

Canada's fight against terrorism

The events of September 11 have changed the face of our globe, hopefully not forever.

The federal government has moved on this issue to strike a balance between security, and ensuring the Canadian values of fairness and respect for human rights are not sacrificed. To do otherwise would be surrendering to the worst humanity has to offer.

Canada's anti-terrorism plan has four objectives:

1. Stop terrorists from getting into Canada and protect Canadians from terrorist acts
2. Bring forward tools to identify, prosecute, convict and punish terrorists
3. Prevent the Canada-U.S. border from being held hostage by terrorists and impacting on the Canadian economy
4. Work with the international community to bring terrorists to justice and address the root causes of such hatred

New anti-terrorism legislation will help us meet these objectives, including measures to identify, prosecute, convict and punish terrorists. It provides new investigative tools to law enforcement and national security agencies. It cuts off financial support for terrorists by making it a crime to knowingly collect or give funds in order to carry out terrorism. It denies charitable status from terrorist groups, and makes it easier to freeze and seize these groups' assets.

As well, we will be ratifying two United Nations anti-terrorism conventions, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International

PARLIAMENT HILL REPORT



Julian Reed

Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, as well as the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel Convention.

The proposed Anti-Terrorism Act includes rigorous checks and balances in order to uphold the rights and freedoms of Canadians. It is not only designed to address specific security issues, it will also target the root causes of hatred, by ensuring the Canadian values of equality, tolerance and fairness are affirmed in the wake of these attacks.

The Criminal Code will be amended to eliminate on-line hate propaganda and create a new offence of mischief against places of religious worship or religious property.

We will also amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to extend the prohibition against hate messages beyond telephone messages to include all telecommunications technologies.

This act is to be reviewed in three years and we pray that by that time some of its provisions will be redundant.

— Julian Reed is the MP for Halton

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