

SOME OF THE MANY CONCERNED AUSTRALIANS AND OTHERS WRITE TO YOU

5 August 2019

Dear Bernard and "K",

We are aware of your extraordinary courage and honesty in opposing the official fraud and deceit of the Australian espionage against the new nation of Timor-Leste in 2004. We applaud your honour, your sense of justice, your strength of character.

Australia owes the Timorese people a huge debt. From the Timorese support of our men in 1942, through to the terrible Indonesian invasion and occupation, our shared history has not reflected well on Australia. Australian efforts to reap the greatest financial benefits possible from the resources of the Timor Sea are marked by subterfuge and greed. It is distressing for any thinking Australian to reflect on this evidence of government avarice.

Your actions are in vivid contrast to the dishonourable aspects of the issue. The integrity you are showing is the most fundamental quality that we all need, that the nation needs.

Bernard and "K", we want you to know that your willingness *to speak the truth to power* and to fight for it attracts us, captures us, leads us. We want you to know of our gratitude for your example, your leadership and your courage.

We are appalled by the treatment you are receiving. We are astounded by the misuse of legal processes and procedures in the persecution you are enduring. For any nation to use national security legislation to conceal its fraud is truly despicable. And for this nation (from which we should be entitled to expect much more), to use two patriots such as yourselves in this manner is beneath contempt.

We can only imagine the pressure this burden puts on you. We can only imagine the effects on yourselves, your families and friends. We are disturbed by what it means for your livelihood and your future prospects. We are frustrated, sorrowful and angry.

It is possibly little comfort to you now, but we want you to know that you give the rest of us hope. In the face of a history of almost unrelieved official Australian timidity, you are examples of humanity at its formidable best.

You can count on us to continue to stand with you in total opposition to the prosecution being visited on you by the Australian government.

Signed:
354 People