

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2019

Mr. Jack Dorsey
CEO
Twitter
1355 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

Thank you for your reply to our September 17 letter regarding the perilous presence of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) on your platform, including Hezbollah and Hamas, two militant jihadist organizations determined to kill Americans and our allies.

We were surprised to learn that Twitter's process for determining terrorist organizations differs from that of the United States. As you may know, in 1996, Congress passed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (P.L.104-132), giving the U.S. Secretary of State authority to designate Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) under Sec. 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). As a result of that designation, Americans may not knowingly provide "material support or resources" to FTOs, and the Secretary of the Treasury may require U.S. financial institutions to block all transactions involving the assets of a designated FTO.

Despite being a U.S.-based company, Twitter, Inc. apparently disputes the U.S. government's determination of what constitutes a terrorist organization. According to your letter, you "assess organizations and individuals under our violent extremist group criteria and are additionally informed by national and international terrorism designations." If you believe that Twitter is better at determining violent extremist content than the United States Government's interagency process, then we urge you to come testify before Congress to explain your own process and how it differs from that of the State and Treasury Departments.

We were equally surprised to learn that Twitter "may make limited exceptions" for "parts of Hamas and Hezbollah." There is simply no reason why the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah deserve access to Twitter's userbase and platform to promote themselves as they continue to sponsor violent, radical, hate-filled extremism.


We also cannot understand why Twitter is eager to provide a platform for affiliates of these terrorist groups, including the Hezbollah affiliate Al-Manar (@AlmanarEnglish), which was added to the U.S. Treasury Department's Specially Designated Global Terrorist Entity (SDGT) list in 2006. In another tweet that surfaced, a Hezbollah-affiliated account tweeted a photo of a missile emblazoned with Hezbollah's logo, attached.

It is also alarming that Twitter "draws a distinction between the political and military factions of these organizations." This distinction is not meaningful, nor is it widely shared. Hezbollah and Hamas are terrorist organizations as designated by the United States Government. Period. In the 115th Congress, for example, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution (H.Res.359), urging the European Union "to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization."

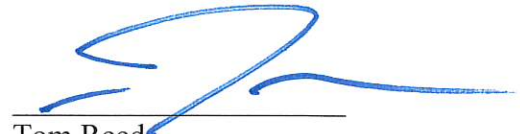
While other social media companies, including Facebook and Google, have taken proactive measures to address the presence of FTO and affiliated accounts and content on their platforms, Twitter is refusing to take adequate action to stop the spread of terror. We ask that you, as a United States company, immediately update your policy consistent with our laws, and, by November 1, 2019, remove Hamas and Hezbollah-affiliated content and Twitter handles.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter, and we look forward to receiving your reply.


Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress