

Treaties tabled on
12 March 2002
Submission No.19.....



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria Justice and International Mission Unit
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8 May 2002

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Dear Secretary,

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings

I am writing on behalf of the Justice and International Mission Unit, Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria, to support Australia acceding to the *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings* if safeguards are in place to ensure that this treaty does not violate Australia's other human rights obligations.

The Unit believes that through the teachings of Jesus, He calls on all Christians to reject the ways of violence and instead put their efforts into radical peace-making initiatives. We believe that this should form a moral basis to guide our society. Therefore, the Unit supports action to deter terrorism in any form, provided such action does not violate other basic human rights standards.

Our support for Australia acceding to the *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings* would be conditional on the Australian legislation bringing the treaty into force explicitly stating that no one suspected of a terrorist bombing will be extradited to a country where there are any grounds to suspect the person may be:

- tortured;
- ill-treated;
- extrajudicially executed;
- subject to the death penalty;
- subjected to prolonged detention without trial; or
- denied the right to a prompt fair trial that meets international standards for a fair trial.

Yours sincerely,

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