



Green light for security treaty between Australia and Indonesia

Federal parliament's Treaties Committee has released a report today recommending the Australian Government ratify a security Treaty between Australia and Indonesia.

The Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation, also known as the Lombok Treaty, provides a foundation for cooperation between Australia and Indonesia on traditional and non-traditional security matters. It covers cooperation on defence as well as transnational crime, people trafficking and illegal fishing. The Committee also recommended that the Australian Government:

- Continue to address widely expressed concerns about human rights in Indonesia with the Indonesian Government and in appropriate international fora;
- Increase transparency in defence cooperation agreements to provide assurance that Australian resources do not directly or indirectly support human rights abuses in Indonesia;
- Encourage the Indonesian Government to allow greater access for the media and human rights monitors in Papua; and
- Engage in a campaign to increase public support for the Australia-Indonesia relationship. This campaign would have the goal of increasing awareness of democratic reforms in Indonesia and the value to Australian security of strong relations with Indonesia.

One of the key provisions, Article 2(3), is a commitment not to support or participate in any activities which constitute a threat to the stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the other party. The Committee is aware of the concern generated by this article but is satisfied that the commitment is limited to the Australian Government and will not restrict the rights of private citizens in Australia who may wish, for example, to rally in support of Papuan independence.

This commitment will also strengthen the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

"The Agreement makes clear Australian government policy on Indonesian territorial integrity," Dr Southcott said today, "This will strengthen the bilateral relationship by providing a treaty level commitment that the Australian government supports Papua as a province of Indonesia."

Report 84 is available on the Committee's website:

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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