

Timor Saga
#1

Two Australians are being prosecuted for telling the truth. These charges must be dropped!

The story so far...



East Timor was largely destroyed at the end of the Indonesian occupation. Australia helped reconstruction through AusAid.

At the same time Australia and the new nation of Timor-Leste were negotiating over the resources of the Timor Sea.



The Australian Government spied on the Timorese negotiators.



ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE

on USA? (no),
China? (er, no),
New Zealand? (oh, please),
East Timor? (correct).

Ha, ha, Australia - the real "Robbin' Hood"! A rags to riches story! From their rags to our riches! Hoo! Hoo!



"Witness K"

One of the Australian spies, now known as "Witness K" was horrified to later learn that the Foreign Minister at the time of the spying was now lobbying for the oil company.

"Witness K" engaged a lawyer - **Bernard Collaery**.



No deal! You spied on us.

We admit nothing.

Timor then ended the Treaty which had been spied on and began negotiations for a proper border.

The new border Treaty was signed in New York in March 2018.

But then came the bombshell....



"K" and Collaery were charged.

Yes. Govt spied illegally, but "K" and Collaery face jail.



Sshh. Keep it under wraps. If it comes up, it's about "National Security". (Always a winner, heh, heh.)

Hang on! What's the crime? The illegal spying...or telling the truth? What about if someone spied on us?????



Ah, but you see, when we get spied on, that's a different thing altogether. Like **SOME OTHER STATES**: try to do to us. (What dreadful people, so underhanded.) But if we spy on someone else (like East Timor) well, that's in Australia's national interest.

Sure we're prosecuting Witness K and Bernard Collaery... but we can say no more...our lips are sealed... (and we'd rather yours were too) in the national interest, you understand... for national security..... to keep you safe...

The Attorney-General has the power to DROP THE CHARGES.

Our Values

What would you regard as "Australian values"? Fairness? The rule of law? Honesty? Decency? Championing the underdog? Plain speaking? Truth? Justice?

The Issue

In 2004, Australian security personnel from the *Australian Secret Intelligence Service* (ASIS) put listening devices into the walls of the Timorese Prime Minister's offices to eavesdrop on the planning sessions concerning a Timor Sea resources treaty. This act of espionage invalidated the right of the Timorese to open and fair negotiations, yet the Australian government claims to have acted "in good faith".

One of those involved (Witness K) complained to his superiors when he found that Australian officials who had ordered the spying were lobbying for Woodside Petroleum, one of the oil companies connected to the Timor Sea deals. Witness K was advised by ASIS to get a lawyer, and he approached Bernard Collaery. In June 2018 they were charged with allegedly communicating Australian security information.

There are challenges to law, truth, transparency and honesty in this trickery against a struggling neighbour. The prosecution of the two men involves restricted access to all the facts and the concept of "national security" to conceal actions of government. Neither the espionage nor its revelation had anything to do with the safety or security of any Australian person or institution. The only "threat" is that it shows the lengths and the depths to which Australian governments can go for financial gain.

Action

~The Attorney-General for Australia has the power to dismiss the case~

That power exists under s.71 of the Judiciary Act 1903.
http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/ja1903112/s71.html
No other legislation overrides the A-G's power to do this.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
AND REQUEST THAT THE CASE AGAINST
WITNESS K AND BERNARD COLLAERY
BE DISCONTINUED IMMEDIATELY**

The Attorney-General for Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

If you wish, you could send emails, but it is apparent that **posted letters have more force**. You might consider getting family and friends to write too.

Background material worth reading:

<https://johnmenadue.com/ernst-willheim-secret-trials-the-extraordinary-prosecution-of-bernard-collaery-and-witness-k/#comment-60763>

Many other articles are on the internet. Thank you for your attention to this serious situation.

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Timor Sea Justice Forum

