



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ABA calls for mercy for Chan and Sukumaran and reaffirms opposition to death penalty**

Following reports that Indonesian Government had ordered preparations to begin for the execution of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, the Australian Bar Association (ABA) has repeated its opposition to the death penalty in any jurisdiction, calling for mercy.

“We respectfully urge for halt to preparations particularly in light of our advice that the legal team representing the pair are still to complete the legal process, with a Constitutional Court challenge and a Judicial Commission investigation still in progress,” said Fiona McLeod SC, ABA President.

“We cannot state strongly enough our ultimate hope for mercy for these two Australians, even while these reports are circulating. It is critical that proper judicial process, and sovereignty subject to rule of law, is observed,” she said.

“The ABA’s position remains that death sentences are pointless as a deterrent and too harsh a penalty for any crime. Imprisonment commensurate with the crime is an appropriate response. We remain firmly opposed to the death penalty in any country, for any crime.

“We know that these two Australians have reformed and are excellent examples of what is possible with appropriate terms of imprisonment and rehabilitation.

“These are two different men today, ten years after they entered prison in Indonesia. They are living examples of what rehabilitation and hope can achieve.

“The death penalty is an abhorrent punishment. The ABA supports the work of lawyers everywhere who work to have the death penalty removed wherever it exists, and who support people facing the death penalty in countries that retain death sentences in their legal system.

“At this time, we particularly support our colleagues who are currently working on the cases of Mr Chan and Mr Sukumaran, and gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the Australian Government to urge for clemency,” Ms McLeod concluded.

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*Media inquiries: Alicia Patterson 0403172024 or [email](mailto:mail@ustbar.asn.au)*