

# Australian Tamil Congress

## A Unified Voice for All Tamils



Your Excellency, President Joko Widodo  
President of the Republic of Indonesia,  
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia  
8 Darwin Avenue, Yarralumla,  
ACT 2600

1 February 2015

Dear Mr President,

Indonesia has everything to gain by pardoning the truly reformed Australians.

We plead Your Excellency to give them a chance.

Anyone watching your recent interview on CNN will know how committed you are for the wellbeing of Indonesia's 250 million people, and how resolved you are to protect them from the perils of drugs and drug trafficking.

There is no doubt that individuals must be held accountable for their actions and they must pay for their misdeeds. The two young Australians, Mayuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan are no exceptions.

However, there are many examples of reformed prisoners who, after serving time behind bars, have made a difference to the life of many. Some went on to change the world.

All the reports indicate that Sukumaran and Chan have truly atoned for their crimes in words and deeds. Their 10 year incarceration – a shocking experience of being separated from society, friends, family, and freedom – has led to a true inner change and spiritual conversion.

It is said that they regularly counsel prisoners and outsiders against the perils of drugs, and their impact on Kerobokan Prison was so profound that its former governor Siswanto bore witness to it in a court of law.

Mr. President, It is to your government's credit that the system of punishment has been so intrinsically rehabilitative, that it has not only dissuaded the young men from wanting to re-offend, but also transformed their lives with admirable life skills. We pray that you go one step further, and graciously grant them the clemency they plead.

In doing so, your Excellency will be held as the Indonesian President who chose compassion and restorative justice over death penalty, for those who truly deserve a second chance.

We earnestly seek your mercy for the two young contrived souls.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Reginald Jeganathan  
Chairman  
Australian Tamil Congress