

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: Senator Rex Patrick (Centre Alliance)
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (Aust Greens)
Andrew Wilkie MP
Bernard Collaery, lawyer
Jack Waterford, journalist
Rod Campbell, (The Australia Institute)
Sister Susan Connelly, (Sisters of St Joseph)

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 culture of intimidation, hiding of the truth and suppression of the media for our democracy can't be overstated.

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

Rally is endorsed by Medical Association for the Prevention of war, Timor Sea Justice Forum, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), Wage Peace, and Civil Liberties Australia. Call 0417269984 if you would like to get involved in the campaign.



TSJF MAPW



We need whistleblowers - and a Free Press!

Witness K, David McBride and Richard Boyle are 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 just doing his job defending Witness K. This is an outrage and gross abuse of power as are all of these cases.

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 and has nothing to do with national security, but a lot to do with national embarrassment.

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. They are unjust and designed to intimidate public servants, other whistleblowers, journalists and the public. This is dangerous in the extreme for our democracy.

All these prosecutions are a travesty of justice and should be dropped immediately!

If you would like to help the Defend Whistleblowers and Press Freedom campaign, please ph 0417 269 984. Your help is needed!