

Dear sirs/madams,

### **the Anti-Terrorism Laws Reform Bill 2009**

With regards to this bill, I'd like to support the following:

- I support the Anti-Terrorism Laws Reform Bill and its amendments in general.
- I support the Green's Bill to pass through Parliament first, before any consideration is given to the Attorney-General's proposals for amendments.
- I support the repeal of the sedition offences because they can be applied in a discriminatory way.
- I support the proposed amendments to the definition of "terrorist act", because the current definition allows individuals to be targeted and charged on the basis of their religious or political beliefs.
- I support the repeal of the offence of 'possessing things connected to a terrorist act' and the offence of 'association with a terrorist organisations or its members'.
- I support the repeal of the presumption against bail for terrorism offences, and the 'dead time' provision for excluding investigative periods for police detention (which was used to detain Dr. Haneef).

However, there are two areas where the report does not go far enough:

- The system for banning 'terrorist organisations' should be repealed altogether as it is an arbitrary and draconian measure.
- The ASIO compulsory questioning powers should also be repealed because they undermine personal freedoms and create unwarranted anxiety and fear.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards  
Mona Helal