

## **ABORIGINAL CAMPAIGNERS IN PRISON**

**26 February 1999**

Aboriginal rights campaigners Jacqui Katona and Christine Christopherson will today begin a 12 day jail sentence in Berrimah prison for trespass on the Jabiluka Mineral Lease.

Warrants for their arrest were issued after the two women refused to pay a \$500 fine for conducting a peaceful protest against the Jabiluka uranium mine on the land of their relatives and employers, the Mirrar people.

Ms Katona and Ms Christopherson were accompanied at the time of their arrest by the Senior Traditional Owner for the Mirrar people, Yvonne Margarula. Yvonne was also charged, convicted and fined but has appealed her conviction.

The pair has been inundated with support from around the world for their principled stance against their trespass conviction. Rallies in support of Ms Katona, Ms Christopherson and the Mirrar fight against Jabiluka will take place today in Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane.

A peaceful vigil will begin outside the prison gates on Monday, March 1.

Following is an open letter from Ms Katona and Ms Christopherson.