



Australian High Commission

Kenya

**Official opening of the cartoon exhibition on the theme
'Freedom & Security – Can we have both?',
Alliance Française, Nairobi – 16th April 2015**

Speaking notes for Jeremy Green, Deputy High Commissioner

- Firstly I wish to offer condolences for the Garissa Attack.
- Pleased to have the opportunity to open this exhibition, and glad the Australian High Commission could contribute to this important event.
- We have eight Australian cartoonists represented on these walls, which goes to show the important topic of “Freedom and Security” is an international concern.
- Artists from all over the world are grappling with the question of freedom of speech in a world with increasing security concerns.
- A well-functioning democracy needs an open and transparent media, and a fiercely protected freedom of speech. But in these times of heightened security threats, is freedom of speech ever incompatible with maintaining a secure environment?
- I don't have the answer to this, and wonder whether anyone could pretend to know the answer, but I am encouraged to see such a number of esteemed artists displayed who draw and publish cartoons to also question the crossover between freedom and security.
- It is such an important conversation to have, particularly in light of the attacks on the Charlie Hedbo offices and the increased insecurity in Kenya.
- We need to discuss openly the effect insecurity may have on freedom of speech and of criticism.
- I strongly recommend you spend some time looking at the cartoons displayed, and hope they might spark some more interesting debate.

Australian artists on display:

*Mark Tippet
Nik Scott
John Alison
Alan Rose
Geoff Hook
Mark Lynch
Simon Kneebone
David Blumenstein*