



30 July 2008

THE SENATE

MEDIA ALERT

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

The chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Senator Mark Bishop, will hold a press conference on Friday, 1 August 2008, to discuss the findings of the committee's report on Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations.

The inquiry focused on the challenges faced by Australia's peacekeepers as a result of the increasingly complex and multidimensional nature of peacekeeping and Australia's active involvement in regional missions such as those in Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands.

The areas of primary concern related to:

- mandates and exit strategies;
- doctrines such as Responsibility to Protect;
- ADF–AFP interoperability;
- cooperation and coordination between government agencies and NGOs with an emphasis on civil–military cooperation (CIMIC);
- language and cultural awareness training;
- health of Australian peacekeepers, particularly mental health;
- UN and regional cooperation;
- lessons to be learnt from previous operations; and
- Australia's whole-of-government peacekeeping capability.

The press conference is to be held—

Friday, 1 August 2008
10.30 a.m.
Committee Room 1S4

Copies of the overview, executive summary and the report will be available at the press conference.

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