

WILLETTON  
WA  
28th October, 2005.

To: The Committee Secretary  
SENATE AND LEGAL CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE  
DEPT OF THE SENATE  
House of Parliament  
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

ANTI TERRORISM BILL 2005.

I, as an Australian citizen who pursues the Muslim faith, I wish add my voice to the many concerns which have already been made through the media, and legal opinion, and I request that my letter be referred to this Committee as a formal submission, and be distributed to all its members.

At the outset, I want all members to know that when I migrated to Australia some twenty three years ago, I accepted all the responsibilities of residency, and later, citizenship by doing my best to become an Australian. This I did by defending our good name, our decency, our democracy and our way of life, which was generally espoused by "giving one a fair go".

I believe, that I am an Australian when I am a courteous driver, when I return to a cashier or teller the extra money I have been given in error, when I let ladies enter an entrance or lift before me - or I suffer the embarrassment of my footy team (The Fremantle Dockers) giving another shocking performance. Insignificant you may say! Not so for me! I sacrificed so much when I migrated from South Africa in 1983 when Apartheid was at its violent worst - not a Muslim government, but rather one who purported to be Christian!

And so I have worn my Australian citizenship like a badge, always going through the Red Gates at Customs on my return from abroad for fear I may have got some thing in my bags which should not be there. Making sure I declared every cent of interest on my Tax return, and so on. I have never regretted becoming an Australian citizen, and you hold it your hands how I feel about it in future.

When this Bill comes before you, I want you to know, how much I feel betrayed by the very fact that we, AUSTRALIANS, could even dream up such hideous, reprehensible, disgusting and revolting proposals. If I were living in North Korea, or Burma or Zimbabwe, I would expect this, but AUSTRALIA? Surely not!

I do not want to dwell on the question of the legality of the proposal too much, but to incarcerate people on mere suspicion - and worse, ON THE BALANCE OF PROBABILITIES, must the most disgusting thing we can ever dream up. Hitler would have been proud of us. And who are we targeting? Muslims. No matter how you toss the coin, the (so called) 80 miscreants who will be the first to suffer House arrest and be tagged, will be Muslims. Not Muslims who have committed any wrong, but who merely stood up for their right by speaking out against what they perceived to be injustices. Have any of you ladies and gentlemen ever thought that you should be giving bouquets to the Australian Muslim Community? Tell me of any other Community who have suffered the burning down of their places of worship, had their places of worship desecrated by faeces and pigs heads, had school classrooms set alight, as well as a butcher shop, a school bus loaded with children, stoned, had women abused and assaulted in shopping centres and malls. And through all of this KEPT THEIR COOL!

I know these things, because before I retired from work and public life (another effort in my service to Australia) ,we sat with the Security Police and discussed matters of mutual concern. Yes , they came to our places, removed their shoes and sat in a circle with us to show respect for our ways. This is the Australia I would gladly have given my life for. But to make my point, why are we targeting a section of our Community who have not stepped out of line? Have we become so intolerant that we cannot stand being criticised?

I would have thought that the richness of our society was that we could speak our mind fearlessly. Are we becoming a government of neocons, for neocons, by neocons!

We say that the laws are necessary to prevent a terrorist attack and we use London ,Bali and Madrid as our guidelines. That may be all well and even (possibly) true, but have you ever tried to place yourselves in the mind of a terrorist? No matter how hated and reprehensible a terrorist's action, the only way to eliminate him is to understand his motivation. I do not believe that the action we are taking will do that. In fact, it is my considered opinion that by going down this road, we will actually motivate ,goad and entice some half wit to do something stupid. When we stifle someone who wants to be heard, who is crying out from a situation of helplessness and hopelessness, we create frustration. Frustration leads to despair, to rage and the rage just grows and grows until the person has no control over themselves - because reason has been lost in the process. This is when people strap a bomb around them! They are the walking dead.

I am begging you to review you actions. There is so much to be gained by INCLUDING Muslim opinion in the government of our country. Let the steam out of the pressure cooker. Let those opposed to the war in Iraq and the occupation of Palestine have their say. As long as people are talking, they have the hope that they will be heard. As long as this prevails, no one is going to do anything outrageous.

Please my fellow Australians, you hold the key our peaceful existence in your hands. Don't go down this road. Advise our government against it. If you go ahead, you will change the character of our country forever. And the worst thing is that it will come back to bite us, because there is a truism in life. "What goes around ,comes around". And some future government could use these laws against the very people who promulgated them in the first place. The Muslim Community mostly came away from societies fractured by violence. They do not want any violence. And please , I beg you, don't believe this rubbish touted by the media about "clerics who preach violence" about bookstores who sell books that teach one to make bombs. This is complete nonsense and designed to sell newspapers, in the same way that their recent targeting of a politician from New South Wales caused him to take his life.

As a devout Muslim ,I attend our congregational prayer without fail each week( and often during the week as well) In nearly 23 years there has not been even ONE Imam ,who even tried to preach violence. Indeed, mostly they are more concerned that we treat this world as a qualifying place for the hereafter. Suicide is against Muslim teaching and has no place in our society.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my fears. Will I be able to write such letters in future without fear of being placed on some criminal list on the balance of probabilities? The answer lies in your hands Please allow me to continue to be a happy Australian and let my seven grandchildren, all born here grow in a peaceful amicable society. Already 50% of our friends are not Muslim. Just another one of our Australianisation! And if I can still hold a healthy disposition towards Christianity (and Judaiism) in spite of what I have suffered at a White Christian Governnment,or what the KuKlux Klan have done to the African Amercans, all of whom were sympathisers of (a Christian)Hittler,

why should I not be able to ask you to continue to hold a good disposition to Australian Muslims who are being tainted by what has happened in other countries?

Most sincerely and with much hope.

ADAM PARKER