

DEMOCRATS MEDIA

FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2007

RUTH RUSSELL
LEAD SENATE CANDIDATE FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WHAT'S MANDARIN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE?

John Howard and Kevin Rudd should reveal whether they raised human rights with Chinese President Hu at APEC this week says SA Democrat Senate Candidate Ruth Russell.

"Australians would have wanted Kevin Rudd to use his command of Mandarin to discuss human rights, not just as after dinner entertainment."

"And the Prime Minister should have squeezed some discussion of China's treatment of dissidents between the \$45billion export deal and the annual security dialogue."

"China's human rights record is horrific. 68 crimes, including prostitution and fraud, are punishable by death and at least 1,000 people were executed in 2006.

"Amnesty International reports that torture of dissidents and minorities is widespread and hundreds of thousands of people are held prisoner in "re-education through labour" camps.

"It is complete hypocrisy to pretend to defend human rights in Iraq while turning a blind eye to abuses in China," said Ms Russell.

