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## Independent Report

# The Role Of The Indonesian Lobbyist & Support Network With Respect To The Schapelle Corby Case

The Expendable Project  
[www.expendable.tv](http://www.expendable.tv)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the pressure on the Australian government to suppress awareness of the alarming scale of airport insecurity and corruption was a major force in determining their policy to sacrifice the interests and welfare of Schapelle Corby.

However, the international relations dimension was also a factor of huge significance. As described in other *Expendable* reports, by virtue of its geographical proximity, Australia's relationship with Indonesia was of major strategic importance on the world stage. The potential for long term political damage was, in fact, widely commented upon in the Australian media at the time.



Less widely referenced was the risk to commercial interests, which were becoming increasingly importance to the government:



## [Introduction]

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This aspect was, of course, particularly acute for certain sections within the Australian establishment, specifically, those individuals and corporations with financial interests, or potential financial, or other interests, in Indonesia and South East Asia.

This report examines the position of a number of special interest or lobbyist groups, which were active during the unfolding of the Schapelle Corby case. It also investigates their links with the Australian government, and particularly, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

## 2. THE INDONESIAN LOBBYIST NETWORK

Whilst the wider establishment would, by nature, tend to follow the political direction of government as a matter of course, the decision to prioritise the relationship with Indonesia, ahead of Schapelle Corby's rights and welfare, was re-enforced through a variety of other means.

In addition to the use of the media, and direct engagement by politicians and civil servants, a number of lobbyist and special interest type institutions were in active play within the establishment itself.

Indeed, it is possible that President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had groups like these in mind when he made the following comment some years later:

The screenshot shows the front page of The Australian newspaper website. The main headline is "Indonesian studies slide" by Bernard Lane, dated February 02, 2011, 12:00AM. The article text reads: "JAZZING up subject titles may help revive interest in Indonesian studies, an otherwise sombre prospect on the decline of the discipline, says... The Hill paper quotes with irony Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who said last year he knew 'no other Western country with more Indonesianists in your governments, universities and think tanks'." The article continues: "The paper is intended to trigger debate at a three-day national colloquium on the subject starting next Wednesday at Murdoch. A peak of 28 universities with Indonesian programs in 2001 had disguised a steady decline since 1997, with only 15 institutions now having their own stand-alone programs, the paper says." There is a "RELATED COVERAGE" section on the left and "LATEST NEWS", "LATEST BUSINESS", "LATEST SPORT", and "ADVERTISEMENT" sections on the right. A BMW advertisement is visible at the top right.

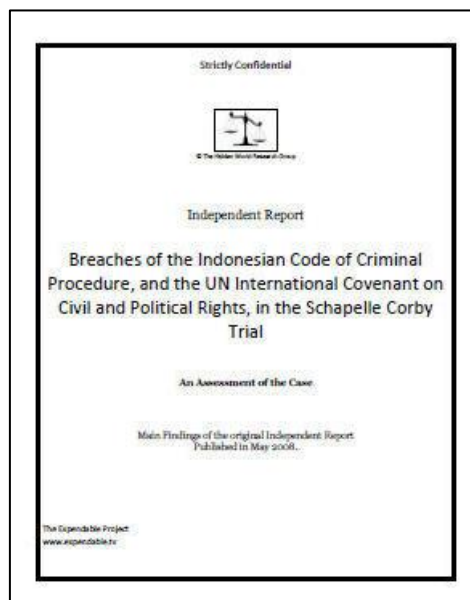
The Australian: 2nd February 2011

### TIMOTHY LINDSEY

While researching this aspect of the case, the name of one individual in particular occurred with striking regularity. This was Timothy Lindsey, who was commonly referenced with respect to his teaching position at Melbourne University.

It was, however, the nature of his opinions and statements, which attracted initial scrutiny.

The context here is important. Schapelle Corby's legal and human rights were systematically abused throughout her trial in Bali. This is documented in the *Expendable Report: "Breaches of the Indonesian Code of Criminal Procedure, and the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in the Schapelle Corby Trial"*.



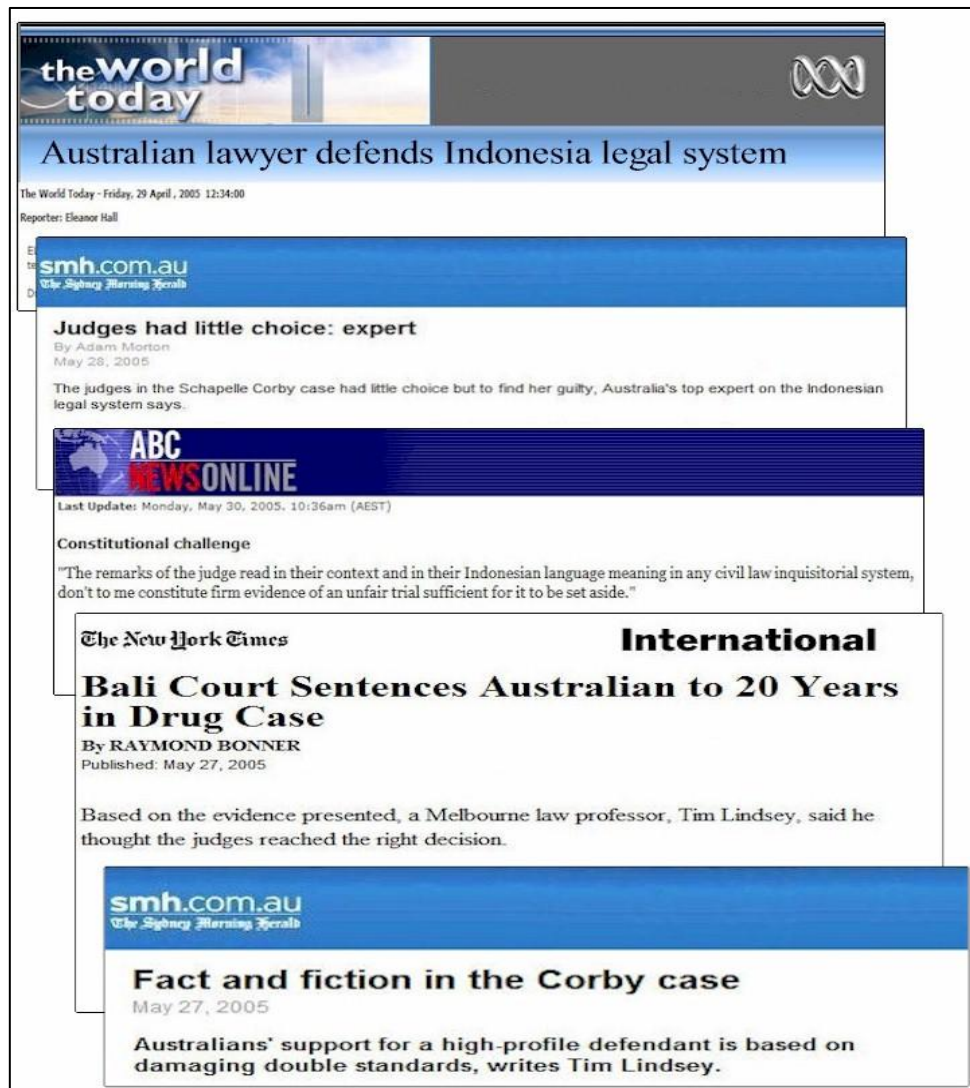
Independent Report: May 2008

In specific terms, this included abuses such as: presumption of guilt and not innocence, refusal of access to legal counsel at the preliminary interrogation, refusal of access to primary evidence (such as the marijuana to test for country of origin), the open contamination of primary evidence even in the court itself, refusal to acquire primary evidence, refusal to allow cross examination of key witness, and the open display of attitude by the judges, amongst others.

Additionally, factors such as the record of Judge Sirait, who had admitted to never having acquitted a drug related defendant in 500 cases, were well known.

Many of these abuses were widely condemned, with a number of them reported by the media in Australia and elsewhere.

Lindsey, however, characterized this trial rather differently:



He presented these views not only across a broad array of printed publications, but also through broadcast media; both radio and television.

However, examination of his other engagements illustrated affiliations well beyond those referred to in the media articles uncovered above.

They also revealed that, as a board member of the Australian Government's Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII), he was eligible to: *"receive sitting fees and travelling allowance in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determinations"*. Also, that through the AII, DFAT had, in August 2005, funded a trip to Australia for his Indonesian fiancée, Julia Suryakusuma, to conduct "a speaking tour".

An investigation of *Asialink*, and other similar bodies, was therefore undertaken.



## 2.1 ASIALINK

*Asialink* describes itself as: "Australia's leading centre for the promotion of public understanding of the countries of Asia and of Australia's role in the region. *Asialink* is a key provider of information, training and professional networks". It also states that it is: "a non-academic centre of The University of Melbourne".

It receives "generous contributions" from the Australian government.

The question, with respect to the Schapelle Corby case is, of course, what sort of "understanding" was the organization promoting, and to whom?

Whilst the association of Timothy Lindsey with *Asialink* may indicate the position they adopted, the constituents of the *Advisory Council*, in June 2005, illustrate the scope of influence:

The Asialink Council	
H.E. Delia Domingo Albert	Paul Kelly
David Armstrong	Wallace King AO AM
Paul Brasher	H.E. Byong Hyon Kwon
Frank Brennan SJ AO	Ian Macfarlane AC
The Hon John Button	Donald McGauchie AO
The Hon Jim Carlton AO	Harold Mitchell AO
Dr Ashton Calvert AC	Professor Tony Milner
Georgina Carnegie	Hugh Morgan AC
Anson Chan GBM GCMG CBE JP	Maurice Newman AC
Dr Cheong Choong Kong	Professor David Penington AC
Nobby Clark AO	John Ralph AC
Harold Clough AO OBE	Neville Roach AO
General Peter Cosgrove AC MC	Professor John Rose AO
L. Gordon Darling AC CMG	The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Ivan Deveson AO	H.E. Lt Gen John Sanderson AC
Prof Julian Disney AO	The Hon Warwick Smith
The Hon Alexander Downer MP	The Rt Hon John So JP
Professor Peter Drysdale AM	Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee
The Hon Gareth Evans AO QC	Dr Ziggy Switkowski
Lindsay Fox AO	Senator Tsebin Tchen
The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH	Mechai Viravaidya
Charles Goode AC	The Hon Gough Whitlam AC QC
Doug Hall AM	H.E. Sastrobandoyo Wiryono
Dr Janet Holmes a Court AO	Richard Woolcott AC
	Dr John Yu AC

This list of establishment figures could hardly be more impressive, and included politicians such as Alexander Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Kevin Rudd (Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs), and significant media players such as Maurice Newman (Chairman of the ABC) and Paul Kelly (News Corporation).



Interaction with policy makers is evidenced by the presence of Ian Macfarlane from the conservative think tank, The Lowy Institute.

The members of the *Asialink Advisory Board* were generally less prominent, although Philip Flood was a former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and a former Ambassador to Indonesia. He was also a former chairman of the *Australia-Indonesia Institute*, a role which was later to be filled by Timothy Lindsey (see the next segment).

Whilst the extensive influence of this organization could hardly be clearer, it wasn't alone in shaping the opinion of influential members of the Australian establishment and hierarchy.

### 2.2 THE AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA INSTITUTE

Established by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in 1989, the *Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII)* defines its purpose as: "*providing a focus for the collection, exchange and dissemination of information, and a source of advice, in relation to the ways in which relations between Australia and Indonesia could be encouraged, strengthened and developed*".



Its functions include the "*enhancement of commercial linkages between Australia and Indonesia*", and the interesting "*facilitation of media exchanges*".

#### THE MEDIA

The 2003/4 *AII* Annual Report stated that: "*The Institute developed high-level contact and understanding between influential Australian media representatives and Indonesian political, business and community leaders by taking a group of senior media editors to Jakarta. The group of nine editors, representing major Australian print, television and radio media organisations, was able to gain valuable insights into Indonesia's recent democratic and economic reforms*".

And: "*This was the sixth visit by Australian or Indonesian senior editors sponsored by the Institute in a program which the Institute believes has produced tangible benefits...*".

This continued, unabated, after Schapelle Corby's Bali trial. For example, the 2007/8 *AII* Annual Report stated that, in May 2008: "*Nine senior Australian journalists, led by Institute Board member Greg Sheridan, visited Jakarta and Yogyakarta for a week of intensive political, economic, aid and other briefings. They met with senior Government Ministers, Parliamentarians, Indonesian senior media editors, and business, economic and religious leaders*". Note that Greg Sheridan was the foreign affairs analyst for *The Australian* newspaper, including during the trial and appeals of Schapelle Corby.

It has frequently been argued that this intense lobbying of senior and influential Australian media players was highly significant in the subsequent hostile reporting against Schapelle Corby (see other *Expendable* reports). This point is particularly relevant in the context of the significant media representation on the *Asialink Advisory Council*, as revealed earlier.

Additionally, through the *AII*, the DFAT also funded "*scholarship programs*", with dozens of key Australian journalists undertaking courses in Indonesia. These spanned both of the major Australian newspaper publishers, Fairfax and News Ltd, as well as broadcasters such as the ABC and Channel 9, amongst others. Indeed, beneficiaries now occupy prominent positions in most major media organizations.

A number of beneficiaries of *AII* scholarships, placements, or similar, subsequently produced material which was bitterly condemned by supporters of Schapelle Corby, with Sian Powell's and Claire Harvey's numerous reports being prominent examples.



Examples: Harvey & Powell

Extensive research also found no media references at all to the *AII* in the context of Schapelle Corby reporting, or with respect to Lindsey's contributions, no reference whatsoever to his *AII* role.

As the years of Schapelle Corby's incarceration have passed, and as the position of *AII* beneficiaries within the Australian media has strengthened, and their influence increased, the general media position on Schapelle Corby has remained hostile.

The number of individual journalists, who have been the recipient of some form of fellowship or placement, or those who have been associated with the *AII* and similar organizations, through contribution of their journalistic expertise or in some other related capacity, is substantial.

For example, the following names are those listed on the websites of just two Australian organisations, the *Australia-Indonesia Institute* and the *Asia Pacific Journalism Centre*: Paul Kelly, Greg Sheridan, Sian Powell, Claire Harvey, Lindsay Murdoch, Paul Cleary, Peter Kerr, Farah Farouque, Jennie Brockie, Drew Ambrose, Julia Suryakusuma, Geraldine Doogue, John Schauble, Hilton Kolbe, Rachel Hill, Don Greenlees, Steve Sharp, Tom Fayle, Marian Wilkinson, Linda Morris, Aaron Patrick, Leigh Murray, Peter Michael, John Van Tiggelen, Fiona Halloran, Heather Stewart, Damien Dempsey, Sonya De Masi, John Hugh Wallace, Steve Gwynn-Jones, Natalie Larkins, Michael Ware, Nick Gentle, Ginny Stein, Jerry Galea, Joanna McCarthy, Sophie Morris, Rowan Callick, Anne Barker, Kellie Mayo, Michele Mossop, Tamara Oudyn, Greg Roberts, Kanaha Sabapathy, Emma Tinkler, Christopher Zinn, Fiona Carruthers, Gavin Fang, Marion MacGregor, Amanda McLeay, Maria Moscaritolo, Simon Palan, Sacha Payne, Ruth Pollard, Dewi Anggraeni, K.C. Boey, Mark Baker, Dennis Atkins, Karen Kissane, James Massola, Katherine Pohl, Auskar Surbakti, Jack Waterford, Diana Bagnall, Marcus Cheek, Trudy Harris, Michael Kenny, Philippa McDonald, Karon Snowdon, Geoff Strong, Suzy Woodhouse, Dr Nigel McCarthy, John Tidey, Helen Musa, Greg Burchall, Prof. Greg Barton, Kenneth Davidson, Andrew Fraser, Andrew Jaspan, Simon Johanson, James Kirby, Bela Kusumah, Louise Perry, Ken Randall, Maurice Reilly, Mike Smith, Michael Stutchbury, Brendon Telfer, Jessica Mahar, Elise Davidson, Nick Richardson, Michael Short, Peta Yoshinaga, Tim Colebatch, Whitney Fitzsimmons, David Rood, Deborah Steele.

It is also noteworthy that at the time this report was produced, in 2011, the Chairman of the *Australian Press Council* himself was a member of the *Asialink Advisory Council*.

### DFAT

As with *Asialink*, the general position of the *AII* with respect to Schapelle Corby is, perhaps, indicated by an examination of its Board, and its most active members, including Timothy Lindsey.

However, its proximity to government, as part of the DFAT, also presents a clear and unambiguous picture, particularly in the context of the disturbing revelations within the *Expendable* documentary film. The *AII* also collaborates directly with *Asialink*, making significant financial contributions to that organisation.

## [The Indonesian Lobbyist Network]

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As a collective force, the influence of *Asialink* and the *AII* upon the establishment and social hierarchy of Australia was substantial. Whilst their influence upon the media is particularly stark, the full scope of this influence was unbounded, as evidenced not only by the construct of the bodies themselves, but by the attendees of a multitude of presentations, conferences and seminars during 2005-2006.

To a lesser extent, this also pre-dated and post-dated this period, and included government agencies themselves, such as the AFP, an agency which played a pivotal and disturbing role in the case itself:



AFP Commissioner Keelty's Address To The AII In 2003



Lindsey (Left) With AII Guests in 2009, Some of Whom Are Referenced Regularly Within *The Expendable Project* Reports

Few sectors of commerce and industry remained untouched. The cascade effect upon the position and attitude of general Australian society, and the wider public, is therefore self evident.

However, *Asialink* and the *AII* were not the only pro-Indonesian and government supported groups active during this period.

## 2.3 THE AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The *Australia-Indonesia Business Council (AIBC)* for example, promotes itself as follows: “*The Australia Indonesia Business Council Ltd (AIBC) is the peak, non-profit business association involved with the promotion and facilitation of trade and investment between Australia and Indonesia.*”

The AIBC offers corporate, small business, and individual membership. It is clearly, therefore, not unreasonable to assume that the priority of its members will generally be to sustain, or increase, revenue streams from Indonesia.



Closer examination of this body, however, also reveals some interesting associations.

Long standing former *Vice President*, Ross Taylor, for instance, has commented on the Schapelle Corby case on a number of occasions. For example, in 2011, during the clemency appeal period, when asked about her case, he unhelpfully linked her with people smugglers being held in Australia: “*...we're talking about one person in err Kerobokan prison in Bali, and here we have 250 young people including children in a maximum security prison in WA*”.

The AIBC have a number of *sponsors*, including Allens Arthur Robinson, Commonwealth Bank, ANZ, Tigers Realm Minerals, Norton Rose, DORIC, Freehills, Crown International Holding Group, Garuda Indonesia, Solaris Paper, Oceanic Multitrading Pty Ltd, Southertons Chartered Accountants, and the Australian government itself, via the EFIC, which is part of the DFAT:





However, when approached on behalf of this investigation, the EFIC denied this association:

```
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Whittle [mailto:jwhittle@efic.gov.au]
> Sent: 15 June 2011 02:47
> Subject: The AIBC
>
> Hi ,
>
> In response to your enquiry below, EFIC is a corporate member of the
> AIBC, rather than a sponsor. We do not make donations to the AIBC.
>
> Should you wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me.
>
> Regards,
> Jennifer
>
> Jennifer Whittle
> Associate Director, Marketing Communications
> Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Level 10 Export House, 22 Pitt
```

As this entirely contradicted the AIBC's website, the EFIC/DFAT was pressed on the matter. They eventually conceded, effectively declaring their first response to be incorrect:

```
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Whittle [mailto:jwhittle@efic.gov.au]
> Sent: 16 June 2011 02:44
> Subject: RE: The Australia Indonesia Business Council
>
> Hi !
>
> As previously mentioned, EFIC is a corporate membership of the Australia
> Indonesia Business Council. Our membership is disclosed on their
> website, as is our sponsorship of their annual conference.
>
> Regards,
> Jennifer
>
> Jennifer Whittle
> Associate Director, Marketing Communications
```

Aware of a practice known as *contributions in kind*, in which benefactors provide services and support in addition to direct funding, a potential disparity was discovered between the AIBC's modest declared revenue and the apparent expenditure of the organization.

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA BUSINESS COUNCIL LIMITED			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2009			
	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY NATURE</b>			
Revenues from ordinary activities	2	95,231	95,142
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		-	-
Borrowing costs expense		-	-
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(69,748)	(93,490)



Whilst annual revenue seems to fluctuate around \$95,000, the organization has long been able to boast extravagant conferences and events, including overseas in Jakarta:



The AIBC itself was approached on a number of occasions, with polite enquiries regarding its revenue sources. No response was forthcoming (see later).

The EFIC/DFAT was pressed on the issues of the specific costs of 'sponsorship', and on the value of any *contributions in kind*, such as beneficial services, promotion or hosting. Their response was less than helpful:

```
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Whittle [mailto:JWhittle@efic.gov.au]
> Sent: 16 June 2011 11:29
> Subject: RE: The Australia Indonesia Business Council
>
>
>
> Until you are in a position to discuss the nature of your enquiry, I
> cannot assist you any further.
>
>
> Regards,
> Jennifer
>
>
> Jennifer Whittle
> Associate Director, Marketing Communications
```

The '*nature of the enquiry*' was therefore specified as: '*researching the direct and indirect tax payer funding, provided by a government agency, to an organisation which when approached refuses transparency on these matters*', and, the EFIC/DFAT was again pressed for substantive information on the value of their contributions. EFIC/DFAT continued to refuse the request.

## [The Indonesian Lobbyist Network]

Correspondence was therefore sent to a number of senior DFAT personnel, including ministers and parliamentary secretaries, to present the same core questions regarding funding, and to raise the issue of EFIC's lack of transparency. Whilst these were certainly read, no response was forthcoming from any recipient, including the relevant members of Parliament.

From: Armstrong, Michael (J. Elliot, MP) [mailto:Michael.Armstrong@aph.gov.au]  
Sent: 23 June 2011 11:19  
Subject: Read: AIBC Funding Matters  
Importance: High

Your message  
To: 'Jennifer Whittle'  
Cc: gillian.bird@dfat.gov.au; bruce.gosper@dfat.gov.au; dennis.richardson@dfat.gov.au; paul.grigson@dfat.gov.au; heather.smith@dfat.gov.au; Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au; Rudd, Kevin (MP); Emerson, Craig (MP); Marles, Richard (MP); Elliot, Justine (MP)  
Subject: AIBC Funding Matters Sent: Thu, 23 Jun 2011 19:06:09 +1000  
was read on Thu, 23 Jun 2011 20:19:28 +1000

From: Marles, Richard (MP) [mailto:Richard.Marles.MP@aph.gov.au]  
Sent: 23 June 2011 05:05  
Subject: Read: EFIC/DFAT Covert Funding  
Importance: High

Your message  
To: gillian.bird@dfat.gov.au; bruce.gosper@dfat.gov.au; dennis.richardson@dfat.gov.au; paul.grigson@dfat.gov.au; heather.smith@dfat.gov.au; Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au Cc: Rudd, Kevin (MP); Emerson, Craig (MP); Marles, Richard (MP); Elliot, Justine (MP); JWhittle@efic.gov.au  
Subject: EFIC/DFAT Covert Funding Sent: Tue, 21 Jun 2011 21:25:05 +1000  
was read on Thu, 23 Jun 2011 14:04:52 +1000

From: Lane, Teresa (C. Emerson, MP) [mailto:Teresa.Lane@aph.gov.au]  
Sent: 22 June 2011 01:23  
Subject: Read: EFIC/DFAT Covert Funding  
Importance: High

Your message  
To: gillian.bird@dfat.gov.au; bruce.gosper@dfat.gov.au; dennis.richardson@dfat.gov.au; paul.grigson@dfat.gov.au; heather.smith@dfat.gov.au; Centre.Conops@dfat.gov.au Cc: Rudd, Kevin (MP); Emerson, Craig (MP); Marles, Richard (MP); Elliot, Justine (MP); JWhittle@efic.gov.au  
Subject: EFIC/DFAT Covert Funding Sent: Tue, 21 Jun 2011 21:25:05 +1000  
was read on Wed, 22 Jun 2011 10:23:26 +1000

Despite repeated enquires and reminders, the following was the final reply from EFIC, and indeed, any part of the DFAT.

**From:** Jennifer Whittle [mailto:JWhittle@efic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** 24 June 2011 05:35  
**Subject:** Your enquiry re AIBC

Further questions regarding events and activities of the Australia Indonesia Business Council (AIBC) should be directed to the AIBC. EFIC is not the appropriate party to answer these questions, which either are commercial matters for AIBC or related to the broader activities of Government unrelated to EFIC.

Regards,  
Jennifer

**Jennifer Whittle**  
Associate Director, Marketing Communications

Equally, a formal *Freedom of Information* request for the same information went unanswered:

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2011 9:51 PM  
**To:** [foi@efic.gov.au](mailto:foi@efic.gov.au)  
**Subject:** FOI Request

Good day to you.

I am requesting, yet again, a response to my FOI request (attached), submitted on the 18th June 2011.

Under Part III Section 15(5)(a) of the FOI Act you should have notified me within 14 days that my FOI request had been received. This did not happen.

Under Part III Section 15(5)(b) of the FOI Act you are required to make a decision in relation to my FOI, and to notify me of that decision, within 30 days of receiving my FOI request. Given that it is now the 15th July, you do not have much time left.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 02, 2011 11:02 PM  
**To:** [foi@efic.gov.au](mailto:foi@efic.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Re: FOI Request

Good day to you.

I am just wondering what is happening with this FOI request, sent on the 18th June. So far I have not received a reply, not even an Auto Reply.

Please advise. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 18, 2011 6:48 PM  
**To:** [foi@efic.gov.au](mailto:foi@efic.gov.au)  
**Subject:** FOI Request

Good day to you.

Please find attached, the following FOI request.

Yours faithfully,

EFIC/DFAT was in open breach of Australia's *Freedom of Information Act*, and only responded at all when a formal complaint was lodged with the Information Commissioner. They blamed a technical malfunction, which only appeared to afflict emails relating to this request.

Yet they still continued to delay and prevaricate, making no progress at all in addressing a very straight forward request.

## [The Indonesian Lobbyist Network]

In September 2011, they took the step of investing tax payer's money, by employing the services of a large commercial law firm:

**From:** Elizabeth Han  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 08, 2011 4:40 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** EFIC - Request No: 01/2011 - Freedom of Information Act 1982

Our Reference: Request No: 01/2011

Dear

I refer to your FOI request to EFIC dated 18 June 2011 and my letter to you dated 7 September 2011.

Please be informed that we have asked Blake Dawson, who are acting for us in this matter, to contact you or your legal adviser (if you prefer) in the next couple of days in respect of the matters I have raised in my letter dated 7 September 2011. Should you prefer that Blake Dawson contact your legal adviser, please let me have contact details (phone and email) for that person.

Regards

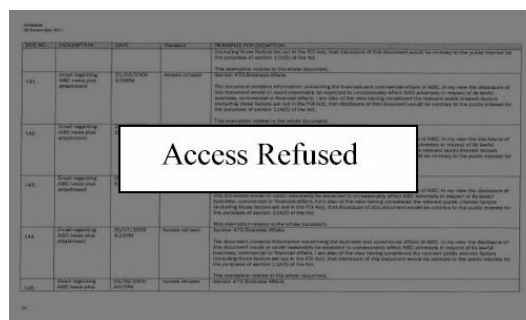
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Han  
Counsel

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation  
Level 10, Export House, 22 Pitt Street Sydney, NSW 2000  
Tel +61 2 9201 2152 Fax +61 2 9201 2292  
[ehan@efic.gov.au](mailto:ehan@efic.gov.au) [www.efic.gov.au](http://www.efic.gov.au)

The intent, to use all means and every legal device available, regardless of cost, to prevent the public from gaining knowledge of the government's contributions to the AIBC could not have been more clearly indicated.

Access to all the relevant information relating to financial contributions and sponsorship was ultimately refused. The *commercial interests* of the AIBC, and a range of other criteria, were cited for the exemptions.



Request No.	Requester	Subject	Status	Comments
141	Requesting information about the AIBC	Information about the AIBC	Refused	The information is exempt from disclosure under section 30(1)(b) of the Act.
142	Requesting information about the AIBC	Information about the AIBC	Refused	The information is exempt from disclosure under section 30(1)(b) of the Act.
143	Requesting information about the AIBC	Information about the AIBC	Refused	The information is exempt from disclosure under section 30(1)(b) of the Act.
144	Requesting information about the AIBC	Information about the AIBC	Refused	The information is exempt from disclosure under section 30(1)(b) of the Act.
145	Requesting information about the AIBC	Information about the AIBC	Refused	The information is exempt from disclosure under section 30(1)(b) of the Act.

By definition, the extent of tax payer funding of the AIBC, by the Australian government, remains covert.

## 2.4 INDONESIA INSTITUTE, INC

In turn, the *AIBC* itself is listed on the front page of an organization called the *Indonesia Institute, Inc*, under the banner “*Our Sponsors & Other Associations*”.



The objectives of this organization extend well beyond the facilitation of trade:



Whilst the issue of the *AIBC*'s relationship with an organization, whose mission includes providing a voice for a foreign state, clearly raises its own questions, the founder and President of this body, Ross Taylor, was also the Vice President of the *AIBC* until October 2011. Perhaps Mr Taylor was providing this *voice* for Indonesia when he made those potentially damaging comments, and others, about the Schapelle Corby case.

To clarify these issues, and request disclosure of any financial contributions, the *AIBC* was formally approached by a researcher in 2011. The *AIBC* did not respond, despite repeated attempts, and the collection of email read receipts:



Consideration of whether all members of the *AIBC* were aware of these matters is beyond the scope of this report. However, what is certain is that Taylor's comments created significant distress amongst a number of Schapelle Corby's supporters, particularly as they were made at such a politically sensitive time, and were covered by multiple media channels. Any damage to Schapelle Corby's position in Jakarta is not possible to establish.

Despite extensive efforts, including direct correspondence with all parties, and a *Freedom of Information* request, the real scale of the Australian government's contributions to the *AIBC*, and potentially, indirectly to the *Indonesia Institute*, remained hidden, and thus covert.



### 3. SUMMARY

It is clear from this research that the word 'lobbyist' only reveals a fraction of the collective functionality of these and similar organizations.

One of the more visible manifestations of this is with respect to the Australian media. In addition to the examples cited earlier, the *Hidden World Research Group* uncovered a web of media obtrusions which raise fundamental issues with respect to the national interest.

It is sometimes suggested that the long term and intensive programs, involving dozens of individual journalists and editors, across most media channels, blurs the border between education, and indoctrination. The scale of this is such that occasional allegations of media subversion are not without a rational basis.

This, however, represents only part of the overall picture. Few sectors of the Australian commercial, industrial, and public establishment, have remained untouched, as illustrated by the diversity of aggregate memberships. A study of those individuals and corporations, that can be shown to have been directly engaged by the groups investigated, suggests a similar scale of influence.

Indeed, the suggestion of aggressive promotion of the interests of a foreign state, from within the borders of Australia, is increasingly commonplace, with this being funded, directly or indirectly, by arms of the Australian government itself.

#### SCHAPELLE CORBY

With respect to Schapelle Corby, the synergy of interest with the Howard government's political agenda of 2005 was stark. The central involvement of some of these groups, in countering public opinion, and undermining support for Schapelle Corby, is beyond question.

Given the funding of the groups by government, it is also beyond question that Australian taxpayers have paid substantial sums, effectively to engage influence and lobbying services in support of a foreign state's position against an Australian citizen; a citizen in desperate need.

This situation has remained unaltered to this day, with clear and demonstrable examples of hostile engagement against Schapelle Corby's interests continuing.

NOTE: Assessment of the level of awareness of this situation amongst those who contribute and support these groups, and amongst Australian MP's, is beyond the scope of this report.





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