

Mr. Peter Hallahan  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



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Adil Safwan Zabalawi  
Information Officer  
State Library of NSW

P.O.Box 807  
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Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposal to empower the Attorney General with the ability for intervention in Human Rights related matters. As an individual who experienced violations to my basic rights, I would like to bring to the awareness of the Committee the potential danger implicit in this proposal.

The mentioned proposal inevitably puts the Attorney General's Advisers in the position of regulating or pre-judging matters on Human Rights. To assume that various Legal Advisers have Human Rights ideals as their admired priority or prime objective is just naïve in the extreme.

If the level of treatment of citizen's application to protect his/her rights contributes to a measure of cultural development of a certain country, the Attorney General's Office would bring Australia to the lowest level along the scale. Please find attached a concise description of a case relating to Human Rights, in which I found myself involved for a painful span of 5 years and counting.

The Law in Australia describes the rights of a citizen as inherent. It is only natural that a person exercises the right to defend him/herself. It is only natural that a citizen is listened to and allowed to apply (through the proper channels) to defend his/her rights. The Attorney General's Advisers, however, have a different opinion on this matter, and can work to terminate a citizen's sincere efforts in applying to defend his/her rights, employing for this purpose incorrect statements and also deception.

In my efforts to have certain human rights violations corrected, I applied to the Federal Member of Sydney, Ms Tanya Pilbersek in the matter, which was directed to the Attorney General's Office for explanation. In order to terminate my application, the Attorney General's Office issued a letter, which contained incorrect statements about the matter and also a misleading information. I may not be the only person who was treated in this or similar way. The fact that you did not hear about such treatment to human rights issues does not mean that this case is unique. The number of people who would have both endurance and the ability to communicate about their sufferings from violations, in the form of a similar writing as this may not be high. This is another reason why I request that you would consider my writing to you as meaningful. In every intelligent design, one must consider a safety valve in the system, to secure unobstructed access for protection of one's rights. But here we face a proposal to put the heavy weight of the Attorney General's Office to stem the oxygen supply from the already suffering citizen.

Yours sincerely  
Adil Safwan Zabalawi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zabalawi' with a flourish at the end.