

Halt the execution of Australian citizens in Indonesia

The Law Council of Australia calls on Indonesian authorities to stay the impending execution of Mr Andrew Chan and Mr Myuran Sukumaran to allow them to give evidence before Indonesia's Constitutional Court.

The appeal is scheduled to be heard before the Constitutional Court on 12 May 2015.

On behalf of the Australian legal profession, the Law Council President, Mr Duncan McConnel, expressed deep concern about the imminent execution of Mr Chan and Mr Sukumaran while avenues of legal appeal remained open.

"The rule of law requires that every legal avenue be exhausted before a nation enforces the death penalty on any prisoner," Mr McConnel said.

In advocating against Indonesia carrying out the death penalty, the Law Council has always respected Indonesian laws and sovereignty, however, it would be contrary to fundamental principles of the rule of law and justice for the executions to occur while the legal process is ongoing.

"As a nation that respects and upholds the rule of law, Indonesia must await the outcomes of the Constitutional Court proceedings before continuing with the executions. Imagine the tragedy of finding out too late that these young men's lives should have been spared. I urge the Indonesian Government to treat the responsibility it holds for these two lives with great care, to remain mindful that human life is at stake, and not to see this process simply as an impediment to a political imperative," Mr McConnel concluded.

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