrorism Dilemma*", Royal United Services Institute, <https://www.rusi.org/analysis/commentary/ref:C5112518B8F44E/#.UytQVmfD-So>. Accessed 21/03/2014
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- <sup>18</sup> (20/03/2013) "*Turkey Bombings: DHKP-C, Marxist Group, Claims Attacks On Ruling Party Headquarters, Justice Ministry*", Huffington Post, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/20/turkey-bombings-marxist-group\\_n\\_2915428.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/20/turkey-bombings-marxist-group_n_2915428.html). Accessed 20/03/2014
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- <sup>20</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>21</sup> (Undated) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Cephesi (DHKP/C)*", Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC) <http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/devrimci-halk-kurtulus-cephesi-dhkp-c>. Accessed 21/03/2014.
- <sup>22</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>23</sup> (02/02/2013) "*What's Behind the Turkey Bombing? A Look at the DHKP-C*", The Daily Beast, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/02/02/what-s-behind-the-turkey-bombing-a-look-at-the-dhkp-c.html>. Accessed 21/03/2014.
- <sup>24</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>25</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism. Available on subscription. Accessed 11/02/2014.
- <sup>26</sup> (31/06/2013) "*Turkish terror suspect detained after Greece intercepts explosives-laden boat*", Hurriyet Daily News, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-terror-suspect-detained-after-greece-intercepts-explosives-laden-boat.aspx?pageID=238&nID=51742&NewsCatID=341>. Accessed 21/08/2014
- <sup>27</sup> (13/08/2013) "*Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi/Cephesi (DHKP/C)*" Jane's World Insurgency
- <sup>28</sup> Turkey's national intelligence organization
- <sup>29</sup> (4/03/2013) "*MIT prepares wanted list for 104 DHKP/C militant*" Today's Zaman, <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-308793-mit-prepares-wanted-list-for-104-dhkp-c-militants.html>. Accessed 20/03/2014.