



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 29 February 2016

*Chair: The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

Asia Pacific Forum to give evidence for death penalty inquiry

The Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will conduct a public hearing in Canberra on Tuesday 1 March 2016 as part of its inquiry into Australia's advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty.

The Sub-Committee will hear evidence from the Asia Pacific Forum of Human Rights Institutions, a coalition of 22 national human rights institutions in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific.

The Sub-Committee's inquiry is reviewing how Australia currently engages internationally to promote abolition of the death penalty and further steps Australia could take to advocate for worldwide abolition.

Australia has been an active participant in the protection and promotion of human rights, including through its support of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

While there has been a global trend toward abolition, more than half the world's countries are yet to sign up to the protocol and in some countries the use of capital punishment appears to be increasing.

Details of the hearing

Time: 12:45pm
Date: Tuesday 1 March 2016
Location: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

The hearing will be audio webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/live.

Information on the progress of the inquiry to date, including submissions and transcripts, are available on the website: www.aph.gov.au/deathpenalty.

For media comment: Contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP via Mr Ross Macdonald on 0417 852 209. For all other inquiries, contact the Secretary on (02) 6277 4629.