



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Treaty tabling

Issue date: 16 October 2017

Australia considers extradition Treaty with Jordan

Four treaty actions including two which facilitate extradition and mutual legal assistance on criminal matters with Jordan will be examined in detail by the federal parliament's [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#).

The treaty actions provide for reciprocal extradition between Australia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and mutual assistance on criminal investigations or prosecutions.

Committee Chair, [the Hon. Stuart Robert MP](#), highlighted that Jordan is an important partner in the Middle East for Australia's fight to combat international crime and terrorism.

"Australia needs to ensure that criminals, including those involved in terrorism, cannot evade justice by simply crossing borders," Mr Robert said.

"Jordan is a transit country for crime and international terrorist fighters, and by cooperating with Jordan on criminal matters, we reduce its salience as safe haven."

The proposed treaty action includes a number of safeguards regarding extradition requests, particularly due to Jordan's use of the death penalty as a criminal sanction. In 2014, Jordan restored the death penalty by hanging after a moratorium on capital punishment between 2006 and 2014.

Safeguards and human rights protections listed in the proposed Agreement include mandatory grounds for extradition requests where there is concern that a person would be subjected to torture, where the offence carries the death penalty, or where it is believed extradition is sought to punish a person on account of their race, religion, sex, nationality or political opinions.

JSCOT will conduct formal inquiries into these treaty actions. Submissions are invited through the Committee [website](#) until 16 November 2017.

Other treaty actions referred today include a bilateral security Agreement between Australia and the Solomon Islands, allowing for future operational assistance despite the conclusion of Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands on 30 June 2017. The final treaty action referred provides for the continuation of Singapore's Flying Training Institute at the RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia.

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Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

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