

Search for Your Rights

Media Statement Monday 24 October 2011

Exclusion notices a new low for Barnett

CHOGM Exclusion notices delivered by the police to members of the community today are a new low in the Government's hamfisted approach to law and order in WA.

"Search For Your Rights understands the utmost need for security for this important event. However the Special Regulations are more than enough without arbitrary targeting of community members" said Pearl Lim, Search For Your Rights spokesperson.

"These exclusion notices are not outlined in the CHOGM Special Powers Regulations. We have no idea how it is decided who is slapped with one of these notices- is it just people the Barnett Government doesn't like?" said Ms Lim.

"The Barnett Government is obsessed with anti-association measures and prohibition orders. This leaves us wondering how far they will go. We may all be on a list somewhere, and we don't know when that will be used against us."

"Having strong views on a social issue is not a crime, and it is terrifying to see our government treating it as such."

"The stringent security measures prohibiting certain items in the exclusion zones is sufficient. These notices amount to nothing less than a frightening demonstration of the lack of concern for freedoms and rights in our state under the Barnett Government."

"These prohibitions on free movement are draconian, arbitrary, and unhelpful." said Ms Lim. "We saw only recently the raids on homes of members of the CHOGM Action Network that came to nothing. This is the next step in the relentless intimidation tactics of the Barnett Government."

"Barnett keeps saying he respects the right to peaceful protest- but actions speak louder than words."

Search for Your Rights is a non-partisan community group of over 2,400 members, initially formed to oppose the Barnett government's stop and search laws. The group recently resolved to expand its platform to oppose further aspects of the Barnett Government's extreme law and order agenda.

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