

Movement against the occupation of the timor sea (MKOTT) Public Declaration about the Accusations Against "Witness K" and Bernard Collaery by the Australian Government

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MOVIMENTU KONTRA OKUPASAUN TASI TIMOR (MKOTT)

Dili, 17 September 2018

Public Declaration about the Accusations Against "Witness K" and Bernard Collaery by the Australian Government

MKOTT has organized this public declaration in relation to the accusations against Timor-Leste's two comrades in struggle, Bernard Collaery and Witness K, who on the 12th of September attended their hearing at a court in Canberra, Australia. These two friends of ours are accused of informing the public about Australia espionage which involved installing a bugging device at the Timor-Leste Government Palace, with the purpose of listening in on strategic meetings of the Government of Timor-Leste, in relation to the Maritime Boundary negotiations in 2004.

Today we present more than 1300 signatures on this ten metre white banner, signatures which we can say represent the people of Timor-Leste's solidarity to our comrades Bernard Collaery and Witness K. This solidarity message reminds us of the history which are forefathers have told us, about the 60 000 Timorese who died defending their fellow soldiers, Australian troops, during the Second World War from 1942-1945.

In memory of those heroes who died in the Second World War;

1. MKOTT strongly condemns the accusations against comrades Bernard Collaery and Witness K. The accusations are an embarrassment to a nation that is known to promote freedom of expression and democracy. MKOTT is disappointed in its large neighbour, Australia, which continues to exploit its neighbours. MKOTT believes that the charges that have been laid are intended by the Australian government as a warning to others that may wish to expose the actions of the Australian government towards its neighbours.
2. MKOTT appeals to the Australian court to throw out the charges against comrades Bernard Collaery and his client Witness K, because the courts are supposed to safeguard witnesses and condemn behaviour such as espionage, not the opposite.
3. MKOTT fully supports the initiative of Andrew Wilkie MP, Senator Nick McKim, Senator Rex Patrick no Senator Tim Storer, members of the Australian Parliament, who have requested an investigation into the ASIO espionage case.

4.

MKOTT wishes to propose that the Federal Prosecutor General of Australia open an investigation against the former Foreign Minister of Australia Alexander Downer who is currently on the Advisory Board of Woodside, as it was under Alexander Downer's mandate, together with former Prime Minister John Howard, that the espionage occurred.

5. MKOTT continues to gather signatures from the people of Timor-Leste to continue to give our solidarity to our comrades in struggle Bernard Collaery and Witness K, and we will present these signatures at the next hearing on 28 October 2018. We continue to provide our advocacy and support towards the campaign to throw out the charges against our two colleagues and friends.

Viva Comrade Bernard Collaery..!!

Viva Comrade Witness K..!!

Viva Povu Maubere..!!

Viva MKOTT..!!