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(insurgent)
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 **New terror laws : No to Howard's police state** [Post [293963512](#)]

Category: News & Opinion (General) **Topic:** Government

Synopsis: Freedom of speech in Australia at serious risk

Source: [Green Left Weekly](#)

Published: September 14, 2005 **Author:** RayFulcher

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New terror laws: No to Howard's police state

Ray Fulcher

PM John Howard announced on September 8 an "unusual but necessary" increase in the state's repressive armament, supposedly to fight the "war on terror".

Taking his cue from British PM Tony Blair following the terrorist bombings in London, Howard is seizing the opportunity to introduce draconian new "anti-terror" laws, adding to a plethora of existing "anti-terror" legislation. The new laws will, according to many commentators, move Australia decisively towards becoming a police state.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation already has the power to snatch people from the streets and hold them incognito for a week on the basis that they might have some terror-related information. Those "disappeared" by ASIO have no right to a lawyer and no right to silence.

Under the existing National Security Information Act, the government can order secret trials of alleged terrorists. It can also order that witnesses not be cross-examined, that the accused not be in court to respond to their accusers, that the accused's lawyers get "security clearances" from ASIO and that "certificates of evidence" issued by the attorney-general be accepted without question by the courts. Such certificates can prevent the court from seeing relevant evidence, but tell it what that evidence proves in the case.

This act is being used for the first time in the trial against "terror suspect" Jack Thomas. His lawyer, Rob Stary, has had to obtain a security clearance in order to accompany him to court and the prosecution wants the entire trial to be held in secret.

Now the Howard government wants more power to intimidate and hamper those it deems a "threat" to national security. Howard has said that key elements of the new legislation include:

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) being able to obtain court orders to restrict the movement of people they consider "terrorism risks". This will include being able to "electronically tag" people and restrict who they can meet - in effect a 12-month home detention regime without having committed an offence.

"Preventive detention" of suspects for up to 14 days. That is, people can be put in jail for two weeks at a time if they are deemed a "terrorism risk". The federal government will need state governments' cooperation to implement this as constitutionally it can only legislate for 48 hours' detention.

The AFP will be given the power to stop, question and search people in the streets.

New migrants will have to wait three instead of two years to apply for citizenship. That this change has been included in an "anti-terror law" package speaks volumes about the racist inclinations of our government.

A new offence of leaving bags unattended at airports.

Changing sedition laws to make it an offence to "incite violence" in the community or against Australian troops overseas. This will carry a seven-year jail term. Some state Labor premiers have said they will approach the new laws with "an open mind" and the federal ALP has said that it will support measures that protect Australians from terrorist attack. Yet even Howard has said that there is no guarantee these laws will do that.

Brian Walters, president of Liberty Victoria, says the new laws are being introduced even before the previous "anti-terror" laws have been reviewed. He told Green Left Weekly: "The attorney-general was obliged to conduct a review of the ASIO and anti-terror laws as soon as possible after last July. The fact he has not done so probably puts him in breach of the law."

Walters explained that the new laws could result in people being imprisoned or "tagged" as terrorists even after a court had found them innocent of terrorism charges. This is because the AFP will only need to "consider" people a risk to obtain a warrant.

Mamdouh Habib, for example, who has never been charged with any offence, but has been harassed by ASIO and condemned by the government, could suffer imprisonment or tagging under the new regime. Zak Mallah, found by a court not to be a terrorist but merely "disturbed", could find himself in "preventive detention".

In fact, all those people subjected to the recent ASIO and AFP raids in Melbourne and Sydney could be considered risks and tagged - and not only them, but anyone they associated with, or prayed with, or went to the footy with.

The so-called terrorism threat needs to be put into context, said Walters. "More people die from petrol sniffing, or road rage, or domestic violence than die from terrorism in Australia. It's not terrorism that threatens our 'way of life', but the passage of these laws."

Dr Waleed Kadous from the Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network told Green Left Weekly: "The new laws will completely eclipse the original legislation. The civil rights of all Australians will be under threat, particularly our freedom of speech. If these laws go through, it will be illegal to say that the Iraqis should resist the occupation."

Kadous added: "These laws are broad and discriminatory, and the Muslim community will be adversely affected. The announced control orders do things to suspected terrorists that are not done to convicted murderers. There was zero community consultation about these new 'anti-terror' laws, and the PM didn't even consult his own backbenchers."

Margarita Windisch, a spokesperson for Stop the War in Melbourne, says the new laws are a dangerous attack on free speech. "If I say that I oppose the occupation of Iraq and that I think the insurgency is right to resist the occupation, then am I guilty of 'inciting violence against Australian troops overseas'? Probably. Yet even the United Nations says that an occupied people has the right to resist."

Windisch believes the laws will be used by the government to intimidate into silence

opponents of its imperialist wars. "They will try to criminalise dissent and criminalise the truth", she said. "The government lied about weapons of mass destruction. It lied about al Qaeda's link to Iraq. It lied about Australian troops' involvement in torture in Iraq. Now it can use the law to silence those who tell the truth about Iraq."

From Green Left Weekly, September 14, 2005.
Visit the Green Left Weekly home page.

<http://www.greenleft.org.au/back/2005/642/642p5.htm>

[rottenjohnh](#) writes: "

Quote:

Dr Waleed Kadous from the Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network told Green Left Weekly: "The new laws will completely eclipse the original legislation. The civil rights of all Australians will be under threat, particularly our freedom of speech. If these laws go through, it will be illegal to say that the Iraqis should resist the occupation."

"

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(insurgent)
09/13/05 02:49 AM





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fyi

Give me control of a nations money and I care not who makes the laws - Meyer Amschel Rothschild

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 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [rottenjohnh](#) | Post [293963518](#), reply to [293963512](#)] (Score: 2)

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[Nustarac](#)
(extremist)
09/13/05 03:27 AM






 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [rottenjohnh](#) | Post [293963553](#), reply to [293963512](#)] (Score: 2)

The only question yet to be asked is, how popular is such legislation is amongst the Australian populace? Are we Aussies willing, or even that eager to embrace a police state down under?

"Max is probably Jaysus and will end up on the cross lamenting gasoline - 'forgive them lord, they know not what they fuel'". - poster "sandyboy" from Empire Online message boards

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[rottenjohnh](#)
(insurgent)
09/13/05 03:47 AM

 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [Nustarac](#) | Post [293963575](#), reply to [293963553](#)] (Score: 2)

The only question yet to be asked is, how popular is such legislation is amongst the Australian populace? Are we Aussies willing, or even that eager to embrace a police state down under?

Quote:

There was zero community consultation about these new 'anti-terror' laws, and the PM didn't even consult his own backbenchers."

I think this quote sums that question up.

What's worse is that the little pr*ck has control of both houses of parliament. Not that really matters as Labor have already stated they'd support these laws. Plus the MSM will obviously go along with any such plans leaving us screwed.




Even if it stalled somehow you can guess we'd end up with a false flag incident here now that the publics been primed with that latest BS coming from a phony AIQaeda member.

If the government use the laws to the full extent of their power LF would lose just about all their Aussie posters!!

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Edited by rottenjohnh on 09/13/05 03:49 AM.

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 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [rottenjohnh](#) | Post [293963612](#), reply to [293963575](#)] (Score: 1)

Excellant Post!

[NO ONE HERE GETS OUT ALIVE !](#)

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(agitator)
09/13/05 05:12 AM






 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [Nustarac](#) | Post [293963619](#), reply to [293963553](#)] (Score: 1)

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Aussies are sleeping, surfing, happily secure in a good economy, with only a little worry or two on their house prices, they are not listening.
I think maybe even rotten Johny Howard is just going through the motions, for his puppetmasters in whereverland.
[sad]sad[/sad]

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09/13/05 05:34 AM






 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [leo_lunar_tick](#) | Post [293963642](#), reply to [293963626](#)] (Score: 1, Overrated)

That is what I really meant to say 😊

It would be an near impossible task to motivate any significant number of people here to stand up for rights they will undoubtably later regret the loss of.

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09/13/05 05:46 AM

 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [DrCarrots](#) | Post [293963658](#), reply to [293963619](#)] (Score: 2)

Flag to: DrCarrots, leo_lunar_tick

Aussies are sleeping, surfing, happily secure in a good economy, with only a little worry or two on their house prices, they are not listening.





True but I suspect that if it was put forward to the public for approval it wouldn't be accepted. I think the powers that be have been surprised by how laid back and unconcerned most Aussies have been in regards to the BS war on terroer. The rather short time it took before Aussies were once again arriving back in droves to Bali for holidays wouldn't have been expected.

I think maybe even rotten Johny Howard is just going through the motions, for his puppetmasters in whereverland.
[sad]sad[/sad]

I hope if it goes through that it's only a token effort to appease his puppetmasters from the land of Zion. Though I suspect judging from his track record it'll be used for political gain and thus silencing of views contry to his parties and masters objectives.

**Give me control of a nations money and I care not who makes the laws -
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(agitator)
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 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [rottenjohnh](#) | Post
[293963697](#), reply to [293963658](#)] (Score: 1)

I agree with you, that it is utterly shameful- that a crappy home video of a "pretend" terrorist with an Aussie accent- results in such draconian legislation from our scaredy cat government.

Even their own advisors rubbished the significance of this "funny home video" [SMH Today](#)

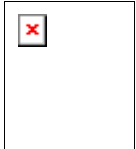
Unbelievable really, he is such a well fed young Aussie - he looks like a "long haired surfie" to me - but he obviously strikes fear into the heart of little Johny Coward.


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 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [rottenjohnh](#) | Post
[293964202](#), reply to [293963515](#)] (Score: 2)

Welcome to the New World!

60 Years ago we went to war to crush regimes with measures like that!
Odd, how now we want to copy it.

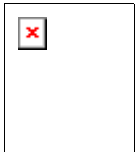
Nice to be back

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[sushi_girl](#)

(extremist)
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 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [rottenjohnh](#) | Post
[293964239](#), reply to [293963575](#)] (Score: 2)

What did this converted Muslim say on TV a few days ago?

Los Angeles...was the power outage just "testing"
Melbourne could be next.

Nice to be back

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[rottenjohnh](#)

(insurgent)
09/13/05 10:33 AM

 **Re: New terror laws : No to Howard's police state**  [To: [sushi_girl](#) | Post
[293964419](#), reply to [293964239](#)] (Score: 2)

What did this converted Muslim say on TV a few days ago?

Quote:

TAPE EXCERPT: Yesterday London and Madrid, tomorrow Los Angeles and Melbourne, Allah willing. And this time don't count on us demonstrating restraint or compassion.

We are Muslims, we love peace, but peace on our terms. We love peace, but when the enemy violates that peace or prevents us from achieving it, then we love nothing better than the heat of battle, the echo of explosions and slitting the throats of the infidels.

American officials believe the man on the tape is 27-year old Adam Gadahn from California, who's said to have been involved in a similar taped threat last year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1458164.htm>

Rumours after his last video was that he was in reality an Israeli not Arab living in the US!!




*Los Angeles...was the power outage just "testing"
Melbourne could be next.*

A little suspicious the blackouts when the video the day before mentioned Los Angeles.

Now we've got a government here in Australia wanting to pass through harsh new terrors laws. A false flag could be on the way. There's a very healthy Jewish population in Melbourne to consider as well!!!

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Meyer Amschel Rothschild**

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