

PETITION

TO THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia draws the attention of the Senate to:

- commitments made by the Attorney-General, Hon Philip Ruddock MP, in August 2006 that he would seek the return of Australian citizen David Hicks from US detention in Guantanamo Bay if the United States of America did not lay substantive new charges against him by November 2006; and
- recent statements by the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, that it is not satisfactory that David Hicks has been held in detention for so long without facing trial; and
- the recent observation of the Law Council of Australia that the new US military commissions are still grossly unfair, will not provide a fair trial for David Hicks, and will likely be challenged in another drawn-out appeal to the US Supreme Court; and
- the Fremantle Declaration signed by State and Territory Attorneys-General on 10 November 2006, which calls on all Australian Governments to uphold fundamental legal principles including the right to a fair trial, the prohibition of detention without trial, and the prohibition of torture.

Your petitioners therefore request that the Senate take action:

- immediately and decisively to end the indefinite detention of this Australian citizen;
- to ensure that he be charged and tried without further delay by a competent and independent tribunal with all of the protections of the rule of law that Australian citizens would expect, compliant with the Geneva Conventions;
- to insist that failing this, David Hicks be returned to Australia and his indefinite detention without trial be brought to an end.

SIGNATURES

ADRESSES

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Please return completed petitions by 30 November 2006 to:

Adelaide Catholic Justice & Peace Commission, Catholic Diocesan Centre, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, SA. 5000, or to GPO Box 9830, ADELAIDE 5001.