



Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrija
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

No. 41-10946

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and referring to its Note LA/COD/11/1 has the honour to convey the following.

Regionally Latvia is a state party to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and to the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol. These regional treaties in conjunction with the UN treaties set out the international legal framework for prevention of international terrorism in Latvia. Furthermore, these legal acts require that states parties establish as a separate criminal offence not only violent offences of terrorism, but also terrorism preparatory offences.

Moreover, in the addition to aforementioned legal framework, Latvia would like to indicate that on 15 March 2017, the EU has adopted the directive 2017/541 on combating terrorism. The directive sets out that EU Member States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that listed violent terroristic offences and terrorism preparatory offences are penalised.

Hence, to comply with the aforementioned legal framework, the Criminal Law was amended with a separate Chapter "Crimes Related to Terrorism". This Chapter contains the Sections on penalisation of "Terrorism" (Section 79¹), "Financing of Terrorism"(Section 79²), "Terrorist Group" (Section 79³), "Recruitment and training for terrorism" (Section 79⁴), "Travelling for the Terrorism Purposes" (Section 79⁵), "Justification, Incitement and Threats to Commit Terrorism" (Section 79⁶). Furthermore, in 2018 the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism, and Proliferation Financing was accordingly amended. Those amendments ensure that the measures related to prevention of financing of terrorism shall also apply to the prevention of travelling for terrorism purposes, organisation and participation in a terroristic group, recruitment, providing and receiving of training for terrorism.

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Moreover, providing the requested information on incidents caused by international terrorism, criminal prosecution and sentencing, the Ministry forwards for your attention the following information illustrating the effectiveness of the legal framework.

Last year one person was detained on suspicions of planning terroristic offences. The person was detained in the framework of criminal proceedings started in 2018 for inciting national, ethnic and racial hatred. The surveillance of the person was launched, because he posted offensive comments on different public websites targeting Roma and Russian people living in Latvia, *inter alia*, inciting to eliminate all of them. During investigation, the investigatory authorities established that the person is a self-proclaimed follower of Norwegian far-right extremist Anders Behring Breivik and is obsessed with ideas on ethnic supremacy and personality of Breivik. Inspired by shootings and explosion committed by Breivik in 2011, the person started preparatory works to commit violent terrorist attacks on minorities' schools and several shopping centres. The person had purchased means to intimidate and eliminate people causing several explosions. However, the execution of the intended violent terroristic offence was prevented and criminal investigation was started.

During the initial stage of criminal investigation, the authorities found sufficient evidence to charge the person with an attempt to commit terrorism and to incite national, ethnic and racial hatred. However, following a medical examination, the person was found to be in a state of mental incapacity, and was therefore admitted to psychiatric clinic in accordance with the decision of the domestic court.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riga, 16 June 2020