

DEMOCRATS MEDIA

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CRAIG BOSSIE
DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE FOR BOOTHBY

JUSTIN SNEATH
DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE FOR BARKER

IS AUSTRALIA SELLING ARMS TO THE NEXT SADDAM?

With the Defence Industry conference starting in Adelaide today, a former naval officer and a former ASIO agent - both of whom are running for the Democrats - have called for tough controls on Australia's arms exports.

"I served in the Navy to protect democracy and human rights so I don't want arms made in Adelaide in the hands of terrorists or a future Saddam Hussein," said Justin Sneath, candidate for Barker.

"Thousands of Australian rifles that have been sold to Papua New Guinea have gone missing and 190,000 rifles and pistols given to the Iraqi security forces by the US have gone missing and that shows that we need tight controls on arm sales and transfers."

"And I still worry whether Adelaide electronics helped guide Israeli missiles into the civilian neighbourhoods of Beirut last year," said Mr Sneath.

"Iraq Proves that today's strategic ally is tomorrow's enemy," said Craig Bossie, former ASIO officer and candidate for Boothby. "The Iraqi government turned the weapons sold to them by the West on their fellow Iraqis and then used them against invading US and British forces."

"The Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader should use their close relationship with the US to get the Arms Control Treaty through the United Nations and there should be a Senate review of the current system of reporting on arms exports so that we know who our weapons are ending up with and how they are being used," said Mr Sneath.

"Sticking to our principles and refusing to sell weapons to human rights abusers is not a luxury, it is the best way to ensure our long term security," concluded Mr Bossie.



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