

AUGUST
29

Writing Rings
for Righting Wrongs

August 2019

**Join with
Australians
across the
nation!**

**Speak up for
justice!
Speak up for
truth-tellers!**



Hung out to dry

VIRTUAL DEMONSTRATION

- When:** Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Thursday 29 August.
- What:** Demand the discontinuance of the prosecution of "Witness K" and Bernard Collaery.
- How:** Ring or email the Prime Minister and Attorney-General.
- Why:** Laws supposed to protect Australians are being used to threaten truth-tellers. Who's next?
- Who:** You and other concerned Australians.

Background

In 2004, Australian security personnel from the *Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS)* impersonated AusAid workers and put listening devices into the walls of the Timorese Prime Minister's cabinet offices.

The purpose was 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.

One of those involved, now known as **"Witness K"**, complained to his superiors in Australia. He had found that Australian officials who had ordered the spying were lobbying for Woodside Petroleum, one of the oil companies set to benefit from the Timor Sea deals. These included **Alexander Downer**, the Foreign Minister at the time of the bugging, and **Ashton Calvert**, who had been Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Witness K was advised by ASIS to get a lawyer, and was given a list of those acceptable to the department. He engaged **Bernard Collaery**.

Upon hearing of the espionage against them, the Timorese government withdrew from the relevant Treaty, and demanded an internationally recognised border. On March 6, 2018, the border was agreed on.

Two months later, **"Witness K"** and **Bernard Collaery** were charged with allegedly communicating Australian security information under the Crimes Act and national security legislation. They face two years' jail.

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 will go for financial gain. The prosecution of these men is both revenge and warning. It is revenge for the international humiliation and loss of billions of dollars resulting from Australia's attempted fraud. It is a warning to all Australians not to obey our consciences if that means challenging government.



Bernard Collaery and supporters Magistrate's Court 6 August 2019

Phone calls are the most effective action!

PREPARE BEFOREHAND: DECIDE WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS OPPOSITE YOU WILL USE, OR MAKE UP YOUR OWN.

Here's how it could go: **Ring, ring.**

Phone answerer: "So-and-so's office."

You: "Good morning. My name is from"

I wish to make my views known on the prosecution of "Witness K" and Bernard Collaery. **MAKE YOUR STATEMENTS.**

Phone answerer: (Whoever it is will not enter into discussion. His or her job is to take your message.)

You: "I am very concerned about this, and I ask that my concern be made known totoday. Can you assure me of that?"

RING OR EMAIL:

Attorney-General (02) 6277 7300

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=208884

Prime Minister 02) 6277 7700

<https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

Statements you could make:

- I do not agree with the prosecution of Witness K and Bernard Collaery.
- I call on the Attorney-General/Prime Minister to discontinue the case immediately.
- I think the use of our laws to cover-up government wrongdoing is dangerous.
- These men told the truth.
- It is Alexander Downer who should be on trial.
- The pursuit of these men is revenge.
- Government is trying to warn me not to obey my conscience.
- I strongly object to the use of national security laws to protect government and its ministers.

Please email susan.connelly@sosj.org.au or josephine.mitchell@sosj.org.au and state what action you took.

Thank you!

All this may take five minutes. WILL YOU JOIN THIS DEMONSTRATION?