



10 November 2005

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

**Submission to the Senate Committee  
Anti Terror Laws**

After past and more recent events I do understand the need to develop more effective strategies to avert attacks happening on Australian soil.

I am concerned that these proposed anti terror laws will have a detrimental effect by dividing and traumatizing the nation.

**However I strongly encourage the Senate to support;**

- Maintaining the right to freedom of speech. [ie the right to dissent without fear of reprisal from the government or its affiliations].
- Maintaining the rights of the courts to Habeas Corpus [the right of the prisoner being held to be seen in court].

I believe it is dangerous for the survival of democracy for the government to put itself beyond the reach of international laws for human rights.

- Saddam Hussein is on trial for abusing civil rights. His action came about through having too much power. He had no accountability to the people or the courts.
- **I do not want to see the Senate collude with making laws that contravene international laws on civil liberties. Nor collude with the present direction of creating too much secrecy and unaccountable government power.**

I stand in witness.  
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Owen".

[David Owen]