

Perth

16 August 2019

I am pleased to confirm that Imre Salusinszky's biography of me, *The Hilton Bombing: Evan Pederick and the Ananda Marga*, was written with my full cooperation and consent.

This is a story that has been long in the telling. When I handed myself in to police in 1989 and confessed my part in the Hilton bombing it was with the hope that the families of those whose lives I had taken would be able to find some peace in knowing what had happened and why. It was important to me, also, to express my remorse and apologise publicly for my part in this crime. I was sorry that with the eventual outcome of the legal processes the victims of this crime were never given the clarity they deserved.

As a young convert to Ananda Marga in 1978 I was acting under extreme emotional pressure and the influence of an ideology and perspective on reality that is difficult for me now to fully comprehend. However, I was not insane, and I was fully morally culpable for what I did. At this stage, 41 years after the events of 1978, I can reflect that my life was turned around by handing myself in to the police and telling the truth about what I had done. I am grateful to the many people who supported me through these years and enabled me subsequently to contribute to the community. Parts of their stories are also told in this book.

Since my release from prison I have resisted all advances from those who wished to use me to tell the Hilton bombing story. However, when Imre Salusinszky approached me over five years ago I realised that his aim was both more limited and more honest. I have cooperated in his biography of me that does not set out to 'solve' the Hilton bombing but simply to tell the story of a life that went tragically wrong and my subsequent attempt to find redemption. I hope that his book may cast some light on this dreadful event and bring some comfort.

I do not intend to make any further comment or give media interviews about this matter. Any contact may be referred to the Anglican Diocese of Perth Media Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Pederick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Evan Pederick