



Prisoner exchange agreement with Cambodia

A prisoner exchange agreement with Cambodia will be considered by the Treaties Committee at a public hearing on Monday 4 December 2006.

The agreement will allow Australian nationals serving sentences in Cambodian prisons to serve their sentence in Australia. The agreement will also allow Cambodian nationals serving sentences in Australian prisons to serve their sentence in Cambodia.

There are five Australian nationals in prison in Cambodia and 13 Cambodian nationals in prison in Australia. One Australian currently in prison in Cambodia is Gordon Vuong, who was 16 when arrested in January 2005 and is currently serving 13 years jail for drug related offences.

“Prisoner exchange agreements serve an important humanitarian, rehabilitative and social purpose,” Chair of the Treaties Committee, Dr Andrew Southcott said. “Prisoner exchange agreements are particularly important for young Australians in prisons overseas as it allows them to serve their sentence in Australia where they will have access to family and other support networks.”

Prisoners serving their sentence in Australia might also have access to rehabilitation, education, training and employment programs, work release, parole supervision, offender registration and supervision.

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra** on **Monday, 4 December 2006** from **10.00 am**. The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service on Channel 9, radio frequency 98.3MHz and webcast on the Parliament House website at <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>. Further information about the inquiry is available on the Committee’s website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/28november2006/index.htm>

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM – 10.00 am-10.30 am, 4 December 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, second floor, Parliament House, Canberra

10.00 am Agreement between Australia and Cambodia concerning the Transfer of Sentenced Persons

10.30 am Close

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