

Gundjehmi DISAPPOINTED AT "PLOUGHSHARES" PROTEST ACTION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1998

Earlier today the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation was informed that an international Catholic peace group known as "Ploughshares" has allegedly been involved in protest activities at the site of the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine. We are advised that damage to property occurred during this protest action.

The Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, which is managed and controlled by the Mirrar people, has never approved action of this sort and condemns the manner in which the Ploughshares group appear to have chosen to express their understandable opposition to Jabiluka.

Executive Officer of Gundjehmi, Jacqui Katona, said today from Europe:

"We have continually expressed to the protesters assembled near Jabiluka that their actions must proceed peacefully and with the express permission of traditional owners. The Ploughshares group appear to have breached the trust of the Mirrar and are not welcome at the Blockade Camp."

Ms Katona maintained that the Mirrar should not be held responsible for the actions of every person opposed to Jabiluka.

"People from around the world are extremely angry about the impending construction of a uranium mine in the Kakadu World Heritage Area. While damage to machinery is a reprehensible act, so is the ongoing desecration of Aboriginal land associated with the Jabiluka proposal. The Government should be most concerned about the long-term damage being inflicted on Australia's international reputation by the Jabiluka issue."

Senior Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula; Executive Officer Jacqui Katona; and Field Officer Christine Christopherson are currently on a brief visit to Europe at the invitation of various European non-government organisations. They will be guest speakers at a rally in Germany today.

For more information contact Jacqui Katona on (0417) 814470 or Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation on (08) 89792200.