



Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation

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To the Australian and Northern Territory Governments

We, the Yolngu Directors of the Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (Laynha) based in Yirrkala in the North East Arnhem Land represent a thousand Yolngu people living in thirty Homelands. As the elected representatives of many Yolngu clans we wish to place on record our sadness and disappointment about the Tenth Anniversary of the Northern Territory Intervention.

The Intervention was ill-considered, outrageously expensive to the Australian people and has achieved nothing for the Yolngu. We have seen less services, less funding and less true engagement and consultation than ever before. Our Homelands continue to receive less and less funding each year. Money that has previously been available to support our desire to live on our Homelands is now used for other purposes. We were unable to receive any funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and we have had no assurance that we will get any new houses in future.

The racist and patronizing attitudes that drove the Intervention continue undiminished. Both the Liberal and Labor parties have continued the ideology of the Intervention. Despite what every politician says, they do not listen to us. Perhaps we have been too polite because the Yolngu are a peaceful and respectful people.

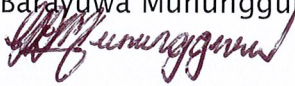
The Intervention treated every Indigenous person and community the same, regardless of the true circumstances. Most Yolngu are law-abiding and peaceful, educated and intelligent, good parents, husbands and wives, don't drink or take drugs. Why then have we been treated so badly? Why have we been forced to use the Basics Card? Why are we forced to comply with government policies and processes that do not work in our region? The answer is that we have no power, no say in our lives.

An anniversary is usually a happy time, a time when families and people are pleased to remember a day or year. But what have we to celebrate? The Tenth Anniversary of the Intervention marks the Tenth Year that we are still under Government control, still treated like children, still ignored.

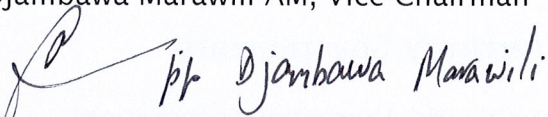
It is time for the Government to give us the power to determine our lives. It is time for the Government to stop interfering in our lives. It is time for the Government to admit that the Intervention failed to improve the lives of Indigenous people.

Signed by the Chairman and Member Directors of the Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation on Wednesday, 7 June 2017.

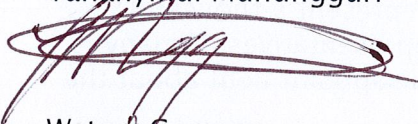
Barayuwa Mununggurr, Chairman



Djambawa Marawili AM, Vice-Chairman




Yananymul Mununggurr



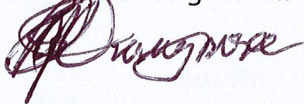
Waturf Gumana



Mayila Wunungmurra



Balku Wunungmurra



Gurruwuy Wunungmurra

