

6 November 2005



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

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE ANTI-TERROR LEGISLATION 2005

I wish to express my deep concern at the alarming extent of governmental powers to be granted under the above proposed legislation, with no checks and balances, and the fact that there has been an attempted gross curtailment of political and public debate in this regard.

Why, contrary to the current law, are police to be allowed to detain people without intending to proceed with a terror-related charge or any charge?

Why is it necessary for a judge to act in a "personal capacity" rather than as a judge when they are requested to extend a Preventative Detention Order by police?

Why is it necessary to allow the detention of a person for up to fourteen days, when that person has not been charged with a terror-related crime, or any other crime?

Why does the legislation allow for the possibility that a person could be held under house arrest for up to twelve months, when that person has not been charged with a terror related crime, or any other crime?

What precisely are the deficiencies in the current powers of the police (when provision for the use of lethal force is already encoded in the Crimes Act), which necessitate such greatly expanded powers?

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Haymann'.

Nathalie Haymann (Ms)