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## **CESSNOCK PRISON MIDNIGHT EVICTION OUTRAGE**

“The behaviour of Prisons Commissioner Woodham in taking 107 prisoners without notice and removing them to other parts of the state, as part of a strategy to force privatisation, exemplifies why he should be stood down. It is the desperate action of a failed manager” said JA Coordinator Brett Collins.

“Every human being is entitled to climb into bed and expect to be there in the morning. To summarily lose all neighbours, possessions, job, course notes, and access to visits for those families who have moved close by, is an extreme abuse of power. For many prisoners who still have hopes for a meaningful and productive life, and resettlement into the community after imprisonment, this trauma will be the last straw” said JA Coordinator Michael Poynder.

“The Corrective Services Commissioner shows his callous disregard for those he should be “correcting” and their families. NSW has Australia’s highest failure rate of recidivism at 43.7% - which represents a real cost to victims, and us all. When the Commissioner presented his justification for privatisation to Parliament on 23/2/09 he didn’t mention this, or the State Plan promise to reduce recidivism by 10%. That is no surprise as private corporations increase their profits by return business and our being more afraid” said Mr Collins.

“Justice Action has begun a state-wide prisoner consultation to establish the prisoner strategy to confront the threatened privatisations, and any corporation that wishes to increase their profit from more crime and more citizens being in prison for longer periods” said Mr Poynder.

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