

## **SAMPLE LETTER TO MPs and SENATORS MAY 2020**

### **Address for MPs**

PO box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Address for Senators**

Senate PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Your Address and date

Dear

I write to express my outrage at the closed nature of the hearings on the Bernard Collaery matter taking place between 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June in the ACT Supreme Court. It is intolerable that a nation which says it upholds principles of justice continues to mount hearings closed to the public.

In our judicial system, individuals have the right to see the evidence against them. In this case however, it appears that a judge alone will decide whether Mr Collaery may have access to all the evidence. This is unprecedented, and it is wrong.

It is common knowledge that Australia spied on Timor. Attempts to cover-up one of the grubbiest deceptions of Australian history – the swindling of the Timorese people – is pointless now. It has opened Australia to international ridicule as well as disgust.

The prosecutions of “Witness K” and Bernard Collaery are not only attempting to conceal this illegal act of fraud and evade the consequences, but are designed to warn others who may think that reporting a crime is a conscientious duty.

The government is claiming that the prosecution is connected to “national security”. In view of the appalling breach of trust committed against the Timorese, why should I believe such a claim?

The usual response to letters like this is the convenient “no comment can be made on a matter before the courts”. Therefore, I ask you to take this up with your parliamentary colleagues. I do not ask you to comment to me either on the court proceedings or on what you discuss.

However, I do wish to know if this matter is of concern to you. Are you, or are you not, concerned about the prosecutions of “Witness K” and Bernard Collaery? Also, how do you intend to follow proceedings given that the court is closed?

Kindly let me know, in writing, at your earliest convenience.

Signed

.....