

The Chairman
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra

As an Australian citizen I am most concerned with aspects of the proposed anti terrorist legislation introduced by the Government.

Of particular concern are the proposals relating to detention without charge of persons suspected of having knowledge of or contact with terrorist organisations and the restrictions on access to independent legal advice, family, or the opportunity to argue in their own defence. Further, the proposals relating to sedition have the potential to stifle any reasonable debate or comment and are not appropriate in a country which prides itself on democratic principles.

These laws will create resentment, be open to abuse and will tend to create terrorism rather than prevent it.

All laws must be consistent with Australia's International Human Rights obligations.

A L Ray
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