



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 22 September 2014

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee**

*Chair: The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP
Deputy Chair: Senator Alex Gallacher*

Supporting effective policing in the Indo-Pacific region

Effective policing in support of economic development in the Indo-Pacific region will be discussed at a public hearing in Canberra.

The hearing is part of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into the role of the private sector in promoting economic development and reducing poverty in the region.

Representatives from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) will share their wealth of experience working with regional partners to establish and maintain conditions conducive to economic development, and discuss the importance of effective policing to the establishment of the rule of law.

Rule of law is as an essential platform for businesses to have the confidence to invest, according to the AFP submission. The AFP also highlights the costs to business from unsafe and insecure environments; and the concern that violence and conflict can be contagious, spilling across borders with implications regionally and globally.

"The Sub-Committee looks forward to hearing from the AFP about its work supporting developing and post-conflict countries with policing and capacity building, and particularly efforts to stem the impacts of violence against women," said Committee Chair, the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP.

"The cost of violence and conflict often falls on women, particularly in countries where they have a lower status. Fear of violence may lead them to drop out of work or curtail their business activities. This not only impacts the individual but has dire consequences for a country's economic growth."

When: 5:30 pm Monday, 22 September 2014
Where: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House

The hearing will be audio broadcast live at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, copies of submissions, and how to contribute can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For media inquiries contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP, on (07) 3356 1555 (Electorate Office) or 02 6277 4331 (Parliament House)