

THE MOUSE VERSUS THE DRAGON: Law enforcement struggles against alleged customs drug network

RE: the Age May 19 2016 Nick McKenzie , Richard Baker.

I first met ACLEI in my lawyers Brisbane office in 2012. I received a phone call from my lawyer to come up to his office and give him instructions on my matter. When I arrived he said “let’s go grab a coffee” meaning let’s get out of the office so we can talk without being listened to.

As soon as we were away from his office he said “who the fuck have you been speaking with?” to which I replied “Everyone, why?”

“Some guys are here from Canberra called ACLEI and I’ve never fucking heard of them. I looked them up and they are spooks” he stated. I said, Good, let’s go meet them, I sent them an email a while ago.

Shortly after, two men walked in to an office and were introduced to me, showed me badges which I had never seen before and started asking me questions. My first words to them after an introduction were “You tell me right now that you don’t know AFP and CUSTOMS have stolen the evidence in this case”. The response was an immediate resounding “We know they have, that’s why we are here”. This was the start of an ACLEI investigation into the corruption in this case **Operation Collage/ Bergonia** and my lengthy personal dealings with ACLEI investigators, showing them where the lies were by AFP and ACBPS/Border Force in this case. ACLEI began flying to the Gold Coast to see me and we would often arrange weekly phone calls on another phone.

ACLEI were recommended to me by journalists Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker after I started scouting for credible investigative journalists to expose corruption in this case. Surprisingly, credible investigative journalists are very scarce in Australia. Let’s face it, if someone could not see through the plethora of lies and cover ups that could easily be proven in transcript, statements and the photographs of AFP officers with stuffed shirts walking from the yacht Mayhem of Eden then there clearly is a problem.

After years of investigation on this case (Operation Collage/Bergonia) by ACLEI there has been no official response by anyone. Official complaints have been raised to the Australian Federal Police, ACBPS/Border Force, Australian Crimes Commission and ACLEI. No one seems to want to take any accountability or action against corruption by our law enforcement agencies because it makes the Government look bad. The truth of the matter is that the Australian public should be immensely concerned at the number of corrupt AFP and Border Force officials and even more concerned with the cover ups of this.

The story in the Age May 19 2016, The mouse versus the dragon, leaves me with anger as it seems like another PR campaign by Nick and Richard for ACLEI. Investigators have told me that these award winning journalists should have their own desks at ACLEI as they have a close working relationship and break the ACLEI stories. This does not show award winning journalism, it shows that they are trusted to write what ACLEI and the Government want written. The last time I corresponded with Nick and Richard was to attempt to find the name of the Customs agent arrested in Sydney who was freely handing out cocaine while other Border Force officers ran off. This was just days after the bust in October 2010. The information is still hidden and Nick and Richard are aware of this.

Journalism is supposed to be about truth seeking.

The story confusingly states regarding ACLEI “Its dedicated investigators often punch above their weight”. This would imply that ACLEI do a great job but are simply understaffed, but then also states about **“ACLEI’s decision to avoid public hearings into corruption, despite having the power to hold them. ACLEI is also reluctant to engage with media about its operations, meaning the public rarely finds out about the extent of corruption, cultural problems and management failures in the nations border security agencies. The source says the ACLEI model of arresting a few bad guys, and then releasing only a limited (often in the form of a report) broader public examination into what is causing their corruption, allows the government to claim success in a post-arrest press conference and promptly move on from any scandal.”. “This suits the government’s desire to appear strong, and in control, of the nations border security.”**

“Politicians are not stupid. This is how they want ACLEI to run”.

The Story states “fresh information was being sent to ACLEI about serious corruption problems involving customs officials responsible for detecting maritime drug importations”.

This is directly relating to Operation Collage/Bergonia.

My dealings with ACLEI are very disappointing. I voiced my concerns to Nick and Richard in 2012 asking them if ACLEI would actually do anything. They assured me ACLEI would.

In 2013, I attended a dinner with the 1st commissioner of ACLEI that was appointed by the Howard Government, John McMillan. I showed John some evidence of corruption by AFP and ACBPS, now Border Force and he advised me that little would be done. He advised me on the best way to apply for Freedom of Information as he was now the Commissioner for the AOIC. It was the first time I heard the phrase of ACLEI being a toothless tiger and he was absolutely right in stating this.

Curiously, ACLEI agreed to meet with Journalist Ross Coulthart regarding this case but then suddenly and disappointingly declined the meeting.

It is now mid 2016 and I have been convicted on my charge of import and sentenced to 30 years gaol. My case and subsequent trials were full of non disclosure and hidden evidence. Hidden corruption. This still remains so and ACLEI are very aware of this. Despite my ten requests for an official response by ACLEI on this, they remain silent.

I have shown ample evidence of AFP perjuring in court to ACLEI. They are aware of Border Force perjuring in subpoena, FOI returns and media enquiries about CUSTOMS personnel being at the Scarborough Marina on the 12th October 2010. They are aware of the reason for this is that CUSTOMS/ Border Force personnel stole evidence and were subsequently caught with it. ACLEI are aware that AFP also stole evidence and then planted it in a car 3 days later. ACLEI are aware that most personnel in the joint Operation have been promoted and are still in the Australian Federal Police and Border Force.

In a recent reply letter (twitter:**simonxgolding**) to me, sent through Senator Lambie it shows that Minister Peter Dutton is attempting to distance himself and his newly named Border Force from Australian Customs and Border Patrol Service or ACBPS, although it retains the same staff.

I have also raised concern about the current ACLEI commissioner as he is an ex Australian Crimes Commission examiner. Obviously this is a huge conflict of interest as his role now is to investigate his old work mates. I have given details of the Australian Crimes Commission having leaks and unlawfulness. ACLEI are aware of examination details being leaked.

ACLEI does not need more funding. ACLEI does not need more staff. It needs to be scrapped and started afresh and until it does then it will simply never curb the incessant culture of corruption embedded in the Australian Federal Police and Border Force. ACLEI are simply not doing their job. ACLEI is not a corruption fighter, it is a corruption handler.

The Australian public need to know the true extent of corruption within these agencies. Unfortunately you do not live in a free country. You do not live in a country with no corruption. You live in a very controlled environment where you have rules you must abide by and others do not. Where the ones with badges who are sworn to protect our borders, do not and more concerning, when they do break the law and caught, it is hidden from the public and they are put back in their job and even promoted.

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