



MEDIA RELEASE

From:

African Think Tank Inc.

WORKING WITH
VICTORIA'S AFRICAN COMMUNITY
www.att.org.au
m) 0405 479 275

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THE LATEST HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The African Think Tank today responding to the public debate on the need for a National Human Rights bill.

“This bill is essential in order to reassure the international community that Australia has a deep and abiding core commitment to observe and protect human rights in Australia and beyond,” said Dr. Berhan Ahmed, Chairperson of the African Think today. “There is considerable concern internationally over Australia’s stance. Laws on detention of refugees, laws relating to terrorism, and recent bad publicity concerning racial attacks and racist and inhumane coverage in the media have reflected very badly on Australia’s world standing.

“As long as Australia remains the only developed nation without a Bill of Rights, these concerns will remain. If Australia is to resume its role as an internationally respected leader and negotiator and to gain a seat on the Security Council, these concerns must be addressed. Any delay will reflect badly on our nation and leadership. Australia must show, it is committed internally and externally to uphold the human rights obligations that it has already agreed to under international treaties.

“What we choose to do now will affect Australia’s future generations. This is of vital importance for our nation and our leadership. For Australia to be without a strong and clear Human Right bill is not an option.”

Mr Geoff Byng ATT web manager and media organiser (felisgris@yahoo.com)
Dr. Berhan Ahmed –Chairperson, African Think Tank Inc
e) berhanahmed@iprimus.com.au