

The Federal Attorney General

25 October 2022

Dear Sir or Ma'am

I write to you in relation to the arrest in September 2020 of Ms Zoe-Lee Buhler in Ballarat Victoria. Her arrest was video-recorded and went viral across mainstream and social media. She was arrested for allegedly posting anti-lockdown sentiment or similar, on social media.

I raise the following aspects for your consideration and comment and I do them firmly believing in the mandate of your office. Such belief relies on the proof of the pudding being well and truly in the eating. By this I mean that laws are useless unless there are consequences for breaking them. Further, that freedom is an illusion when it can be perverted so readily. That is where you come in.

- Ms Buhler was arrested in her home in front of her children. She was of a diminutive stature and was eight months pregnant. She was in her pyjamas.
- Agents arrested her and handcuffed her. As if the above narrative isn't disturbing enough, here are my specific concerns:
- Any probationary Constable is taught and I quote: "Never should the extreme course of apprehension be taken when a summons will ensure the offender is dealt with by a court"
- Handcuffing apprehended persons is only appropriate if the arresting officer has reasonable cause to believe that a citizen or themselves maybe injured by the offender or that the offender is resisting arrest.

To even the most casual observer, this entire episode was a demonstration to the community to say, "obey us or else." Added to this is the fact that what Ms Buhler was being arrested for is not a crime under the Crimes Act or any act for that matter which is why, I suspect, that there was no summons. They need to be sworn under the provisions of relevant legislation.

Tyranny could easily be defined as **the utilisation of authority without discretion**. I would hope that your office would be a bulwark against the misuse of authority. You've witnessed it repeatedly over the past two years and to date, I see no evidence of accountability. I therefore respectfully draw your attention to this and related incidents of that time, that to me, are a national disgrace.



As a 16-year police veteran, I can only guess as to the quality of the uniformed individual who felt the need to pepper spray an elderly woman or at the community who has tolerated it. The presence of military in our streets is another factor that your office should take seriously. The politicians' press conferences with police, military and signers only served to engender paranoia into the community and I would appreciate knowing your attitude to this too.

Never would I have thought that my country would perpetrate tyranny and never would I have thought that my countrymen would have been so willing to tolerate it. I would certainly appreciate hearing from you as to what actions your office intends to take over these atrocities.

Thank you

Stephen Wren