

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia  
Fax: (02) 6277 5794  
Email: [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005**

I would like to express my deep concern about the Government's plan to introduce the new set of anti-terrorism laws. I have been following the progress of events and have noticed that I am not alone in my thoughts and that many prominent members of the community share my concerns.

I am outraged that the Government has been rushing through these laws which may threaten some of our most fundamental rights. I believe these laws are taking advantage of the general fear that has pervaded our society due to the horrific events that have occurred overseas. I think the Government is taking advantage of this fear and may even be encouraging it in order to hurry through these laws.

I think these laws, if anything, will be detrimental to the fight against terrorism. Similar laws in the United Kingdom did not prevent the recent tragic attacks there. However, the laws may further inflame anti-Government feeling within the community. I believe (as the Government has previously stated) that the real fight against terrorism will be with our intelligence organisations. Passing laws that will most likely harm relations between the Government and members of minority communities, such as the Muslim community, will not be helpful.

I am 23 years old and have lived in Australia for 20 of those years. I do not know a home other than Australia. I am also a practicing Muslim. I fear that these laws are biased towards the Australian Muslim community and will curb our right to practice our religion. I am deeply disturbed to learn that simply by having a certain name or appearance, or if I attend prayers at my local mosque, my privacy may be violated by the stop and search powers. Or that if I donate to a seemingly innocent charity (as I have recently done to aid the victims of the South Asian earthquake) I may be held accountable for the use of those funds- even though I may have been deceived. I can assure you that my anxieties are shared by a large section of the Muslim community.

These laws remind me of the horror stories that my parents (as well as friends and family) have conveyed to me about their experience with totalitarian regimes in the Middle East.

Please allow this letter to be considered by the Committee when the Bill is being discussed.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Adie

Punchbowl NSW  
Australia