

A Call to Prayer

FOR WITNESS K AND BERNARD COLLAERY

O God,

**we pray for “Witness K” and Bernard Collaery,
whose respect for conscience and commitment to truth led to
their prosecution and threat of imprisonment.**

**We pray for their accusers, their lawyers and judges, and for
all who are involved in this critical and disturbing situation.**

**We are mindful of so many others
who placed obedience to conscience above all other duties, as
did Joan of Arc, Thomas More, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar
Romero and Mary MacKillop.**

May justice, honesty and courage prevail.

**We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ,
who was accused, tried and condemned
as scapegoat of the powerful,
and who lives and reigns with you, O God, forever. Amen**

**You are
invited
to join in
this prayer
for Witness K
and Bernard
Collaery.**

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Josephite Justice Network 2021

A Difficult Australian Story

Witness K was an Australian spy involved in the espionage against the government of Timor-Leste in 2004.

This act of spying led to the signing of a Treaty between Australia and Timor-Leste that disadvantaged the Timorese. It halved the resources of a major area of the Timor Sea - Greater Sunrise, which is far closer to Timor than to Australia.

When Witness K found that the Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, was working for Woodside, one of the main beneficiaries of the resources, he complained to his superior, the head of the Australian Security Intelligence Service (ASIS).

Witness K was advised to gain the services of a lawyer. He chose Bernard Collaery, a lawyer approved for the intelligence community, and who had been an adviser to the Timorese government for years.

Once Timor-Leste realised the scale of the spying, it withdrew from the Treaty and began negotiations for establishing a maritime boundary under international law.

The border was signed at the UN by Australia and Timor-Leste in March 2018.

In May that year, Witness K and Bernard Collaery were charged under the Criminal Code and the Intelligence Services Act.

There have been over 50 hearings in these prosecutions in the ACT Courts, some held wholly or partly in secret.

Witness K faces another hearing on 17 June, where he may be sentenced. Bernard Collaery is fighting his charges, and is appealing the level of secrecy involved.