

Translated from Arabic

I. Act No. 31 (2016)

The Act establishing the Counter-Terrorism Service.

For the purpose of confronting terrorist operations with greater effectiveness, more professional agencies must be established and endowed with legitimacy through legislative acts. In particular a Counter-Terrorism Service should be established as a specialized service to carry out counter-terrorism and counter-extremism tasks.

In the name of the people,

The Presidency of the Republic,

Pursuant to approval by the National Assembly and ratification by the President of the Republic in accordance with article 61, paragraph 1, and article 73, paragraph 3, of the Constitution,

Does hereby promulgate the following act, No. [. . .] (2017) concerning the first amendment to Act No. 31 (2016) concerning the Counter-Terrorism Service.

Article 1

A paragraph shall be inserted into article 6 of the Act, to be enumerated as paragraph 1, with the rest of article 6 renumbered, as follows:

1. The Counter-Terrorism Command of the counter-terrorism forces shall be linked to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Special Operations commands, [the central laboratory], and the intelligence centres in the governorates.

Article 2

Paragraph 5 of article 6 shall be deleted.

Article 3

The text of paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 8 of the Act shall be rescinded and replaced by the following:

1. The Counter-Terrorism Command referred to in article 6, paragraph 1, shall be headed by an officer of a rank no lower than major general with counter-terrorism experience and competence, to be appointed in accordance with the law. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Special Operations commands shall be headed by officers of a rank no lower than brigadier general with counter-terrorism experience and competence, to be appointed in accordance with the law.
2. Each of the directorates mentioned in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of paragraph 2 and in paragraphs 5-7 of article 6 of this Act shall be headed by an official of the rank of director-general who has at least a university degree in the field of competence and at least 12 years of service in his field, or by an officer of the rank of general.
4. This Act shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Compelling reasons

The headquarters of the counter-terrorism forces has a major role in the command and direction of the subsidiary commands associated with it, namely, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Special Operations Brigades. The command headquarters is currently in the field. It has played this role in all operations conducted against Da'esh and proved its worth as the supreme headquarters in charge of all operations. That calls for it to be reintegrated into the hierarchy of the Counter-Terrorism Service to exercise its powers in accordance with this Act.

This law was enacted.