

# RESEARCHERS AGAINST PACIFIC BLACK SITES PRESS RELEASE

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## **‘THIS IS NOT TREATMENT FOR TRAUMA, THIS IS ABUSE’, SAYS TRAUMA SPECIALIST**

Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites believe that it is imperative that rape victim and asylum seeker Nazanin’s mother and brother are brought immediately to Australia to be with her.

Not only has Nazanin been subject to cruel treatment since she was assaulted and raped on Nauru in May, but Nazanin’s family have also been subject to inordinate pressure with her twenty year old brother being beaten, and jailed for 36 hours without charge.

On the day of Nazanin’s second suicide attempt he was grabbed and assaulted by guards, cuffed and forced to spend those 36 hours in a Nauru prison cell wet with piss.

The family have been too afraid to speak of much of the pressure they have been under for fear that it would affect Nazanin’s treatment, however, media attention and the visit today of the UN to Nauru have made them feel more secure.

Internationally recognised psychiatrist and trauma specialist Dr Helen Driscoll MBBS FRANZCP:  
*‘The fact that it is necessary to defend the absolute imperative for a victim of violent rape to have safety, dignity, close family and cultural support and connectedness, is profoundly shocking.*

*The fact that Nazanin’s perpetrator/s have not been apprehended, and her brother and family have been taunted and abused on this small island, and the fact that they remain in the captivity and at the mercy of a secret system is mind-blowing to me as a specialist clinician.*

*It is analogous to patching up the victims of severe family violence, discharging them under escort from hospital and placing them back into the violent ‘home’.*

*This is not treatment for trauma this is abuse.’*

Following Radio National report, permission to visit Nazanin has been granted to two people.

Researchers Against Pacific Black Sites hold the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection responsible for the wellbeing of Nazanin’s family on Nauru should there be any repercussions because of their speaking out. We hold the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection responsible for the wellbeing of Nazanin.

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