

Dylan

Please find attached my email to CISSR regarding riots at the family detention camp on Christmas Island as requested by Ms Cash during my evidence on the 6 September 2011.

I would also like to confirm the date of the stabbing as the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010 that I referred to in my evidence.

Regards

*Kaye Bernard*

General Secretary



**Union of Christmas Island Workers**

PO Box 84 Christmas Island Indian Ocean WA 6798

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Dear Council for Immigration Services and Status Resolution Members

I request that the Council take urgent action to advise the Minister to immediately remove the Indonesian crewmembers held in detention in the 'Construction Camp' that also accommodates the family groups and unaccompanied minors on Christmas Island. The ongoing accommodation of the Indonesians in amongst the family groups including many unaccompanied minors should be prohibited due to the ongoing violence between the groups

which is having a serious impact on the health and wellbeing of the detainees and workers in that detention facility.

I read the ABC report of another serious brawl inside the family detention centre on Christmas Island. I am aware of 3 brawls involving detainees and the Indonesian crew who are housed together in the family camp. In one of those brawls detainees told me they were locked down and Serco officers were seriously injured. The housing of Indonesians subject to criminal justice pathway amongst detainees is not past practice and I raised this issue with DIAC personally a few weeks ago while on Island. DIAC described and downplayed the brawl as a disagreement between the young men over a game of soccer. I am advised by detainees and detention workers that the disputes are not minor and are not related to kids playing soccer as put forward by the Department.

The latest Hreoc report highlighted their concerns;  
"The Commission was also concerned about restrictions on Indonesian crew members detained in the Construction Camp". DIAC informed the Commission that the aim was to keep crew members separate from asylum seekers, in order to avoid tensions that might arise. Because the Construction Camp does not have separate internal compounds, this was being done by restricting crew members to their accommodation block. They were only permitted to use the oval next to the Construction Camp between 6am and 7am on weekdays, under supervision of Serco officers. They also told the Commission they had very restricted access to the telephones in the facility – although this was disputed by DIAC and Serco."

I have witnessed the Indonesians wandering in amongst the family groups during my visits to the family camp.

The photo below that I have lifted from the HREOC latest report is of the area where the Indonesians are held in the family camp. The treated pine railing ( and this has a gate) is all that separates the groups who are brawling. The length of area for the 30 + Indonesian men and boys is all they are supposed to be allowed to roam in other than times they are escorted to the oval. That in itself is inhumane. Nonetheless I have witnessed the Indonesians wandering around the family camp where the hundreds of children are cooped up.

[cid:image003.png@01CB9208.EE50AF90featuring](#) the Indonesian accommodation area directly in front of the reception area near the phones.

Regards  
Kaye Bernard  
Western Australia

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