

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND IMMIGRATION DETENTION PROTESTS
MARCH 2011**

DATES (March 2011)	EVENTS UNFOLDING
Beginning of March 2011	1800 male detainees living in the North West Point detention centre built for 500, capacity expanded to house 800. Some people had been living in tents in all weather conditions for around 12 months. 900 people recognised to be refugees still detained on Christmas Island awaiting ASIO clearances.
Friday 11 th	Around 70 detainees pushed over a fence at the North West Point detention centre.
Saturday 12 th	Around 100 detainees walk out of the North West Point centre and made their way to the airport, approx. 15km away to stage a 'sit-in' protest. Most voluntarily returned to the centre that afternoon. Walk outs continued over the weekend and the men visited the beach and the mosque. 18 extra Serco staff sent to Christmas Island
Sunday 13 th	10 alleged 'ring leaders' handcuffed and locked in high security section, Red One by Serco officers. Tensions rise as a result and around 300 detainees are now involved in the protests.
Monday 14 th	48 extra Serco staff deployed to Christmas Island
Monday 14 th	Serco and DIAC staff leave detention centre, AFP take control - access to interpreters and counsellors at this point is still unclear
Monday 14 th	AFP used tear gas on asylum seekers
Monday 14 th	AFP fired bean-bag bullets from a 12 guage shotgun
Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th	One male detainee treated for suspected broken leg. Several asylum seekers treated for the effects of tear gas.
Tuesday 15 th	Tear gas used by AFP
Thursday 17 th	Fires lit by protesting asylum seekers, damage to buildings and tents burnt down.
Thursday 17 th	Some media were inaccurately reporting that the 'ringleaders' and '100 protestors' had been removed from the island.
By Friday 18 th	A total of 188 AFP officers flown to Christmas Island to manage the situation. Approximately 300 detainees involved in the protests.
Thursday / Friday 18 th	Some detainees asked to be moved out of North West Point and were transferred to other, already at capacity detention facilities on the Island.
Friday / Saturday 19 th	Hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees transferred to mainland detention

Sunday 20 th	Residents of Christmas Island assured the situation was under control with extra AFP officers now at the centre.
Wednesday 23 rd	Minister Bowen announces that all detainees are now back in the centre. Until now there was confusion over head counts.
Friday 25 th	Boats intercepted offshore, asylum seekers taken to Ashmore Reef and then on to mainland to be processed as though they were on Christmas Island.
Tuesday 29 th	AFP hands control of the centre back to DIAC and Serco
Wednesday 31 st	20 men three days in to their of a sit-in refusing to go from the Phosphate Hill centre back to the North West Point centre Man self-harms at Phosphate Hill centre

All of the information above is sourced from media reports, DIAC statements and Minister Bowen's interviews and media releases. Getting real-time updates as the incidents unfolded was near impossible and there are still details we are unclear on.

Below is a small sample of the coverage and official information provided to the public.

- <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/detainees-protest-as-cops-depart/story-fn59niix-1226030322421>
- <http://www.chrisbowen.net/media-centre/transcripts.do?newsId=4229>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/18/3167130.htm>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2011/s3164930.htm> includes footage of a bean-bag bullet
- <http://www.theage.com.au/national/angry-residents-meet-on-christmas-island-20110320-1c1yk.html>
- <http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/call-to-close-detainee-camp-after-protests-at-christmas-island-detention-centre/story-e6frg13u-1226022587306>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/15/3164630.htm>
- <http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=590482&vId=>
- <http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2011/march/afp-hands-over-immigration-detention-centre-on-christmas-island.aspx>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/23/3171836.htm>
- [http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/9024734/asylum-rioters-win-stand-off/\)](http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/9024734/asylum-rioters-win-stand-off/)