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**Last Update:** Monday, January 22, 2007.  
6:17pm (AEDT)

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Qantas officials told Allen Jasson his T-shirt was offensive and could cause a security risk. (File photo) (Lateline)

## Man may sue Qantas over Bush T-shirt ban

A Melbourne man is seeking legal advice after Qantas stopped him from boarding a flight because he was wearing a T-shirt that depicted US President George W Bush as a

terrorist.

Qantas officials told Allen Jasson his T-shirt was offensive and could cause a security risk, as he tried to board a London bound flight from Melbourne.

Mr Jasson says Mr Bush has led an illegal war in Iraq.

The 55-year-old says it is his democratic right to express a political view.

"It's not about affronting anyone and it's certainly not an offensive statement," he said.

Melbourne QC and civil liberties advocate Robert Richter says the ban is outrageous.

"You see T-shirts like that on the streets of New York and you don't see American police telling people to take off their T-shirts," he said.

Qantas says it will allow Mr Jasson to board another flight, as long as he removes the T-shirt.

The IT specialist says the T-shirt merely expresses his view that the US-led war in Iraq is illegal.

"It's an important statement," he said.

"It's a statement that encapsulates the values and important beliefs that I hold."

Mr Richter says T-shirts with political slogans are common.

"[Fellow passengers] don't have to read it, they don't have to look at him," he said.

"They can come up to him and say that they disagree but to think that might incite some problem is absurd."

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Qantas has refused to let a man board his flight in Melbourne because of his T-shirt which depicts US President George Bush as a terrorist.

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