

**Transcript of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963**

**(From Wells)**

To The Honourable The Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives in Parliament Assembled  
 ***The Humble Petition of the Undersigned aboriginal people of Yirrkala, being members of the Balamumu, Narrkala, Gapiny, and Miliwurrwurr people and Djapu, Mangalili, Madarrpa, Magarrwanalinirri, Gumatj, Djambarrpuyny, Marrakulu, Galpu, Dhalnayu, Wangurri, Warramirri, Maymil, Rirritjinu, tribes, respectfully sheweth –***

1. That nearly 500 people of the above tribes are residents of the land excised from the Aboriginal Reserve in Arnhem Land.
2. That the procedures of the excision of this land and the fate of the people on it were never explained to them beforehand, and were kept secret from them.
3. That when Welfare Officers and Government officials came to inform them of decisions taken without them and against them, they did not undertake to convey to the Government in Canberra the views and feelings of the Yirrkala aboriginal people.
4. That the land in question has been hunting and food gathering land for the Yirrkala tribes from time immemorial; we were all born here.
5. That places sacred to the Yirrkala people, as well as vital to their livelihood are in the excised land, especially Melville Bay.
6. That the people of this area fear that their needs and interests will be completely ignored as they have been ignored in the past, and they fear that the fate which has overtaken the Larrakeah tribe will overtake them.
7. And they humbly pray that the Honourable the House of Representatives will appoint a Committee, accompanied by competent interpreters, to hear the views of the Yirrkala people before permitting the excision of this land.
8. They humbly pray that no arrangements be entered into with any company which will destroy the livelihood and independence of the Yirrkala people.   
   And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray God to help you and us.   
     
   Certified as a correct translation. Kim E. Beazley

**Bukudjulni gonga’yurru napurrunha Yirrkalalili malanha Balamumu, Narrkala, Gapiny, Miliwurrwurr nanapurru dhuwala mala, ga Djapu, Mangalili, Madarrpa, Magarrwanalinirri, Djambarrpuynu, Gumaitj, Marrakula, Galpu, Dhabunyu, Wangurri, Waramirri, Maymil, Riritjinu malamanapamirri djal dhunapa.**

1. Dhuwala yulnu mala galki 500 nhina ga dhiyala wananura. Dhuwala wanga Arnhem Land yurru djaw’yunna naburrungala..
2. Dhuwala wanga djaw’yunna ga nhaltjana yurru yulnungunydja dhiyala wanga nura nhaltjanna dhu dharrpanna yulnu walandja yakana lakarama madayangumuna.
3. Dhuwala nunhi Welfare Officers ga Government bungawa lakarama yulnuwa malanuwa nhaltjarra nhuma gana wanganaminha yaka nula napurrungu lakarama wlala yaka lakarama Governmentgala nunhala Canberra nhaltjanna napurruga guyana yulnuyu Yirrkala.
4. Dhuwala wanga napurrungyu balanu larrunarawu napurrungu nathawa, guyawu, miyspunuwu, maypalwu nunhi napurru gana nhinana bitjarrayi nathilimirri, napurru dhawalguyanana dhiyala wanganura.
5. Dhuwala wanga yurru dharpalnha yurru yulnuwalandja malawala, ga dharrpalnha dhuwala bala yulnuwuyndja nhinanharawu Melville Bathurru wanga balandayu djaw’yun nyumukunin.
6. Dhuwala yulnundja mala yurru nhamana balandawunu nha mulkurru nahma yurru moma ga darangan yalalanumirrinha nhaltjanna dhu napurru bitjarra nhakuna Larrakeahyu momara wlalanguwuy wanga.
7. Nuli dhu bungawayu House of Representatives djaw’yn yulnuwala nathili yurru nha dhu lakarama interpreteruy bungawalala yulnu matha, yurru nha dhu djaw’yun dhuwala wangandja.
8. Nunhiyina dhu marrlayun marrama’-ndja nhinanharawu yulnuwu marrnamathinyarawu. Dhuwala napuru yulnu mala yurru liyamirriyama bitjan bili marr yurru napurru hha gonga’yunna wangarr’yu.   
     
   Australian matha

**Signatories**  
  
(From bark petition images)   
Milirrpum, Djalalingba, Daymbalipu, Dhayila, Dundiwuy, Dhunggala, Raiyin, Manunu, Larrakan,   
Wulanybuma, Wawunggmarra, Nyabilingu