DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

11 August 2026

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0053

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act request relating to information held about the US Global Coalition against far left terrorism held in July 2026

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 20 July 2026. You requested:

> *I'm seeking all information held by DMPC about the US Global Coalition against far left terrorism held in July 2026.*

On 28 July 2026, you were advised that your request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, for any information they may hold. MFAT will respond to you directly.

Information being released

Searches have been completed of our information management systems for any information relevant to your request. I have identified two emails, which I have decided to release to you, as attached. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the DPMC website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā

Jeremy Clarke-Watson
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security and Resilience Group

Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand 6011
☎ 64 4 817 9698 www.dpmc.govt.nz

From: Cherie Blithe
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: DPMC Media [DPMC]
Subject: RE: NZ Herald inquiry - terrorism summit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 20 July 2026 9:26:45 am

This is what Penk said from the article (taken from NZSIS points):

Penk said the NZSIS saw a "range of violent extremist motivations, with no one ideology dominating".
"The national terrorism threat level remains at 'possible', which we should not be complacent about, and the NZSIS continues to work closely with its domestic and international partners to understand the current global threat environment.
"Rather than focus on descriptions, the most important point is that we all have a role to play in reporting concerning behaviour by individuals either to Police or the NZSIS, regardless of what the motivation might be."

Ngā mihi
Cherie

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office @parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2026 9:23 am
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: DPMC Media [DPMC] <Media@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: NZ Herald inquiry - terrorism summit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Cherie, do we have Ministerial tps for this?

Cheers,
s9(2)(a): PM's Office

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2026 09:19:29
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office @parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: DPMC Media [DPMC] <Media@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald inquiry - terrorism summit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning s9(2)(a): PM

On Friday NZSIS and Minister Penk were approached about this, after initial MFAT response. Thought it might be good to have these lines as back-pocket:
US urges global crackdown on 'far-left terrorism' - NZ says focus on behaviour rather than labels - NZ Herald

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

NZ Herald media request:

Yesterday, we reported on NZ attending an event in the US which has a focus on left-wing terrorism. A statement today from the US State Department says far-left political terrorism is "resurgent" and manifesting across the globe. It says this "threat has remained a blind spot in the international community's counter-terrorism focus, underestimated and under-resourced, despite the danger it poses". It says this meeting will allow countries to expand coordination, enhance information sharing and strengthen law enforcement "to counter the threat".

In light of that and NZ's attendance at the event, here are some questions for the minister:

- Does the minister have concerns about left-wing terrorism/violence in New Zealand, or internationally? Are there examples of this that can be pointed to?
- Does the minister agree with the US that left-wing terrorism/violence is resurgent and hasn't been adequately addressed by the international community?
- The 2025 NZSIS Security Threat Environment report said, “no one ideology currently stands out as presenting a greater threat”. Does this remain the case?
- Is the Government interested in expanding coordination, information sharing, and law enforcement activities to better counter left-wing terrorism/violence?

NZSIS response:

NZSIS does not use the terms “left-wing” and “right-wing’ when describing different forms of terrorist motivations, and has not done so for several years.

Instead, we use the descriptors of Identity Motivated, Faith Motivated and Politically Motivated Violent Extremism, as well as Single issue. NZSIS considers these terms better describe the nature of violent extremist motivations, and avoids oversimplification. The NZSIS guide to knowing the signs of violent extremism has a fuller explanation of our terminology. (page 9)

In terms of the current threat environment, we continue to see a range of motivations with no one ideology dominating. Identity and Faith motivated ideologies remain the most common, but we also see a small number of violent extremists motivated by political or single issues. There are also an increasing number of individuals with mixed, unclear or unstable motivations.

NZSIS continues to work closely with its domestic and international partners to understand the current global threat environment, and to share New Zealand’s context. We note each Five Eyes partner has its own framework to describe its violent extremism environment.

New Zealand’s national terrorism threat level remains at POSSIBLE.

MFAT’s response:

- New Zealand was invited to the meeting. The Deputy Head of Mission at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington DC will attend on New Zealand’s behalf.
- This will allow us to hear from Secretary Rubio and other senior US Administration figures on their counterterrorism focus.
- Attendance gives New Zealand the opportunity to talk to our threat landscape and the New Zealand Government’s approach to protecting New Zealand and its people through a coordinated, effective counter-terrorism system, with a key focus on prevention and to hear the perspectives of other countries.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

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From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
To: PMO-Press; ^Parliament: s9(2)(a): PM's Office ^Parliament: s9(2)(a)
Cc: Ben King [DPMC]; s9(2)(a) Office of Chief Executive [DPMC]; DPMC Media [DPMC]; Dale Elvy [DPMC]; Mark Talbot [DPMC]; Erin Duncan [DPMC]; Kate de Boer [DPMC]
Subject: Reactive TPs re US counter terrorism meeting
Date: Monday, 20 July 2026 9:52:00 am

Hi everyone,

On Friday, Minister Penk and the NZSIS were approached by the NZ Herald, after an initial request to MFAT, regarding an event in the US which had a focus on "left-wing terrorism". A representative from the NZ Embassy in Washington DC attended. I've put a couple of TPs below, should the PM be asked about it at Post-Cab today. s9(2)(a) – FYA also.

NZ Herald article: US urges global crackdown on 'far-left terrorism' - NZ says focus on behaviour rather than labels - NZ Herald

s9(2)(g)(i)

Specific media request made to Minister Penk and the NZSIS by the NZ Herald:

NZ Herald media request:

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Cheers,

s9(2)(a): PM's Office



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