

Dear Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

I am writing to you with my concern as a resident of Australia about our governments veiwpoint on the nuclear industry and uranium exports. I understand that their is an investigation into our countries nuclear related treaties.

Of high concern to me is uranium exports. When it comes to safeguards this should 'ensure' the uranium not ending up in the hands of importing countries for potential use in weapons of mass destruction, yet the IAEA dont inspect ALL safeguards-eligible nuclear facilities and stockpiles. There should be strict and consistent monitoring to ensure that Australian uranium exports will not be used as war games. As it is the safeguards system suffers from vulnerablities such as this and more, with one major contributor being that it runs off a budget comparable to that of a local police department. Suggesting shortcuts being made where ever they can 'get away with it.' This needs looking at. This is no game. Australia currently has export agreements with four of the declared nuclear weapon states, USA, UK, China and France. And with countries with a decent history of weapons related research based on their nuclear civil programs that being for example South Korea and Taiwan. The Australian government actually allows the processing of uranium not covered by the IAEA safeguards, as weak and flawed as it is and i ask why?

Why is the government risking being accountable for war crimes on behalf of all Australian individuals.

I dont want that to represent who i am as an australian citizen.

Why play games with a resource that could wipe millions of lives and wipe history itself off the planet.

With high concern,  
Kasey Sparks

10 February 2009