

Honorable Attorney-General,

We are concerned with the Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 which will be discussed in the Parliament during November. We understand that the Bill has provisions that undermine human rights, which Australia has established reputation in protecting.

It is observed that the Bill has departed from a large range of rights stipulated in International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. For example, the extreme case of control order may affect rights to be free from arbitrary detention (article 9), freedom of association (article 19), freedom of movement (article 12); the authority of Australian Federal Police to issue initial detention order to detain suspect may affect rights to liberty and security of a person (article 9).

Australia has been a good example in upholding human rights protection and has condemned the negligence of human rights of some Asian countries. To uphold your country's reputation in human rights protection, we kindly urge your good government to:

- 1) ensure a comprehensive and open examination of the controversial bill by extending time for reading and the preparation of submissions from the public, and
- 2) ensure that, in striving to detect and address any potential terrorist threat, the Australian Government protects adequately the civil and political rights of all Australian citizens, particularly those of minority religious and cultural groups who may be vulnerable to the proposed new powers.

Yours sincerely,
Irene Koo
Human Rights Section

CC:

- 1) Mr. Arch Bevis, Shadow Minister for Home Security
- 2) Committee Secretary, Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
- 3) Consul-General, Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong

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