

2004 Australia spied on Timorese negotiators.

...Greater Sunrise...

Australian ASIS spies bugged the Timorese PM's walls disguised as AusAid workers.



2006 Aust & Timor sign **CMATS Treaty**



The politicians who ordered the spying shouldn't be working for the oil company involved.

?

Witness K, one of the spies

Witness K:

- complained to his superiors
- was told to get a lawyer
- was passed over for promotion as a result.

Bernard Collaery, Lawyer



2012 Timor-Leste was furious over spying.  
2013 Took Australia to The Hague. Pulled out of **CMATS**.



2013 ASIO raided Collaery's and K's homes and took K's passport.

2017 Timor dropped case against Oz and began Border negotiations.

March 2018 New Border Treaty signed.

The Australian government's spying on Timor-Leste produced a

## CRISIS

The spying was:

- Illegal** - But we're the good guys....aren't we?
- Greedy** - Er, but we're **generous** with Timor-Leste!
- Sneaky** - But aren't Aussies fair, dinkum....?

What **IMAGE** is projected by a rich nation which spies on a poorer, smaller trading partner? Australia claimed to be acting "in good faith". How credible is Australia's "good faith" now?

**"All nations spy, but not all nations get caught."**

(It's a bit embarrassing.)

What if **other** tales of Australian duplicity were told? Hmm...



The image of Australian soldiers in Timor in World War II (1942) and INTERFET (1999) is used by government to promote the idea of "Aussies to the rescue".

Willingness to steal Timorese resources and secrets by spying on Timor-Leste in 2004 is demolishing this image.

In World War II the Timorese lost over 40,000 people as a direct result of helping us.  
If the Australian government could spy on the Timorese after that, who wouldn't it sell out?

How did this get out?  
Someone caused this **CRISIS**.

Who let the cat out of the bag?  
Who showed us up?



If this had been kept under wraps, we wouldn't be made to have a Timor Sea Border until 2056.

And we'd have 50% of Greater Sunrise instead of 20%.

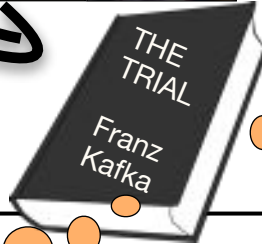
It's a **CRIME**, that's what it is!

Telling the truth about the 2004 spying is a **crime!**

Who did this **CRIME**?  
Who is to blame?

No, not the crime of the illegal spying. (We know who did that.)

Who told the truth about it, and so allowed the Timorese to pursue their rights and finally get a proper Border???



"...he would raise the matter again with somebody, and see that...those who were really guilty, the high officials...received their due punishment."  
Kafka: "The Trial", p.222

"We'll reach into some place where originally there was nothing and pull enormous guilt out of it." Kafka: "The Trial", p.352

Unfortunately, these two might start to look like **scapegoats**.

Not if it's tied to "National Security" Australians are a fearful people. It can be sold as **protection**.

And after all, Timor-Leste is a foreign country ..... Letting our State secrets out...how shocking...

Those two are vulnerable. There'll be a fight, but secrecy is on our side. Others won't try it when they see what happens to them..

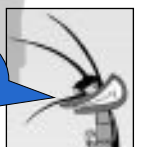


How Australia is dealing with these Scapegoats:

- charge them, threaten jail
- **insinuate treason**
- undermine the fair trial process
- **conceal the evidence, even from them and their lawyers**
- frustrate the process through secrecy, postponement, delay
- **humiliate the men and their families**

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What about page 52!... treat them "like a dog".



# The Process of Scapegoating

*from the theories of [René Girard](#)*

## Crisis

There's a problem in the social group which brings anger, fear and disunity, causing collapse of systems and even violence. It's a crisis.

1. *The office staff begins to divide as competing groups vie for promotion and favour from management.*
2. *Germany after the Great War was a weak state, vanquished, bankrupt, facing impossible war reparations.*
3. *The 2004 Australian spying on Timor brings wide condemnation, lessens financial gain, throws suspicion on other Australian dealings, tarnishes the Australian image. There is fear of further negative revelations.*

## Crime

The group wants to rid itself of the strife. Something must have happened which caused the problem. Something has been done to bring about this collapse. A crime must have been committed.

1. *Remembering the time when the staff was smaller and more cooperative, people wonder what has caused the split. "It used to be so good..."*
2. *Hitler rages about financial, cultural and political treachery.*
3. *The crime is depicted by Australian governments as the revelation of the economic espionage, rather than the act of spying itself.*

## Criteria for the scapegoat

Someone must be responsible for this crime. The "scapegoat" is someone, or a group, which is weak, different, foreign, friendless. The scapegoat may indeed be suspect in some way, adding to its suitability as the victim of the dominant group. However, a true scapegoat cannot be responsible for the social collapse of which is it accused. Ancient societies were oblivious of this.

1. *There is a new member of staff who gets on most people's nerves. She doesn't show much common-sense, and appears to be cosyng up to the supervisor.*
2. *The Jews and the communists are seen as traitors to Germany.*
3. *Support for the spy is withdrawn, despite him observing departmental processes. Both he and his lawyer are vulnerable regarding good name, character, employment, financial security, stress, health, and effect on families. An interpretation of laws favourable to government compromises their defence.*

## Violence

The dominant group works together to sideline, expel or kill the scapegoat, the victim. Violence thus becomes the solution to the original problem. The concerted action against a common enemy engenders some harmony.

1. *A staff dinner is planned, but no one lets the new person know, and the dinner goes ahead without her. It's a great success, and there are hints of the old camaraderie.*
2. *With few exceptions, German citizens opt for "total war". Unimaginable violence is committed.*
3. *National Security Legislation is used to pursue Witness K and his lawyer. Government employs secrecy, delays and conceals evidence, thus weakening the opportunity for a fair trial. The defendants are threatened with jail. The violence against them is bi-partisan.*

## Myth

The myths of ancient times were disguised accounts of scapegoating. The stories of how groups found peace by blaming the scapegoat always exonerated the community. The violence done to the victim was concealed to exonerate those responsible for the violence.

"Might is right."

1. *The new member remains an outsider, the object of smirks. If something goes wrong, "it's her".*
2. *Neo-Nazis re-write history.*
3. *Political figures behind the spying attain places of privilege. Major media outlets aid government by glossing over the case and its implications, or ignoring it altogether.*

## Gospels

When Girard discovered the Jewish and Christian scriptures he found that their essence was the reverse of myth. The Gospel accounts of Christ's death place the responsibility directly on the political and religious leaders and the crowd. This is the revelation that scapegoated victims are innocent. While still attempted, scapegoating is no longer an unconscious response to danger. It is clearly a lie.

1. *Some people on staff feel a bit uneasy about the treatment the new member gets.*
2. *Most people recognise the intellectual and moral vacuum in neo-Nazi activities.*
3. *When Australians learn the story of the persecution of Witness K and Bernard Collaery, most recognise that it is abusive and deceitful.*

See Girard, René. *The Scapegoat*. Translated by Yvonne Freccero. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Uni Press, 1986.  
Kirwan, Michael. *Discovering Girard*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2004.