



REVOKING AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP AS A DETERRENT IS NOT THE WAY TO GO.

Peter Adamis 24 June 2014

Revoking citizenship. While every Australian government on both sides of the political fence is bound and tasked with the responsibility of the security and well being of its citizens, revoking and/or cancelling an Australian citizens passport is not the way to go.

Therefore, I do hope that the Australian Government considers carefully its policy of revoking Australian citizenship in the wake of recent revelations regarding Australians found to be fighting in the Middle East. Cancelling an Australian's passport and/or citizenship based on an individual's misadventure is un-Australian and not the way to go in deterring Australians from taking on risky misadventures for whatever reason.

I do not believe that for one moment that Australians are foolish enough to believe that this has not occurred in the past. That Australians have not left the safety of our shores to fight in a foreign country for whatever cause that may be. It would be equally foolish to believe that any law or legislation implemented will deter or stop any Australian citizen from embarking on misadventures to support an unjust war or cause.

While our own Australian "Hicks" is one example, I am sure there are many others who seek employment under the guise of an organisation purporting to be a legal entity in defence of a nation that 'just happens' to be embroiled in a domestic quarrel with its own people. It's happened many times in the past and I am of the belief that it will occur time and time again.

I always say, once an Australian, always an Australian no matter what. Having said all of the above, I would expect the Australian government to seek out and support me should the need arise and not leave me in the clutches of a foreign country that has decided unfairly against me. I prefer the confines of an Australian jail than rot in a foreign one. I am referring to the David Hicks incident, Robert William Langdon who is currently languishing in an Afghan jail and the recent Peter Geste in an Egyptian Jail and God knows how many others are in foreign jails.

Power to agencies. My solution to this ever occurring scenario is to empower our law enforcement agencies and departments that are responsible for matters of security to investigate, detain and press charges against any individual that has been found to be involved in such nefarious and recalcitrant misadventures. ASIO, ASIS and DSD are best placed to monitor such matters and to prepare the foundations and evidence for any potential citizen who decides to leave our shores to fight a battle that may not be in the interests of this country.

What if? Having said this, I pose a potential and hopefully unlikely scenario that may and/or may not occur at some distant future. What if the USA, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, South Africa, Israel, India, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Austria, Norway, Italy, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Switzerland, Belgium, Poland, Ukraine, and other Baltic nations find themselves in a war not of their own choosing and call out for volunteers to fight an unjust war that is threatening the very foundations of democracy and the world as we see it now.

What would the average Australian citizen do. NOTHING or would they decide to travel and go in support of a country struggling to survive. If the USA and/or the UK, Canada, New Zealand and other like minded countries which are the repositories of our democratic rights and maintain the institutions of freedom that we cherish this day are threatened with extinction, I would be the first to volunteer, come hell or high water. I can guarantee readers that no legislation will stop me from going in support of those countries.

Alternatively if we as citizens decide to live in another part of the world for whatever reasons they may be and that I retain my Australian citizenship, would I not return back to my home (Australia) to defend it against any aggressor that is threatening its very existence. Of course I would, it's only natural that I do so, knowing that once I return back to that adopted country I could face charges according to their laws. I guess the reasons for writing this article is to highlight the issues facing Australians who have left or are considering leaving our shores willingly in search of misadventure or to support one side or another according to their beliefs and or mindset and not because of any social media seduction or foreign recruiting elements.

Therefore in closing, I believe that our agencies as previously mentioned above are adequately equipped and trained to handle such matters. Those same security agencies should be provided and/or allocated appropriate resources to monitor, investigate and prepare suitable charges if any to address such matters even if they are to seek special dispensation to monitor Australian citizens or diverse communities within the Australian sector. Such diverse communities does not exclude Anglo/Saxon communities but are all inclusive no matter what their origins may be.

Mind you, terror, seductive recruitment, passions, religious and political belief are a deadly cocktail especially amongst the youth of today in any country that hold strong beliefs in one form or another. Education, media exposure, community influence, positive peer group pressure and online social media are other forms of deterring the young and misguided adventurers from embarking on a journey of no return. In view of this dilemma I would prefer the safety of Australian laws knowing that Australia would judge me fairly based on my actions and reasons for becoming involved in misadventures rather than lose my citizenship and cancellation of my passport.

Empower our security agencies with the legislation and resources to do what their designed to do, safe guard the interests o Australia and its citizens and ensure that they are accountable to the Government at the time. Let us not be afraid to draw attention to this dilemma we are faced with and not rely on social media to provide and/or lead us astray with the passions that are normally invoked by such matters. we as Australian citizens must use our democratic rights and freedoms to influence governments that sometimes their policies and legislation may require tweaking, and/or reviewing to get it right.



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BRITISH WATCHDOG ON TERRORISMURGES CAUTION ON AUSTRALIAN SECURITY PLAN

June 24, 2014 David Wroe National security correspondent

Britain's watchdog on terrorism laws has urged the Abbott government to reconsider its controversial plan to abolish Australia's own independent monitor on national security legislation. It comes as the government mulls tougher national security laws, including forcing internet service providers to hold customers' records for up to two years, as it grapples with the threat posed by Australians travelling to Syria and Iraq to fight with jihadist groups. Some of the measures believed to be under consideration were recommended by the very agency that the government plans to abolish, the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor.

In his most recent report, the monitor, headed by senior lawyer Bret Walker, called on the government to consider revoking the citizenship of dual nationals fighting in Syria and Iraq.

The government should also consider giving the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Immigration Minister the power to suspend passports quickly if intelligence officials believe people are about to travel overseas to fight with extremists. The government has indicated it is considering both measures.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Monday repeated his vow to do "everything we humanly can to stop jihadist terrorists" returning to Australia after fighting in the Middle East. "We've stopped the illegal boats. We will ensure that we stop the jihadists as well, because the last thing we want is people who have been radicalised and militarised by experience with these al-Qaeda offshoots ... returning to create mischief here in Australia," he said.

In a rare move, British QC David Anderson has sent a parliamentary submission highlighting the value of the independent monitor on national security, which the government wants to abolish as part of its March "repeal day" drive against red tape. The Australian model was based on the British office. No one had ever suggested abolishing the British office, he wrote. "On the contrary, its value is frequently asserted both in Parliament and in the courts, as well as by NGOs, academics, community groups and government."

Among the measures being considered by the government are controversial "data retention" laws, under which metadata such as the address and time of an email sent or a Skype call made would be kept by service providers for a set period. The latest push comes amid growing fears over an estimated 150 Australians who are involved with jihadist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which has seized large swaths of territory in Iraq.

Social media was alive with angry talk on Monday over moves by Facebook and Twitter to shut down pages promoting jihadist ideas. Shadow attorney-general Mark Dreyfus slammed the government over its plan to abolish the independent monitor. "I can't think of a worse time to be repealing this agency," he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/british-watchdog-on-terrorism-urges-caution-on-australias-security-plan-20140623-3aoyj.html>



AUSSIES TAKING THE LEAD IN RECRUITING JIHADIS, SAYS JULIE BISHOP

THE AUSTRALIAN JUNE 24,
2014 Paul Maley National Security
Correspondent.

The foreign minister is concerned Australian jihadists are returning home with 'new talents in terrorism'.

Govt vigilant to jihadist threat, says Bishop. THE Australian government will unveil a raft of changes to the nation's national security regime aimed at dealing with the threat posed by extremists returning from Iraq and Syria, with Julie Bishop confirming Australians are now playing "leadership" roles in radicalising other Islamists. The Abbott government is widely expected to introduce legislation aimed at modernising the laws governing electronic eavesdropping by Australia's spy agencies and police.

The changes will draw heavily on a parliamentary report that explored possible changes to Australia's national security legislation, particularly as they relate to the surveillance powers of the agencies. Yesterday, the Foreign Minister said up to 150 Australians were fighting in the Iraq-Syria theatre, many with the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), a listed terrorist group that is spearheading the insurgents' push to Baghdad.

"The government is gravely concerned by the fact that Australian citizens are heading to Iraq and Syria not only to fight but to take leadership roles in radicalising others in these conflicts," Ms Bishop told parliament. "This is one of the most disturbing developments in our domestic security in quite some time ... There is a real danger that these extremists will come back home as trained terrorists and pose a threat to our security."

The threat posed by fighters returning from Syria has galvanised the government. Border security staff are at a heightened state of readiness and the passports of dozens of suspected extremists have been cancelled at ASIO's request. Tony Abbott said the government would do "everything (it) humanly can" to stop jihadists coming to Australia. "And if they do return to this country, we will do everything we reasonably can to ensure that they are not moving amongst the Australian community," the Prime Minister said.

"We will ensure we stop the jihadists as well because the last thing we want is people who have been radicalised and militarised by experience with these al-Qa'ida offshoots in the Middle East returning to create mischief here in Australia." Among the proposals being considered by the government are changes to the interception warrant regime, which would simplify the process for obtaining surveillance warrants. Another of the report's recommendations is that government consider obliging people to assist security agencies in decrypting their own computers, if encryption software has been used to hide the machine's contents.

The agencies are also seeking greater access to computer traffic information between jihadists. The political controversy that has in the past attended changes to the terror laws is unlikely to materialise, with Bill Shorten yesterday giving in-principle support to any changes, provided there was sufficient oversight to ensure any new powers were not abused. "Security agencies should be given appropriate powers with one caveat: that there's appropriate oversight," the Opposition Leader said. "As a country, I believe we are smart enough to improve our national security and ensure the rights of individual citizens aren't trampled."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/aussies-taking-the-lead-in-recruiting-jihadis-says-julie-bishop/story-e6frg8yo-1226964357956#>

CALL TO KEEP TERRORISM MONITOR

June 24, 2014 David Wroe *National security correspondent*

Britain's watchdog on terrorism laws has urged the federal government to reconsider its controversial plan to abolish Australia's own independent monitor on national security legislation. It comes as the government considers tougher national security laws, including forcing internet service providers to hold customers' records for up to two years, as it grapples with the threat posed by Australians travelling to Syria and Iraq to fight with jihadist groups.

Some of the measures believed to be under consideration were recommended by the very agency that the government plans to abolish, the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor. In his most recent report, the monitor, headed by senior lawyer Bret Walker, called on the government to consider revoking the citizenship of dual nationals fighting in Syria and Iraq.

The government should also consider giving ASIO and the immigration minister the power to quickly suspend passports if intelligence officials believe people are about to travel overseas to fight with extremists. The government has indicated it is considering both measures. Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Monday repeated his vow to do "everything we humanly can to stop jihadist terrorists" returning to Australia after fighting in the Middle East.



"We've stopped the illegal boats. We will ensure that we stop the jihadists as well because the last thing we want is people who have been radicalised and militarised by experience with these al-Qaeda offshoots ... returning to create mischief here in Australia," he said.

"We will ensure that we stop the jihadists": Prime Minister Tony Abbott. *Photo: Alex Ellinghausen*

In a rare move, Britain's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, David Anderson, QC, has sent a parliamentary submission highlighting the value of the independent monitor on national security, which the Abbott government wants to abolish as part of its March "repeal day" drive against red tape. The Australian model was based on the British office. No one had ever suggested abolishing the British office, Mr Anderson said.

"On the contrary, its value is frequently asserted both in Parliament and in the courts, as well as by NGOs, academics, community groups and government," he wrote. Among the measures being considered by the federal government are controversial "data retention" laws, under which "metadata" such as the address and time of an email sent or a Skype call made would be kept by service providers for a set period. The latest push comes amid growing fears over an estimated 150 Australians who are involved with jihadi groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which has seized large swaths of territory in Iraq in recent weeks.

Social media was alive with angry talk on Monday over moves by Facebook and Twitter to shut down pages promoting jihadist ideas. "I can only re-emphasise that sincere Muslims need to leave the west ASAP. The war against Islam has been taken to a whole new level," one supporter wrote. Disturbing images have surfaced in recent days showing convicted Australian terrorist Khaled Sharrouf, who has joined ISIL, apparently taking part in executions of unarmed Iraqis.

Shadow Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus slammed the government over its plan to abolish the independent monitor. "I can't think of a worse time to be repealing this agency," he said. A moratorium on deporting Iraqi asylum seekers back to Iraq has failed in the Senate. The Greens-led motion called on the government to stop deporting Iraqi asylum seekers back to the Iraq as sectarian violence continues.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/call-to-keep-terrorism-monitor-20140623-3aox3.html>