

Bali Nine's Chan and Sukumaran: Tragic pawns in a political game

By *Lyn Bender*

7 February 2015



Sukumaran's lawyers have foreshadowed further legal action in the wake of yesterday's news. Source: News Limited

Speaking today, Tony Abbott said: "Australia opposes the death penalty. We oppose the death penalty for Australians at home and abroad. We obviously respect the legal systems of other countries but where there is an attempt to impose the death penalty on an Australian, we make the strongest possible diplomatic representations. As Julie Bishop has indicated, that is happening now."

Asked today if the executions went ahead, would it affect Australia's relationship with Indonesia, Mr Abbott said: "We have a strong partnership with Indonesia. This is a critically important relationship to Australia. Our friendship is very important to Indonesia as well. My profound hope is that these executions will not go ahead. What I'm not going to do, though, is jeopardise the relationship with Indonesia. That would be foolish to jeopardise the relationship with Indonesia and we believe that we can make the strongest possible representations on behalf of our citizens on death row in Indonesia while at the same time preserving a strong and constructive relationship."

Senior members of the Abbott Government would rather jockey for leadership positions and fight for their own petty political survival than fight for the lives of the two Bali Nine deathrow inmates, writes [Lyn Bender](#).

In what may be their last hours, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran seem to be particularly unlucky.

Pawns in a political game for ten years, the timing of their last appeal for clemency is particularly catastrophic.

A "[terminal](#)" Prime Minister in his own death throes, who has not demonstrated any capacity for compassion, has proven little help in [pleading](#) their case. In my view, he may have given the final wink and nod to their fate at the hands of a firing squad, with his endorsement of [Indonesia's sovereignty](#) perhaps delivering the critical blow.

[Reading](#) between these lines by Prime Minister Abbott, [reported by news.com.au](#) on 8 January 2015 (further context image right):

"My profound hope is that these executions will not go ahead. What I'm not going to do, though, is jeopardise the relationship with Indonesia. That would be foolish to jeopardise the relationship with Indonesia and we believe that we can make the strongest possible representations on behalf of our citizens on death row in Indonesia while at the same time preserving a strong and constructive relationship."

How is that for a lukewarm plea?

On [political death row himself](#), there is no shirtfronting by Abbott happening at this desperate eleventh hour — at least not with respect to Indonesian authorities .

Tony Abbott comes out fighting as leadership crisis heats up
<http://t.co/WF3ioBlfDx> via [@smh](#)

— Dave Donovan (@davrosz)

[February 6, 2015](#)

And no political [OPINION: AFB will the](#)
Foreign Minister [Foreign Minister](#),
as she [concentrated on the](#)
[future](#) in Australia [in Australia](#)
Government. [By James](#)

No, because [http://www.700as.com](#)
handed the "Bali Nine" [Bali Nine](#)
Indonesian authorities [Indonesian](#)
in full knowledge [in full knowledge](#)
receive the death [receive the death](#)
and Sukumaran [and Sukumaran](#)

offered up to [offered up to](#)
objectives of the [objectives of the](#)
Government? [Government?](#)
The whole [The whole](#)

Barrister Bob Myers [Barrister Bob Myers](#)
[exactly the deal](#)
[Bali Nine](#) were [Bali Nine](#)

Ten years ago, [Ten years ago,](#)
[Scott Rush](#) going [going](#)
mule, Myers [mule, Myers](#)
Police regarding [Police regarding](#)
claims they [claims they](#)
to apprehend [to apprehend](#)
Australian soil. [Australian soil.](#)
was all "lies and [was all "lies and](#)

He has denied [He has denied](#)
Myers states [Myers states](#)
believe they [believe they](#)
could to avoid [could to avoid](#)
they feigned [they feigned](#)
though all the [though all the](#)
from Indonesia [from Indonesia](#)
had given it to [had given it to](#)
authorities, [authorities,](#)
penalty would [penalty would](#)

while out [while out](#)
From [From](#)
Bob Myers [Bob Myers](#)
involvement [involvement](#)
Bali 9 [Bali 9](#)

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Capital [Capital](#)
— Jonathan [— Jonathan](#)
[February 6, 2015](#)

punishment [punishment](#)
dark sign [dark sign](#)
[brutalized](#) and [brutalized](#)
more [more](#)
sanctioned [sanctioned](#)
still [still](#)
miserably
Professors [Professors](#)
[Joseph](#) says [Joseph](#)
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demonstrate [demonstrate](#)
death [death](#)
Other [Other](#)
they may [they may](#)
have a [have a](#)
effect. [effect.](#)
something I
had eaten or a
dark substance
I had absorbed

*"We are [more](#) than
the [worst](#) thing we
have ever done."*

I thought of the
This is [the](#)
of [Bryan](#)
academy [academy](#)
rights [rights](#)
[public](#) [public](#)
who has [who has](#)
passionate [passionate](#)
the [the](#)
execution.

More than [More than](#)
the world [the world](#)
have [have](#)
death [death](#)
They are
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The [The](#)
innocent [innocent](#)
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Australians [Australians](#)
hanging [hanging](#)
huge [huge](#)
[penalty](#) [penalty](#)
[in Australia](#)

[targeted heart?](#)
The [The](#)
[Hope](#) [Hope](#)

vigil in Melbourne as
sombre. On the steps
of the Anzac Memorial
Melbourne. The
Federation Square, we
sat in silence, holding
beaming candles
and signs demanding
mercy. Barbara and
I walked past, seemingly
heartless, yet a
metaphor that reflected
how successive
Australian governments
have slept through and
sidestepped this
unfolding tragedy.

Now we are tasked
with the
impotent
for the final
out.

Message from the
condemned
expressing
for our support
read almost

Shankar to
disposed,
blinded up to
the Melbourne
Vigil!
#KeepHopeAlive
every night."
pic.twitter.com/
hseymis
Australia, a
equality
(@thisedorm)
February 5,
2015
last century,
cannot make a
passionate
strong and

powerful plea
to save its own.
In fact, it has
delivered them
to their fate.

In perhaps one
of his last acts
as prime
minister, Tony
Abbott could
choose to fight
the noble fight
for the lives of
these two
Australian
citizens. But
instead, he
would rather to
battle for his
own
petty political
survival.

It has been
announced that
the executions
will occur
before the end
of [this month](#).
These men
may not be
saved, but
what of others?

Will Australia
have its act
together next
time?

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[@lynestel](#).**

AFP
role in
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Bali
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and Su
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— Lyn
Bender
(@Lyn
estel)
[Februa
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2015](#)