

I wish to register my horror that certain legislative measures are proposed under Anti-Terrorism Bill (No 2) 2004 that unjustifiably limit personal freedoms and human rights. These measures are:

>>> Introduction of the criminal offence of "associating with
>>> terrorists"
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Such a crime of association creates a precedent of guilt by association which will inevitably damage our own civil order more than terrorism can do. It allows for persecution and casual punishment without evidence of genuine crime. This is not consistent with democracy, or the values of Australian society.

>>> Powers for the Minister or their delegate to transfer court
>>> proceedings
and to transfer prisoners
between prisons and/or interstate for "security" reasons >>> This concentration of power in the hands of the Minister creates a lack of accountability and transparent process that opens the way for corruption and persecution. Ministerial discretion & expedience is not a justifiable solution to terrorism; it destroys democratic processes for which our community has worked hard over many generations.

I feel very strongly that the political leadership of this country should not give in to fear by granting undue powers in the name of anti-terrorism measures. Now more than ever, human rights and personal freedoms must be protected.

Yours sincerely
Tom Colley
Lawson, NSW