

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism (No. 2) Bill 2005

I write in fear that these draconian laws will be enacted and urge restraint.

1. The 17 people rounded up on 8th November and accused of anti-terrorism activities were arrested under existing laws. The Federal Commissioner of Police, Mick Kelty, acknowledged this when interviewed on 'The ABC 7.30 Report' that night.

I suggest no new laws be passed until these people have been tried under our existing laws. If, after a trial, these laws have inadequacies - LET US ADDRESS THEM THEN.

2. We know of innocents who have been wrongfully detained, not to mention shot in the case of the Brazilian man in London.

In another case, a Frenchman was detained in London because he had a knapsack, wore a heavy coat, looked at people passing by and frequently checked his mobile. He was let go after investigation but meanwhile his fingerprints are on file in London for ever.

It is fair to say that tragedies occur and innocent people are damaged. Of greater importance is the undermining of freedoms that have been fought for over centuries.

A speaker recently referred to preparedness for a terrorism attack as 'risk management'. It may happen, it may not, but we must be prepared. To me, risk management means good security and good intelligence, not draconian legislation designed to punish but surely incapable of preventing terrorism.

In fact, it may well divide the community and incite it.

So I plead to members of the enquiry to recommend a delay in enacting new laws until we test the adequacy of existing laws in the trial of the fifteen arrested.

Yours sincerely,  
Diana Simmons  
Avalon NSW