

East Timor versus Australia in the Hague

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Broadcast: 05/12/2013

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East Timor's case over the distribution of income from a multi-billion dollar gas development in the Timor Sea has begun in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague. East Timor has four witnesses who will testify that Australia bugged the East Timorese cabinet during negotiations over the development of the Sunrise oil and gas field.

Transcript

EMMA ALBERICI, PRESENTER: Australia and East Timor are in court in The Hague tonight over a multibillion-dollar oil and gas deal as spying allegations deepen.

Lawyers for East Timor are in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, accusing Australia of bugging its cabinet rooms during crucial talks on the now disputed treaty covering the Greater Sunrise oil and gas field.

It's been reported tonight that four whistleblowers thought to be connected to the alleged bugging had decided to testify against Australia.

Earlier this week ASIO raided the home of one key witness who's believed to have been part of the bugging operation.

The Attorney-General George Brandis told the Senate today that East Timor had not done enough to consult Australia before taking the case to the international court.