



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 30 January 2012

*Chair: Hon Laurie Ferguson MP
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP*

Sydney hearing for human rights talks

The federal parliament's Human Rights Sub-Committee is in Sydney on Wednesday, 1 February 2012 to meet with human rights groups to discuss Australia's human rights dialogues with China and Vietnam.

"Australia's human rights dialogue process is now well-established with 13 rounds of talks between Australia and China and eight between Australia and Vietnam since 1997," Human Rights Sub-Committee chair Laurie Ferguson said. "This inquiry is a chance to examine the effectiveness of the dialogue process to date".

The Human Rights Sub-Committee will discuss the involvement of non-government organisations and the roles of participating agencies.

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

**Wednesday, 1 February 2012
9.00 am to 12.15 pm
Jubilee Room
NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street, SYDNEY**

The Sub-Committee will meet with the:

- **Australian Human Rights Commission;**
- **Sydney PEN Centre;**
- **Turkish Welfare Association; and**
- **United Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation.**

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/HRdialoguechinavietnam/index.htm>

The hearing will also be webcast live at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

There is still an opportunity to contribute to this inquiry as the Committee will continue to accept submissions.

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP on (02) 9829 7477 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4920 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>