

TIMOR SEA JUSTICE FORUM

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MEDIA RELEASE

Yet another hearing in the “Witness K” and Bernard Collaery Persecution

Once again, “Witness K” and his lawyer Bernard Collaery are faced with a further episode in the series of delayed, postponed and secret hearings concerning the revelations of the Australian spying on Timor-Leste.

The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday August 6 at the Magistrate’s Court, 4 Knowles Place, Canberra. It is assumed that the defendants will be committed for trial. Concerned citizens present at the demonstration outside the Court from 8:30 a.m. will call out the behaviour of government officials. They will take as a model Emile Zola’s words when he accused the French government in the Dreyfus Affair – “J’Accuse!”.

“We are really very concerned at the conduct of this case,” said Sister Susan Connelly of the Timor Sea Justice Forum. “The misuse of legal processes and procedures in this matter is disturbing. In spite of the increasing clear understanding that the Australian government spied on our impoverished neighbour Timor-Leste to get bigger bags of money from the Timor Sea, the government is intent on prosecuting those who acted with integrity and honesty in the affair. The government invokes ‘national security’, uses undue secrecy and delay, and has deprived the defendants of the briefs of evidence for months on end. This means that our democratic institutions themselves are being used to conceal and deceive,” Sister Susan said.

“This is meant as a warning to every other government official not to act according to their consciences,” she concluded.

People from across Australia and beyond have voiced their opposition to the treatment of these truth-tellers, “Witness K” and Bernard Collaery. The Attorney-General has the power to discontinue the case and has been lobbied to do so by lawyers, judges and academics. Yet this government, with no challenge from the opposition, continues to pursue these men in a dangerous movement towards institutionalised injustice to conceal illegal and fraudulent actions by the state.

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