

Rally to Defend Whistleblowers and Press Freedom



**Thursday 24th October, 12.30pm
Parliament House lawns**

**Drop the Prosecutions – this is not justice!
No more raids on journalists!**

Speakers: Rod Campbell, (The Australia Institute)
Dr Sue Wareham, (MAPW)
Sister Susan Connelly, (Sisters of St Joseph)
Senator Mehreen Faruqi (Australian Greens - TBC)
Andrew Wilkie MP
Journalist, Jack Waterford
Senator Rex Patrick (Centre Alliance)

The prosecutions of Witness K, Bernard Collaery, David McBride and Richard Boyle are all extreme examples of gross injustice and the prosecutions should be dropped immediately. The danger of this trend of intimidation, hiding the truth and suppression of the media for our democracy can't be overstated.

***National security should be an aim, not an excuse
for hiding misdeeds or crimes!***

Rally is endorsed by MAPW, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), Wage Peace and Civil Liberties Australia. Inquiries, 0417269984.

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We need whistleblowers - and a Free Press!

Witness K, David McBride and Richard Boyle are the current whistleblowers who are being prosecuted for reporting their concerns. These whistleblowers are people of integrity who raised concerns about wrongdoing *within* their organisations before going public regarding the issues.

Witness K had concerns regarding the Australian Government intelligence organization bugging the Timor Leste's government offices during the negotiations over the Timor Sea oil, giving Australia a distinct advantage. This is particularly reprehensible given that Timor Leste is a poor country striving to get on their feet after the years of colonization by Indonesia.

Witness K's lawyer, **Bernard Collaery**, is being prosecuted as a result of doing his job defending Witness K. This is an outrage.

David McBride raised his concerns about the possible war crimes of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan, and Richard Boyle similarly raised concerns about the harsh processes for collecting what the tax office had assessed as tax debts. Both David and Richard were failed by their organisations, which failed to act effectively to address the concerns.

In Witness K's case, the bugging should not have been ordered in the first place, as it was done to gain economic advantage over a poor neighbour and is morally reprehensible. It had nothing to do with national security.

The raids on the ABC and journalist Annika Smethurst around the Afghanistan files are a dangerous precedent. All these cases involve information which the public has a right to know. The cases are unjust and designed to intimidate whistleblowers and journalists. This is dangerous in the extreme for our democracy.

All these prosecutions should be dropped immediately!

If you would like to help the DWFP campaign, ph 0417 269984.

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