

Submission

Countering Terrorist Fighters
Legislation Bill

NZ Council for Civil Liberties
<http://nzcl.org.nz>
27th November 2014

About this submission

The NZ Council for Civil Liberties believes that this submission process is a farce and will not help legitimise it by taking part.

Giving the public two days from the day the Bill is introduced into Parliament until submissions close is a parody of good democratic process. The Council acknowledges that they received the Bill a couple of days earlier, but this is still insufficient time to properly analyse and comment on legislation.

We believe the Select Committee submissions process is an important part of our democratic system in New Zealand. Many laws have been improved by thoughtful submissions and careful consideration by committee members, but it seems clear that there is no intention of this happening for this Bill.

The lack of consultation and consideration is particularly disturbing when the main changes of the bill, expanding the surveillance powers of the SIS, do not seem to be closely linked to the stated aim of the Bill. It also comes at a time when the actions of the SIS have been shown once again to be unwise and an abuse of power.

Furthermore, we cannot see any need for this legislation to be so rushed. While the aim of the Bill may be admirable, there is no justification for this unseemly urgency.

We deplore this abuse of the democratic process and request that the Bill be withdrawn until such time as it can be properly considered in accordance with normal practice.

Oral Submission

The NZ Council for Civil Liberties does not wish appear before the committee.

About the submitter

The New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties is a watchdog for rights and freedoms in New Zealand. Formed in 1952, the Council works through education and advocacy to promote a rights-based society and prevent the erosion of civil liberties by government or any other parties. It is a voluntary not-for-profit organisation.

Contact Details

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