

Portland OR USA

Nov. 10, 2005

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

Inquiry into the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005

The Committee:

I am utterly opposed to what amounts to a permanent suspension of Habeus Corpus.

I am deeply concerned that the Australian Government would consider a bill of such broad and sweeping powers, with so little provision for oversight, after its record of extreme, illegal and continuous abuse of asylum-seekers.

I am appalled that the Coalition and the Prime Minister are so anxious to guillotine debate.

I am alarmed at the clear complicity (real-time footage) of Big Media with the Government in staging the recent arrests: I am alarmed at both the political nature of the arrests and the Roman Circus nature of the "news" of them.

I am appalled that this government's reaction to the threat and fact of terrorism is not to discover the causes and remedy those, but to draft legislation to imprison ever-increasing numbers of Australians, citizens and residents, on ever-vaguer grounds.

I am appalled at the free-speech implications of this proposed legislation. Australia began as a prison colony. It does not need to proceed as one.

Yours truly,

M. F. McAuliffe