

MIRRAR TAKE JABILUKA BATTLE TO EUROPE

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Representatives of the Mirrar people of the Kakadu region depart for an 18 day mission to Europe today to help build growing international opposition to the Jabiluka Uranium Mine. The Mirrar are travelling as the guests of various non-government organisations in Germany, France, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The mission will include Senior Traditional Owner, Yvonne Margarula; Executive Officer of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation , Jacqui Katona; and Field Officer Christine Christopherson.

Jacqui Katona said today:

"The support from Europe on the issue of Jabiluka is overwhelming. Aside from the European Parliament resolution condemning the decision to allow Jabiluka to proceed there are many plans to take serious international action against the Australian Government.

"In Europe and the UK the spectre of One Nation's influence on Australian politics is paramount. In many ways, the Mirrar opposition to the Jabiluka Uranium Mine symbolises Aboriginal resistance to the forces of racism and intolerance in this country.

"While in Europe we will be investigating all international legal options for bringing the Government to account on Jabiluka. In particular we will be assessing how the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights and the Draft International Declaration on Indigenous Rights can assist the Mirrar to re-establish control over Mirrar land."

The mission has departed in the knowledge that final approval for the Jabiluka Mine has been delayed for at least three weeks by Environment Minister Robert Hill. In their absence, the nationwide Jabiluka Action Network will be making final preparations for a major marginal seat election campaign and the Jabiluka Blockade will continue in "full swing".

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