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'Naming and shaming' juvenile offenders or open justice? A new battle over press freedom

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The Northern Territory is the only Australian jurisdiction where the media can identify juvenile offenders. The government now wants to end the practice. Lucy Hughes Jones/AAP

'Naming and shaming' juvenile offenders or open justice? A new battle over press freedom

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For the past week, momentum has been building for a national parliamentary inquiry into media freedom following the police raids on ABC and News Corp journalists.

But the issue of press freedom isn't restricted to Canberra – there's another contentious debate taking place at the moment in the Northern Territory over a plan by the government to close the NT's courts to the media in cases involving young offenders.

The debate centres on a bill that would introduce the nation's most restrictive rules on reporting on juvenile offenders, including punishments of up to a year in jail for journalists who enter a juvenile court or publish details of any case.

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