

## **MEDIA RELEASE 20/7/06**



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### **“Do nothing” on David Hicks undermines Australian values**

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The Federal Government’s “do nothing” attitude toward the ongoing detention of David Hicks at Guantanamo Bay is a breach of human rights and undermines core Australian values of fairness and presumption of innocence, the peak legal body Australian Lawyers Alliance said today.

As part of its support of a joint statement to be released by prominent Australians this morning, the Australian Lawyers Alliance called on the Federal Government to bring David Hicks back to Australia as a matter of urgency.

The joint statement Call To The Australian Government, is to be launched today, and signed by Lawyers Alliance President Simon Morrison and CEO Eva Scheerlinck and other prominent Australians, including leading barrister Kylie Nomchong, Bishop Manning, Bishop of Parramatta, and John Dowd, national president of the International Jurist Association.

“David Hicks has been forgotten by his own government, but not by the Australian people who still value human rights,” Eva Scheerlinck, CEO of the Alliance said.

“The US Supreme Court has ruled that the military trials held in Guantanamo Bay breaches the Geneva Convention and the United Kingdom has demanded its own citizens in detention there be brought home because of similar concerns.

“Despite this, the Australian Government refuses to do anything for its own citizens. Every Australian should feel uncomfortable with the precedent its government is now setting.”

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