

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of certain citizens of Australia,

Draws to the attention of the House:

A matter concerning Australian citizens, Harry Harbord Morant, Peter Joseph Handcock and George Ramsdale Witton who were tried by British Military Courts Martial between 16 January 1902 and 17 February 1902.

Morant, Handcock and Witton were convicted of offences during their service in the Boer War. Morant, Handcock and Witton were convicted of murdering prisoners of war. Morant and Handcock were sentenced to death and executed by firing squad on 27 February 1902 at Pretoria, South Africa. Witton's sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. In 1904, following a petition to the British Crown submitted by Witton's legal representative, Sir Isaac Isaacs, Witton was released from penal servitude.

There are aspects of the Courts martial proceedings that raise questions and concerns about the fairness, legal process and sentencing of Morant, Handcock and Witton.

**We therefore ask the House to:**

- Make representation to the British Crown and seek a review of the convictions and sentences of Morant, Handcock and Witton.
- Seek a British Crown pardon for Morant, Handcock and Witton with respect to the offences of which they were convicted.
- Seek commutation of the death sentences imposed on Morant and Handcock.