

We are here in support of Bernard Collaery, who I know, and is a lovely chap and fierce defender of human rights; and Witness K, who I don't know if I know cos its a secret, but he's an honourable bloke too.

In the 90s in Darwin we had a day long conference on Timor Sea issues. Later Geoff McKee, an oil and gas engineer, concerned by the way things were going, published an opinion piece on ETAN. My brother Martin and I got in touch. I introduced Andrew McNaughtan to him, and soon after he said to me, that was the most important thing I had ever done in my life!! What he didn't know was that the mild engineer kept me in touch with their secret goings on.

Juan Federer, a man with many contacts, took McKee's idea to Xanana, then languishing in gaol in Jakarta, and he acted on it. He announced that when East Timor got its independence they would not try to dismantle existing oil and gas contracts in the Timor Sea. This was important, as these companies could buy and sell Timor if they wanted, and disrupt the march to independence.

Juan also facilitated a visit to Xanana by the BHP rep, on the promise it would be kept secret. Horta then disclosed it, creating a storm of interest, thinking BHP must know something is changing; while the guy lost his job.

Anyway, to 2002: Downer and Howard were heavying ETimor to sign the Timor Sea Treaty. The big oil company Timor Oil commissioned a report by experts Lowe, Carlton and Ward - a Canberra QC (might be here!) on these negotiations, which became and still is a seminal paper. It said, inter alia, that if ETimor signed it would lose the right to negotiate its maritime boundaries for 50 years (see section 5e).

Geoff McKee prepared a bundle of documents to explain these issues, and I gave a set to each ETimor delegate to a relevant conference in Darwin, and took some to Dili giving to Joao Carrascalo as the Minister of Development or something, and to Horta just before he was due to sign the agreement. He was scathing, said he knew it all, I pointed to one paper and said you have never seen this. But like most ETimorese in my experience, he doesn't read stuff.

Timor Oil put on a seminar especially about the LCW report, but Alkatiri banned Fretilin members from attending. I did, and Geoff spoke. Alkatiri flew to London to talk to a Lowe mentor and got the same result. Timor Oil repeated the seminar to try to educate more people, I found Jose Lobato in the garden at Hotel Turismo, and he attended. He is now the ConocoPhillips rep in Timor Leste.

Geoff had been struggling with the media back in Darwin - after all he's a humble engineer - and I picked up the pieces!!

Meanwhile the charming Downer told the inexperienced Timor Leste negotiating team:

1. We don't have to exploit these resources, they can stay 20, 40, 50 years. We are very tough. Let me give you a tutorial - not a chance.
2. Hinted at an ace up his sleeve, then pulled it out and withdrew Australian from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea - then acted on it. Dill!

aside: far from being very tough, when I met him in his office in Mayo electorate (just lost by his daughter - pause for cheers!), he spend the first half of our time by complaining how unfair some protesters were, why one even told him to: 'be a man, Alexander, and stand up for principle!' I controlled my mirth by saying: oh Alexander, that's not nice! I didn't say what I knew, that that exhortation was made by Sister Susan Connelly - cheers!!

October 29 2002, the Joint Standing C'tee on Treaties, chaired by Julie Bishop no less, recommended ratifying the Australia-Indonesia Maritime Delimitation Treaty. Affect (Australians for a Free East Timor) via me, objected vigorously, on legal and moral grounds:

1. Australia has no right to remove the legal right of East Timorese to control its own resources.
2. Australia argued that regardless of the illegality of the Indonesian invasion, Australia has the right to recognise that 'illegal title' has been consolidated into a legal one!

(Canberrans might like to ask ANU Chancellor Gareth Evans for his view).

3. Affet argued this is contrary to modern International law, etc, and that Australia's decision to follow 'pragmatism rather than principle' was bad and left us condemned as a nation.
4. During my gentle evidence, Julie Bishop was the only member who actually talked to me, the others 'sent me to Coventry', except one fella could't stand it and asked something but was hushed by a colleague who said you only will give him a chance to grandstand. What, moi??

ASIS chief David Irving ordered the bugging of the TL Cabinet room for more negotiations to give us Aussies a leg up, and K did as ordered. But then he saw these so-called leaders changing jobs:

- * Irving to head ASIO
- * Downer to Woodside
- * Ashton Calvert (ex-head of DFAT) to Rio then Woodside
- * Gary Grey, ex ALP secretary, (who I knew, and was outside the JSCT meeting room, and I give him credit for organising the putsch against me) - moved to Woodside
- * Martin Ferguson went to an advisory role with APPEA, the oil and gas lobby group
- * and from the NT, ex-CM Paul Henderson co-started Bespoke Territory (ACN: 163 108 816) with the lovely Alexander Downer, in 2013. Henderson, as Bespoke Territory rep, is now the deputy chair of the Energy Club NT; acting chair is Filippo Meaci, operations manager of ConcoPhillips. Bespoke Territory is part owned by Bespoke Investments (ACN: 145 003 943), which is 1/3 owned by the lovely Alexander Downer.

This was too much for 'K' who asked the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) what to do, and was advised to talk to an approved lawyer - which he did, Bernard Collaery. So 'K' was not a 'whistle blower', just an honourable man.

Meanwhile Timor Leste took Australia to the International court in a first, and in March 2018 won fair Maritime Boundaries. Well done I say!

Shortly after, and not before, 'K' and Collaery were prosecuted. Which is why we are here today.

Just want to mention about 3 people:

- * I organised a rally against the Dili Massacre in Nov 1991, and a couple of months later was told that in order to save money, me and two colleagues at the same level would lose our jobs but have priority to reapply to the 2 positions identical to that of my 2 colleagues. Well I didn't apply, but am still upset, retired at 50!!
- * During the CMATS negotiations, around 2006, when Downer was intent that TL got 18% of the Timor Sea revenue, Ian Melrose from Optical Superstores commissioned a series of tv ads, and the day after the last one with ex-commandos telling Downer he was not welcome on their parade, he changed the offer to 50%. Now TL has got it up to 80%, maybe.
- * Congratulations to Andrew Wilkie for exposing this crap injustice in Parliament, and also to Sen Patrick.
- * Also, full strength and support to K and C.
- * Final question, why is the ALP so quiet?

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