

**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
*Aotearoa New Zealand*



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND:**

**Submission on the Video Camera Surveillance  
(Temporary Measures) Bill 2011 to the Justice and  
Electoral Committee.**

**28 September 2011**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1.0 Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand (AIANZ) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Video Camera Surveillance (Temporary Measures) Bill 2011 (“the Bill”).

## **RETROSPECTIVE LEGISLATION**

2.0 Retrospective legislation should only be used in the most exceptional of circumstances after legislation is full considered by Select Committee with an extensive and inclusive consultative process.

2.1 The situation in which this Bill is being considered does not fully consider the human rights implications of the powers the Bill confers and as a result Amnesty International is unable to support the passing of this Bill.

## **SPEED IN WHICH THE LEGISLATION IS PASSED**

3.0 The rate in which the Bill is being pushed through Parliament is of grave concern to Amnesty International. The lack of consultation limits the ability of Select Committee to adequately consider the human rights implications of legislations and further restricts the public from exercising their right to take part in the governance of their country.

3.1 Select Committees perform a crucial role in the legislative process, as they are able to examine the implications of proposed legislation but they must be allowed adequate time to do so.

3.2 The rushing of the legislative process in regards to the Bill and the resulting lack of public consultation is deeply concerning to Amnesty International. Not only would providing more time to consult recognise the right of the public to participate in the legislative process, it would also ensure that fundamental human rights are not breached and other rights are only infringed in circumstances where it is found to be wholly proportional and justifiable.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.0 Amnesty International recommends that this legislative process to pass this Bill be halted and the Select Committee given adequate time to consider the human rights implications of the Bill and be able to sufficiently consult with the appropriate parties on these implications.

4.1 In the alternative, Amnesty International requests that an extension is granted on the time allowed for submissions to be made by the public, interest groups and experts to ensure proper consultation and consideration of the serious implications this Bill may have.