

Australia East Timor Friendship Association South Australia Inc
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Affiliate of the Timor Sea Justice Forum (TSJF) & the Alliance Against Political Prosecutions (AAPP)

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Mr Anthony Albanese – PM
Mr Mark Dreyfus - Attorney General
Senator Penny Wong - Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

Dear Friends

On behalf of the Australia East Timor Friendship Association SA Inc, I want to congratulate you on the ALP victory in the recent 2022 Australian Federal Elections.

We are hopeful that with a new government and a strong and progressive cross bench, Australia will now embark on a path that is far more positive in world affairs - in particular, world peace, social justice, human rights, international rule of law, fair dealing between nations and cooperation on important issues like the COVID-19 pandemic, global warming, disasters etc.

We were very pleased that you mentioned at a press conference some time ago, Mr Albanese, that East Timor should not have happened. AETFSA SA has been involved in East Timor solidarity since before the Indonesian illegal and brutal occupation, so we were very heartened to hear your comment

Shortly before the recent elections, Mr Dreyfus, you spoke out about the Morrison Government's treatment of Bernard Collaery. Again AETFSA SA was heartened at what you said too.

The position of Australian governments on the question of the illegal and brutal invasion of East Timor has been shameful along with the treatment of Witness K and Bernard Collaery - the two courageous Australians who assisted Timor-Leste to achieve a mid-line maritime border between our two nations and a fairer share of the resources in the Timor Sea - has been incredibly shameful.

Australia's international reputation for supporting a "fair go", social justice, human rights democracy, the rule of law, fairness between nations and international cooperation has been brought into question

The Association therefore urges the new Albanese ALP Government to:

1. Drop the spurious charges made against Bernard Collaery, pardon Witness K and offer financial restitution to both for what they have suffered because of the vindictive

actions taken by LNP governments against them when all they did was to stop Australia defrauding the poorest nation in SE Asia after it had suffered 24 years of terror.

There should also be an inquiry into the treatment of other whistle blowers who have received unfair treatment and especially Julian Assange who has committed no crime at all. All he has done is to expose the war crimes, violations of human rights and corruption of many governments including those of the US.

2. Conduct an inquiry into whether the spying operation on the Timor-Leste government was properly authorised under Australian law and whether this broke international law.
3. Sack the DPP who recommended the prosecution and, most important.
4. Deliver a formal apology to the Timor-Leste Government for the long betrayal by Australian governments of its people who were our faithful ally against Japanese fascism during WW2.

This apology should be accompanied by the giving to the Timor-Leste Government of the money that has been held by Australia after the sale of resources from Timor's half of the Timor Sea before the 2018 agreement. The amount is at least \$Aus 8 million and is urgently needed for development and humanitarian services because of the long suffering of the East Timorese people.

5. Cease all military aid, sales and cooperation with the Indonesian military (TNI) until it withdraws from West Papua and allows the UN to conduct a genuine referendum for independence and hands over TNI war criminals to the International Criminal Court for their crimes in East Timor, West Papua, Aceh and Indonesia itself.
6. Work to make Australia an independent and non-aligned republic.

We believe that if the Albanese Government takes these steps, it will free our leaders to make a much more positive and humane role in international affairs in the future.

Your decision to allow the Tamil asylum seekers from Sri Lanka - Priya and Nades Murugappan a- long with their Australian-born daughters, Kopika and Tharnicaa to return to Biloele is a very good start.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

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