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Media release: Barring UN inspectors from NT prisons is completely unacceptable

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Barring UN inspectors from entering prisons, youth detention centres and watch-houses is outrageous and completely unacceptable.

We know from the Ombudsman's report that people inside NT prisons and watch-houses are enduring inhumane conditions. What else does the Government have to hide?

When a prison system is under this much pressure, external scrutiny is not optional, it is absolutely essential.

A government confident that its prisons meet even baseline standards would not block the UN from entering.

Refusing access raises serious questions about just how far below international standards our prisons and watch-houses actually are.

The CLP Government must allow full and immediate UN access to all places of detention and treat their findings seriously. If they refuse, it confirms what we already fear: the conditions inside Territory prisons and watch-houses are completely unacceptable, and Territorians cannot trust this system to protect the human rights of anyone in its care.

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