

Reyhan Yilmaz
Brunswick,

To whom it may concern,

The anti-terror laws that are in question undoubtedly do constitute a serious breach of civil rights and liberties for Australian citizens, clearly targeting one group more than the entire population.

"When detained, the police can impose limits on who you can talk to. They can even stop you talking to your lawyer and your family. You are only allowed to communicate by fax, phone or e-mail, and all your communications are monitored. If you want to talk to your lawyer in a language other than English, then there has to be a translator there so the police can hear what you are saying. Even if you are allowed to call your family, you can only tell them that you are ok, and that you are not contactable -- if you say any more, you can go to prison for 5 years. The person you call will also be prohibited from telling another person, or they could go to gaol for five years also."

So harsh are the proposed laws that the family of a detained individual is to be left writhing in misery, contemplating the worst that may have become their loved ones, or the detainee is to face a prison sentence of 5 years for explaining the situation they are in. Is this just by anyone's books? An individual who can respond with an affirmative to that question, clearly has no grasp on the concept of justice.

This is just one of the horrifying aspects of the legislature in question! Subsequent to the actions of militants around the globe, who have used a sacred religion entirely inappropriately for their unjust and misguided ends, the entire Australian community is to be punished..not only will these laws tarnish the lives of those directly subjected to them (either rightly or wrongly) but they will also cause deep racial segregation and discrimination.

In the aftermath of recent terrorist attacks, which news reports do not refrain from referring to as Muslim terrorist attacks (emphasising the role of Islam and Muslims- although this is wholly misguided from the outset, as those who organise or take part in such attacks, are immediately disowned by the religion in doing so), these laws will more than likely effect the Muslim community greatest. Not only will this cause resentment within the Muslim community toward authorities and loss of trust, it will mean that Muslim's are discriminated against by the wider community in all arenas. As such, multicultural community, living in peace and harmony, will be but a fond memory of eras gone by in the very near future, with the implementing of such laws as those currently being considered.

Having been born and lived my entire life in Australia, i have always been especially proud to say i'm Australian because Australia meant a country that treats all people as equal with sacred rights for all individuals such as unrestricted civil liberties; freedom of speech, thought, belief, dress, and action.

The introduction of the anti-terror laws as drafted, is sure to change our community and create an irreconcilable great divide.

It is for this reason that i request and urge you, as the leaders of our beloved community, to reconsider the impact of the laws and what they actually mean!!

Yours Sincerely,
Reyhan Yilmaz