

11 November 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Submission in relation to Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 (Cth).

I refer to the Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 (Cth) ('the Bill'). I understand that the Committee will be inquiring into this Bill and I would like to register my opposition.

I believe that the government has not allowed time for meaningful debate given that this Bill involves momentous changes to Australian law, much of which could be seriously detrimental to innocent citizens.

This Bill is 'overkill'. Of course the government has the obligation to provide a safe environment for its citizens but existing laws enable this already.

The detention of people and the proposed confidentiality restrictions surrounding this detention is undemocratic. It amounts to punishment before proof of guilt.

In the cases to date, the heavy-handed night raids on families in their homes has either proven to be totally uncalled for, or in the most recent cases, way out of proportion to the so-called 'evidence' found against them.

It seems that people will be targeted on the most flimsy evidence or worse still, by association. It has instilled fear and paranoia in the mainstream Muslim community. I know of Muslims who will no longer mix with other Muslims unless they know them well. They fear being targeted by association.

I urge the Committee to reject this Bill. It is a dangerous and unnecessary law that will do more harm than good in the Australian community.

Yours sincerely

Jan Jackson