

Committee Secretary Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Department of the  
Senate Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Australia 26-10-05 Fax: (02) 6277  
5794 Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au Dear Sir/Madam Ref: Submission in relation to  
Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 (Cth)

I am not a lawyer and have no acumen to understand the intricacies of a document  
hundreds of pages long on the subject of Anti Terror Laws. Hence this plea in a  
non legal jargon.

As a person who is well aware of the goings-on in this respect and matters that  
affect a person's life in general, I am almost frightened of the proposed laws  
as they are being debated and analysed in public. The salient question that  
emerges is 'where is the evidence' for the requirement for such laws that will  
usurp my and my community's civil rights in an ostensibly civilised country like  
Australia.

'Frightened' of being shot in the back because of the hearing impairment the age  
of three scores and ten has inevitably visited on me and my wedded partner and  
friends. A shout of "You there, stop" at a crowded Railway Station would have no  
effect on us and we would just keep on walking, hearing aid or no hearing aid!

It was difficult to understand the internment of Germans, Italians and Japanese  
citizens during the wars, with in their own country Australia but this 'war on  
terrorism' I feel is covertly and even overtly generating an ethnic group of  
'aliens', that is us Muslims, among Australians. It may be an impression only,  
never the less it is there and frightening. The media and talk-backs enhance  
this fear!

The general lack of knowledge in the Australian community, whence Islam the  
Faith and Muslims the people are juxtapositioned, is staggering. Has any body  
ever questioned Hitler's actions in WWII as that of a Christian's actions?  
Wasn't he taken just as a deranged person? Would not such laws therefore in fact  
become the reason for discord and hence give rise to terrorism where there is  
not?

Thanks to the immigration selection process, in the main the Muslim migrants to  
Australia, notwithstanding the "religious brigade", are reasonably educated and  
understand the difference between their duties and rights of a citizen and  
rights of the community at large and I am sure that we have to date proved our  
bona fides to the country we have adopted as ours by choice. We are all  
immigrants, including the "original citizens". Is it the time scale that makes  
on a good or bad citizen?

Many of us even have our grand children born in this country and they sing the  
Australian National Anthem as proudly and as loudly as any body else.

In enacting these draconian laws please ensure that our 'babies' are not thrown with the proverbial bath water.

Yours truly

A Rashid Samnakay

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