

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المجلس الإسلامي الأصيل لغرب استراليا

THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESS RELEASE

Attention: News editors, social affairs, Ethnic media, interfaith media, and community writers

Thursday, 7th August 2014

ICWA concerns about Abbot's government's expansion of Anti-Terror Legislations

The Islamic Council of WA (ICWA) expresses its deep concern and disgust about the proposed expansion of the Anti-Terror legislation which aims to unfairly target Muslim Australians for a political purpose. This is McCarthyism all over again where fear is used to create hate and oppressive laws against an important religious minority group.

Any anti-terror legislation should be designed to be fair and not target a particular community group from any specific cultural background while maintaining the rights and freedoms of all Australians. Oppressive laws without proper legal oversight and diminished human rights standards will definitely radicalize the youth and further alienate the Islamic community. This will have the opposite effect to what the Abbot regime is trying to achieve.

We have recently seen two former students of a Jewish school in Melbourne who have been wounded while fighting for the Israeli army in Gaza, driven by their love and passion for Zionism. The number of Australian Jews fighting with the Israeli army is unknown but it's expected to be in excess of 100 enlisted. These dual citizen Australian Jews are civilians fighting with the Israeli army would also come back to Australia with unwanted military skills and fall under "fighting with militant groups overseas" and also pose a risk of terrorism attacks on Australian soil. The proposed anti-terror law should cover Australian Jews who serve in the Jewish army and dual Syrian or Lebanese dual nationals who serve in Assad's army and Ex-ADF personnel who serve in private armies as military contractors or mercenaries for oppressive regimes.

The Abbott government's cowardly silence towards Israel's massacres in Gaza and the earlier proposed change of the West bank name from "Occupied Territory" to "Disputed Territory" clearly demonstrates federal government's blind support for the Israeli Zionist government. ICWA urges the Abbott government to uphold the rule of law in its internal security policies and be mindful how it forges the national security policy without its pro-Zionist Israel bias. Australian Muslims desire peace and security as citizens and not oppression from a Zionist rightwing liberal government.

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Islamic Council of Western Australia Inc.

The Islamic Council of Western Australia (ICWA) was established in 1976 and incorporated as a State Council for Islamic affairs in 1977. We promote unity and friendship amongst Muslims and other communities within and outside of Western Australia. <http://www.islamiccouncilwa.com.au/>