

From: [REDACTED]
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To: Committee, PJCS (REPS)
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Categories: [REDACTED]

SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE COUNTER TERRORISM LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PROHIBITED HATE SYMBOLS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2023

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the wording of this bill, I could not help but be outraged. To be classed as a terrorist because I occasionally deal in third Reich war souvenirs that have been brought home by Australian diggers is nothing short of obscene.

I am a former digger who served this country in South Vietnam in 1969 and 1970 and was wounded on two occasions. How dare this government class me as a terrorist. I am 76 years old and would still go to war to protect this country if needed but to even consider participating in Neo Nazi activities is so far removed from my beliefs as to be ludicrous.

PROBLEM

I acknowledge there are some idiots out there that seem hell bent on parading and displaying nazi insignia at rallies. We should come down hard on these types but don't regard collectors as peripheral damage.

I have never had a nazi as a customer in 50 years of trading in all types of Militaria. Collectors are not the problem!

SOLUTION

No other country has a total ban on the trading in nazi material. Even Germany allows these items to be sold provided the swastika is covered. Web sites have a closed section requiring registration before entering. It seems to work very well and could be simple to implement. Reputable dealers could be licenced.

CONCUSSION

A very disappointing aspect of this debate is that the very people that this amendment will affect have not been consulted. I do not know of a single collector or dealer that has been asked to participate in the formatting of this Legislation. Is this because we have already been deemed as terrorists?

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