



**The Rev. The Hon. Fred Nile MLC** ED., L.Th.,

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REV NILE CALLS FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**For immediate circulation**

**20 July 2020**

Today, Rev. Hon. Fred Nile MLC participated in an online symposium and rally organised by the Falun Dafa organisation, and called for the restoration of religious freedom in the People's Republic of China.

The event was organised by practitioners and supporters of the "Falun Gong" movement, which is currently undergoing extreme persecution in the totalitarian and communist state. Religious people of many different traditions are facing oppression throughout the world, and the example from China is particularly extreme and concerning. Rev Nile makes the following additional comments:

- "I call on the Chinese authorities in Beijing to restore the fundamental human right to free religious worship."
- "The oppression of religious freedoms and freedoms of speech and expression are the sign of a weak regime, which resorts to totalitarian measures to enforce its will."
- "We have heard reports of the Beijing authorities relying on labour camps, slave labour, and even human organ transplants as techniques of terror. This is completely out of character for any elite which claims to have inherited the legacy of an ancient civilisation."

- “Today I have appealed to the Chinese President and his wife, so that they personally intervene and restore the liberties of their people.”

Other participants at the online symposium and rally included:

- Senator the Hon Eric Abetz - Liberal Senator for Tasmania.
- Senator Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells - Liberal Senator For New South Wales.
- Mr George Christensen, Federal Member for Dawson, Queensland.
- Mr. Bernie Finn, State MP - Shadow Assistant Minister for Autism and Shadow Assistant Minister for Small Business, Victoria.
- Professor David Flint AM - Former Head of the ABA, former Chair of the Executive Council of World Association of Press Councils, Emeritus Professor at the University of Technology Sydney, National President (Australia) of World Jurists Association, and Vice-President, International Law Association (Australian Branch).
- Mr. Bon Nguyen - President of the Vietnamese Association of Australia, Victoria.
- Mr. Peter Westmore - Former President of the National Civic Council, Victoria.
- Ms Sophie York – Australian Solicitor and Barrister, ICRC Trained Instructor in International Humanitarian Law.
- Mr Paul Folley - General Manager of Australian TFP (Upholds and Defends the Ideals of Christian Civilisation).
- Mr Andrew Bush - National President of Better Hearing; Human Rights Activist.
- Mr Frank Ruan Jie - The Chief Editor at Tiananmen Times and Chairman of the Chinese Democratic Party Australia, Victoria.

**Media inquiries:**

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