



PARLIAMENT *of* AUSTRALIA

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

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21 June 2010

Mr Malcolm Stewart
Vice-President
Rule of Law Association of Australia
Level 4
131 Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Stewart

Mr Stern Hu, the rule of law and the China-Australia Consular Agreement

Thank you for your correspondence, dated 10 May 2010, addressed to me as Chair of the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, requesting that the Committee seek a briefing from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade concerning the prosecution of Mr Stern Hu and the implications this has for the rule of law, and then consider possible next steps.

The Committee has considered your correspondence. I wish to inform you that, as a first step, the Committee has decided to seek a briefing from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the issues raised in your correspondence. Following that briefing the Committee will decide what next steps, if any, it wishes to take.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Committee's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Thomson', written in a cursive style.

Mr Kelvin Thomson MP
Chair