

28 October 2022

Commissioner Karen Webb APM
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RE: Reports of NSW police intimidating activists

Dear Commissioner Karen Webb APM

I write on behalf of Amnesty International Australia and our 500,000 supporters. We are concerned about reports that members of New South Wales Police are repeatedly visiting the homes of activists, particularly those associated with Blockade Australia, ahead of the International Mining and Resources Conference, which will be held in Sydney from 2 to 4 November 2022.

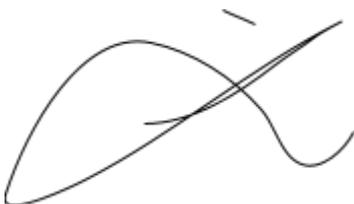
We are concerned that these visits are intimidating activists who have exercised their human rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association. Families of the activists have also felt threatened by the police behaviour.

The right to freedom of expression, assembly and association are fundamental human rights, as recognised in Articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 8(1)(a) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

We are also concerned that people have reportedly been told they will be arrested if they attend an unauthorised protest. The right to attend peaceful assemblies is protected under international human rights standards whether the assembly is authorised or not. Police must respect the rights of those who attend unauthorised protests to exercise their right to assemble peacefully.

We call on the NSW police to respect the rights of these activists and others and cease these visits and refrain from intimidating people of arrest for attending unauthorised assemblies.

Yours sincerely,



Nikita White
Campaigner
Amnesty International Australia