



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

3 May 2007

Dr Kristine Klugman OAM
President
Civil Liberties Australia Inc
Box 7438
FISHER ACT 2611

Dear Dr Klugman

Thank you for your letter dated 2 April 2007 to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Downer, seeking information about Australians in jail overseas. I have been asked to reply on Mr Downer's behalf..

As at 1 February this year, 176 Australians were serving sentences overseas following convictions. A further 267 Australians were facing charges overseas; 118 of these were in detention. The nature of the charges and offences ranged widely, although approximately 130 of the cases (arrests or convictions) involved narcotics.

Collating details of the charges, the countries concerned and the precise consular assistance provided in each instance would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. However, the attached table provides a useful snapshot.

Regarding the consular services provided to Australians arrested or imprisoned overseas, I can advise that these include regular visits to ensure prisoners' welfare, the passing of messages between prisoners and their families and loans to ensure prisoners have adequate health care and food. We will always take up well-founded concerns about ill-treatment of Australian prisoners and we make a very significant effort to secure clemency in death penalty cases (with considerable success in Vietnam).

Yours sincerely

Phillip Stonehouse
Director
Consular Operations Team A

Australians Overseas

Snap shot of 24 hour period
from 31 Jan 2007 to 1 Feb 2007

	Arrested Not Detained	Arrested And Detained	Convicted
Argentina	1	1	4
Bahrain	1	0	0
Bangladesh	0	1	0
Belgium	1	0	0
Brazil	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	1	1
Cambodia	1	1	6
Canada	3	4	1
Chile	2	1	1
China	4	8	6
Cook Islands	1	0	0
Costa Rica	1	0	0
Croatia	1	0	3
Cyprus	1	0	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0
Egypt	2	0	0
El Salvador	0	0	2
Fiji	6	0	1
France	2	4	1
Germany	0	4	4
Ghana	2	0	0
Greece	1	4	7
Hong Kong	10	0	8
Hungary	1	0	1
India	2	4	0
Indonesia	3	2	12
Iraq	1	3	0
Ireland	0	0	1
Israel	1	0	0
Italy	1	1	4
Japan	7	5	5
Jordan	1	0	0
Kazakhstan	0	0	1
Kenya	1	0	0
Kuwait	0	0	1
Laos	0	0	2
Lebanon	5	4	2
Malaysia	2	2	0
Malta	0	3	0
Mauritius	0	2	0
Mexico	0	0	1
Netherlands	0	1	1
New Caledonia	0	1	0

	Arrested Not Detained	Arrested And Detained	Convicted
New Zealand	7	13	25
Norway	0	1	0
Oman	0	0	1
Papua New Guinea	2	0	0
Peru	1	2	0
Philippines	6	3	0
Poland	1	2	0
Portugal	0	1	0
Romania	0	1	1
Serbia and Montenegro	0	0	2
Singapore	2	2	0
Solomon Islands	2	2	0
South Africa	4	1	0
Spain	2	1	0
Sri Lanka	0	1	0
Sweden	0	0	2
Switzerland	0	1	1
Syria	0	1	0
Taiwan	1	0	0
Thailand	17	1	14
United Arab Emirates	10	0	0
United Kingdom	9	1	8
United States of America	16	16	29
Uruguay	0	0	1
Vanuatu	1	5	0
Vietnam	1	4	12
Zimbabwe	0	1	0
Total	149	118	176