

“Treat us equally’: Outrage over Tiwi rape.” *NT News*, 15 November, 2018, page 11.

A Federal Coalition candidate says Australians need to be as outraged about the abuse of children in remote NT communities as they are about terror attacks to out big cities.

Jacinta Price's comments came as Sky News confirmed a man had been charged over the alleged rape of an 11-year-old girl on the Tiwi Islands...

No information was made public at the time of the alleged rape, but police and Territory Families said it “was notified of an alleged sexual assault on a young person on the Tiwi Islands on October 30. Territory Families is working with NT Police as part of the Child abuse Taskforce investigating the matter.”

Comment: Jacinta Price wants sexual assault in Aboriginal communities to be viewed by the media, law enforcement, the courts and the public with the seriousness it deserves. In this regard, Ms Price is rerunning an old argument that was expressed in a media outrage following the sentencing of an Aboriginal elder to one month's prison for the rape of his “promised wife” in 2005. Northern Territory Chief Justice Brian Martin described the case as ‘extremely difficult’ because he said the offences were condoned under tribal law (*Katherine Times*, August 17th, 2005, page 5). After several appeals, the sentence was increased (*Weekend Australian* May 20th-21st, 2006, page 4) and on May 24th, 2006, Chief Justice Martin admitted he had made a mistake in sentencing the Aboriginal elder to one month's jail (*The Australian*, May 24th, 2006, page 1). The federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, commented in the same article that not only was Chief Justice Martin's decision wrong, but the appeal judges had also failed the sexual assault victim by increasing the sentence to “only three years”, suspended after 18 months.

Following this controversy, the Chief Justice undoubtedly responded to the media attention. Unfortunately for Kyle Horace he was to appear before the same judge in the Darwin Supreme Court only months later, in November 2006. Kyle was indeed treated differently. As a black 15-year-old youth charged with three counts of penetration of a white teenage girl, Kyle suffered the full effects of a reactive and racially-biased law and was sentenced in the Darwin Supreme Court by Chief Justice Brian Martin on March 22nd, 2007, to seven years imprisonment in an adult prison commencing from 23rd November 2006. There was no appeal and no politician or activist came to his defence. Will Jacinta Price speak out against this miscarriage of justice in the case of Kyle Horace and demand that he be “treated equally”?

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'Treat us equally'

Outrage over Tiwi rape

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Sky News Correspondent

A FEDERAL Coalition candidate says Australians need to be as outraged about the abuse of children in remote NT communities as they are about terror attacks in our big cities.

Jacinta Price's comments came as Sky News confirmed a man had been charged over the alleged rape of an 11-year-old girl on the Tiwi Islands.

"We have got a situation where if it's something like a terror attack that's gone on in a city like Melbourne everyone's across it, but when the situation is in a remote community no one gets to see what's going on," she said.

Police have charged a 35-year-old man with one count of sexual intercourse without consent over the alleged rape of the girl on the Tiwi Islands on October 30. He's due to appear in Darwin Local Court on December 5.

No information was made public at the time of the alleged

rape, but police and Territory Families confirmed the incident following questions from Sky News.

In a statement, Territory Families said it "was notified of an alleged sexual assault on a young person on the Tiwi Islands on October 30. Territory Families is working with NT Police as part of the Child Abuse Taskforce to investigate the matter".

It's the latest in a spate of disturbing attacks on young girls in Territory communities which include the rape of a two-year-old girl in Tennant Creek in February.

On the same day as the latest alleged rape, a 12-year-old girl had to be flown to Royal Darwin Hospital for emergency surgery after she was allegedly attacked with a machete by her 15-year-old boyfriend at Galiwinku on Elcho Island.

She spent nine days in hospital with serious head wounds and deep cuts to her arms after she put them in front of her face to protect herself.