



**THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP**

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Ross Vasta MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Reference 1162/1670

  
Dear Mr Vasta

Thank you for your recent letter regarding a petition calling for an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong in China.

The Australian Government has long held concerns about the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in China. While the Government takes no position on Falun Gong's beliefs, it considers China's ban on Falun Gong and treatment of practitioners to be in breach of international human rights standards.

The Government raises its concerns about human rights, including the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners, with China on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely

  
Julie Bishop

16 DEC 2016