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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNET BACKLASH AGAINST MANDATORY CENSORSHIP

09/12/2008 - Sydney

The Digital Liberty Coalition ('DLC') will be holding nation wide rallies in all capital cities on Saturday the 13th of December to show dissent to the planned mandatory censorship of the Internet.

After a flash rally swept the nation on the 1st of November, several of the largest individual state protest groups formed a coalition for ongoing direct action against the implementation of a filter which has been quoted by the CEO of iiNet as 'a foolish idea'. Drawing criticism from all spectrums, the mandatory censorship of the internet will not be an opt-out service. Government consultation processes are only consulting child welfare, law enforcement groups, and two supporting Internet Service Providers and ignoring all other stakeholders, namely the Australian public and internet users.

The DLC have orchestrated rallies in all capital cities with numbers expected to exceed 15,000 nationally in the biggest backlash against censorship by average netizens. Speakers include members of Amnesty International, academics from various state and national Universities, board members from Electronic Frontiers Australia ('EFA'), and Fiona Patten of the Australia Sex Party. The EFA and the activism network GetUp!, known for the David Hicks fiasco, are supporting partners of the DLC's direct action.

"The problem is not with the concept of protecting children, in fact Senator Conroy has been adamant at dismissing all criticisms of his filter by alluding that the critic clearly has a stash of child porn hidden away," says Jasmine, one of the national organisers from DLC, "but in the fact it is mandatory, restricts adults to material only suitable for MA15 audiences, and filters out political communication of whatever is deemed 'hate' literature by the government in power at the time. There are no checks or balances in place in the legislation to prevent future abuses of this filter to infringe more on the human rights of all Australians."

This is a sentiment that 15,000 other Australians will put forward this coming Saturday, and one which no reasonable Government can ignore. The rally will culminate in the next phase of direct action, being "March in March" where all states will convene in Canberra to march on Parliament House if their voices are not heard.

For more information please refer to <http://nocensorship.info>

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