



**OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER MR ABBOTT AND  
DEFENCE MINISTER MR DAVID JOHNSTONE**

**Objection to the alleged actions of SAS troops towards a small group  
of peaceful protesters at Swan Island military base**

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) bring together over 50 community based peace and justice organisations across Australia.

We wish to express our objection to the alleged actions of SAS troops, towards a small group of peaceful protesters at Swan Island military base on the 2nd October.

It is our understanding the Swan Island Peace Convergence group has protested Australian involvement in foreign wars over the past 5 years with protestors treated lawfully and peacefully by the ADF and the Victorian Police Force.

We in the IPAN are concerned that the tactics used this time, which include hooding, stripping of clothing, physical and verbal violence from ADF personnel reflect the Australian government's current policies which restrict civil liberties on the basis of the threat of terrorism to Australian citizens.

The actions of the ADF personnel are reminiscent of the treatment of prisoners in the Abu Grahیب prison in 2004 by US troops, and indeed correlate with a number of inquiries into treatment of civilians by ADF personnel during Australian military engagement in Afghanistan.

We ask - are our young men and women in the ADF being trained to commit war crimes?

When viewed in the context of the government's decision to send Australian forces into Iraq for the 3rd time we express our concern that the people of our country are being constrained in their democratic rights to protest this engagement as it potentially grows into a major war.

The members of IPAN request that findings of the investigation by the Department of Defence into the actions of members of the ADF at Swan Island be made public.

Contact:

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