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Timor-Leste passes resolution calling for Australia to drop Bernard Collaery prosecution



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Timor-Leste's parliament has passed a resolution calling for Australia to drop the prosecution of **Bernard Collaery**. The resolution, passed on Tuesday with cross-party support, also called for **Witness K's** conviction to be quashed, [according to local media](#).

Collaery, a former lawyer who represented intelligence officer Witness K, is facing potential jail time for his role in exposing a 2004 operation to bug the government offices of Timor-Leste during negotiations to carve up the resource-rich Timor Sea.

Alliance Against Political Prosecutions co-convenor **Kathryn Kelly** said the resolution was a “significant event”. Kelly said:

“*It is clearly not in the national interest for the prosecution to continue if this is the Timor-Leste government's view.*”

The development comes [amid new claims that former](#) Australian foreign affairs minister **Alexander Downer** privately boasted in 2000 that Timor was an “open book” to Australia. According to an affidavit filed by **Philip Dorling**, a former adviser to the shadow foreign affairs minister, **Laurie Brereton**, Downer said:

“*You know. There's not much back there [in Dili] we don't know. We know what they're saying about Laurie. They're an open book to us.*”

Collaery's case is also back before the ACT supreme court on Wednesday, where the parties are continuing to argue over secrecy issues. The attorney general, **Michaelia Cash**, wants to hand a judge super secret evidence, which Collaery himself would not be able to see, to justify why Collaery's trial should be held partially behind closed doors.