

SOME OF WA'S MOST NOTORIOUS PRISONERS GIVEN A

LETTERS FROM BEHIND BARS



Jiao Dan, the murder victim of Dannie Wright, and, above, how the story dominated the news in WA at the time. Below: The website giving prisoners a public voice.



EXCLUSIVE ROURKE WALSH

A notorious killer behind bars for the horrific rape and murder of a Chinese student in Innaloo is using a website — likened to social media for prison inmates — to connect with the outside world.

The iExpress site allows prisoners Australia-wide to plead their innocence, claim they did not get a fair trial and even seek love or friendship from jail.

Inmates, including murderers and paedophiles, write about themselves, publish letters and artwork and can exchange messages with members of the public.

Corrective Services Minister Fran Logan yesterday blasted iExpress as “appalling” and labelled some of the posts as “offensive ramblings that should never see the light of day”.

Among WA prisoners with a profile is Dannie Wright, who shocked the State in 2007 when he raped and murdered Chinese student Jiao Dan just a day after he was released from jail for other crimes.

On a profile believed to have been online since about 2016, Wright explains his sickening crimes for the first time by saying he “freaked out on ice”.

He has previously protested his innocence, claiming he stumbled across Ms Jiao’s body and accidentally left his fingerprints on the murder weapon.

Wright also uses the profile to brag about his youthful appearance and says he hopes to connect with someone on the outside.

“I’m 45 but people think I’m in my 30s,” he wrote. “I am serving 18 years for murder (I freaked out on ice), I’m nine years into my sentence and I am starting to go brain dead and would like to get to know someone on a level you can’t find in here.”

His profile includes a photo and an artwork and he describes how he occupies himself behind bars with “painting, drawing, playing guitar and trying to maintain a holistic approach to health and fitness”.

Information for the profiles is collected in handwritten or oral form and published online by prisoner advocate group Justice Action from the outside to get around laws that prevent inmates having access to the internet. Electronic messages sent to prisoners by people who have viewed their profile are printed and mailed to them.

Mr Logan told The West Australian that iExpress did nothing to support prisoners or reduce recidivism and instead provided a public platform to some of our State’s worst criminals with absolutely no regard to their victims.

Mr Logan said he would closely watch moves in other States to close down the website.

“Justice Action should be ashamed of their disingenuous attempts at so-called prisoner reform by publicising the offensive ramblings of rapists, murders and child molesters,” Mr Logan said.

“We will be looking into exactly how photos taken inside the prisons have ended up with a third party and the department is now reviewing its policies in

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