

## Counter-Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters – Measures in Germany

The fight against terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism remains a joint endeavor. We should make full use of all existing fora such as the UN or the Global Counterterrorism Forum which all address counter terrorism, de-radicalization and the foreign terrorist fighters' phenomenon.

Foreign Terrorist Fighters to and from Syria and Iraq represent one of the most important challenges for our national security. Germany supported UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) designed to confront the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

Germany has banned all activity by ISIL in Germany. This activity ban particularly targets online propaganda activity. Germany makes full use of the existing legal instruments to prevent travel movements, avert threats from returnees and ensure effective law enforcement.

Germany has taken legislative steps to adjust German penal provisions on terrorism in line with the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution. Section 89a of the Criminal Code (StGB) will be supplemented with a further preparatory offence covering travel and the attempt to travel for terrorist purposes.

German law enforcement agencies carry out a large number of investigations in connection with terrorism-motivated travel to conflict zones, especially on the basis of this provision. Investigations are presently being conducted against some 200 jihadists who have returned to Germany.

Moreover, financing such travel is to be covered by new terrorism financing provisions.

Additionally, the German government decided to introduce a substitute document for the national ID card and to create legal grounds for invalidating travel documents. This should prevent German citizens leaving the country to travel to terrorist camps.