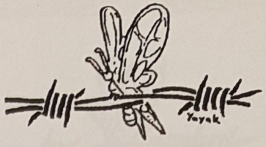


FAXED MAY 11/99

CAFIET

Canadian Action for Indonesia and East Timor

PO Box 562, Stn P, Toronto M5S 2T1 tel (416) 531-5850; fax 588-5556; email cafiet@interlog.com; www.interlog.com/~cafiet



Hon. Barbara McDougall
8 King St E.
Toronto, ON
M5C 1B5

~~August 11, 1998~~

Dear Ms. McDougall;

We're writing to you in connection with the current situation in East Timor. As you are no doubt aware, Indonesia and Portugal last week signed an agreement for a vote in East Timor, on the options of autonomy or independence for the territory, to be held on August 8 under UN auspices.

We strongly support this process and are committed to seeing it succeed. The agreement is very positive in many ways; however, we do have some concern over the security situation in the territory. You are certainly aware of the current level of violence in the territory, which could make it very difficult to hold a free and fair ballot. We are also concerned that the Indonesian military, which is one of the parties to the conflict, has been left with the responsibility for security during the run-up to the vote, with only a small number of UN police advisors on the ground.

We strongly feel that the chance for a genuinely free and fair vote will be much greater if there is a strong international presence in East Timor throughout the period of preparation and the vote itself. Groups concerned with human rights in East Timor are contacting many prominent Canadians to request that they consider spending some time in East Timor, at any time between now and August 8. High-profile visits are most valuable, as the presence of international visitors and international media is likely to act as a deterrent to violence.

Visitors who have expertise and experience in international relations, human rights and election monitoring are of course particularly valuable.

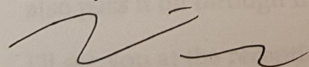
It is likely that the Canadian government will be involved in the process in some way, but nongovernmental visitors also have a role to play.

We hope that you would seriously consider the possibility of paying a visit to East Timor. This could be a significant contribution towards a peaceful and democratic solution to this long-standing problem. We are certainly more than happy to discuss with you the logistics of a visit, the possibility of putting together a delegation of prominent Canadians, and other issues and concerns.

If you think that you would not be able to make the trip to East Timor yourself, we would very much appreciate any suggestions you might have as to other people who might do so.

Please do contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely


Maggie Helwig

UN must take over security in East Timor

The UN Security Council will meet on Monday, May 24, to discuss the situation in East Timor and preparations for the August 8 referendum. Canada will participate in that meeting.

We are determined to see this referendum succeed. It is long past time for a free and fair vote on independence for the Timorese. But paramilitary groups, backed by the Indonesian army, are conducting an escalating campaign of terror in order to prevent the vote from taking place.

The Catholic Church in East Timor has confirmed that at least 37 East Timorese have been killed in the past week, with reports of the growing number of internally displaced people now numbering in the thousands. NGOs have been forced out of their offices, with the leaders of the Timorese resistance in hiding, or having fled the country in fear for their lives.

Indonesia is either unable or unwilling to comply with its UN mandate for security in East Timor. As the ballot in East Timor is organized by the UN, the UN should be solely responsible for the security in the territory. Fax or e-mail NOW and ask the government of Canada, as a member of the UN Security Council, to use the opportunity of Monday's session to propose to the Council and the Secretary General, that the UN assume all responsibility for security in East Timor without delay. This includes the immediate disarmament of the paramilitaries, with most Indonesian troops being withdrawn from East Timor, and the remainder confined to their barracks. We ask that the Canadian government commit resources and personnel to facilitate the UN in carrying out its mandate concerning East Timor.

THIS IS VERY URGENT. PLEASE ACT RIGHT AWAY TO ENSURE A FAIR VOTE FOR EAST TIMOR.

E-mail Lloyd Axworthy at axworld@parl.gc.ca and Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations at canun@undp.org Or fax Lloyd Axworthy at 613-947-4442

For more information, contact CAFIET at 416-531-5850, cafiет@interlog.com

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SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPEAL

International NGO Observers for East Timor Consultation

Donations needed today!

This is East Timor's moment of decision. We need your support now more than we ever have before.

On May 5, 1999 Indonesia and Portugal signed an agreement for the United Nations to conduct a "popular consultation" on "special autonomy" for East Timor on August 8, 1999. If the ballot is a free and fair reflection of the wishes of the people of East Timor, it will end the long-standing violation of international law resulting from Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor and the ongoing military occupation.

The accord obligates Indonesia to take the necessary steps to repeal its annexation of East Timor and transfer authority over the territory to the United Nations if the East Timorese people reject autonomy. If the voters approve autonomy, Portugal and the U.N. will legally recognize East Timor as part of Indonesia. For the first time, the people of East Timor will be able to decide their political status.

The International Federation for East Timor (IFET), of which CAFIET is a member, is working to support United Nations efforts to ensure that the East Timorese people are able to make that decision in an atmosphere free of coercion and terror. We are sending people to East Timor to observe the consultation process. We will not campaign for or against autonomy, but will be there to support the East Timorese people's right to decide for themselves.

But, as numerous first-hand and journalistic accounts have documented, the Indonesian military and the paramilitary "civilian militias" it is supporting are trying to subvert the vote. Violence against supporters of independence has reached horrific levels over the last several weeks. The paramilitaries have killed more than 150 people since April, and forced more than 50,000 people to flee their homes, often inflicting violence against random civilians to create a climate of universal fear.

The people of East Timor thus find themselves at a crossroads of crisis and opportunity. We in the international community can help ensure that East Timor turns toward opportunity.

IFET observers will work primarily in three areas:

1. We will provide organized accompaniment, when requested, for East Timorese human rights workers, high-profile personnel associated with local religious institutions, East Timorese people campaigning for the consultation, and others who feel threatened.

2. Our people in the field will monitor the human rights situation by personal observation and by interviews with religious personnel, public officials, local non-governmental organizations, political activists, and the population in general. These monitors will communicate their findings to an IFET office in Dili which will regularly report the information to U.N. officials, journalists, national governments and other appropriate authorities.

3. IFET personnel will observe the registration process, the campaign, the actual day of balloting (including polling sites, people travelling to and from voting, and other related matters), as well as the transportation of ballots and the tallying of votes. We will issue a report. Some of us will remain in East Timor after August 8 to observe that there is no retaliatory violence and that subsequent steps proceed smoothly.

The International Federation for East Timor will coordinate this project on the international level. The project will not receive any logistical, security or financial support from the United Nations, but the U.N. will provide accreditation to IFET observers and we will follow the U.N. Code of Conduct for observers.

This is an urgently important project which could make a real difference in the fairness of the vote, but it will require funding to be a success. We need to set up an office in East Timor, hire staff to coordinate the project; if we can raise additional funds, we hope to be able to subsidize the travel of volunteers (volunteers will have to be responsible for their own living expenses while in East Timor, and those who can pay for their own travel are urged to do so).

PLEASE MAKE A GENEROUS DONATION TODAY TO HELP MAKE THIS PROJECT A REALITY.

You can send cheques made out to "CAFIET" and earmarked "IFET Observers Project". This money will be used *only* for the IFET project. Our address is PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2T1.

We greatly appreciate your generosity in responding to this emergency appeal, in addition to your ongoing support of CAFIET.

If you think you might want to be a volunteer for this project, please contact Maggie Helwig, tel (416) 537-7290, e-mail maggie@web.net

**PEACE IS POSSIBLE
IN EAST TIMOR**



BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

East Timor needs your support now more than ever. We are at a critical moment, and the next few months could make all the difference.

On May 5, 1999 Indonesia and Portugal signed an agreement for the United Nations to conduct a "popular consultation" on the political status of East Timor, allowing the Timorese to choose between autonomy within in Indonesia, and full independence. If the ballot — now scheduled to take place in late August — is a free and fair reflection of the wishes of the people of East Timor, it will end the long-standing violation of international law resulting from Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor and the ongoing military occupation.

This is a historic moment for East Timor, perhaps the most important event since 1975. But, as numerous first-hand and journalistic accounts have documented, the Indonesian military and the paramilitary "civilian militias" it is supporting are trying to subvert the vote. Violence against supporters of independence has reached horrific levels. The paramilitaries have killed more than 150 people since April, and forced more than 50,000 people to flee their homes, often inflicting violence against random civilians to create a climate of universal fear.

The people of East Timor thus find themselves at a crossroads of crisis and opportunity. We in the international community can help ensure that East Timor turns toward opportunity. For this reason, the Observers Project Working Group of the International Federation for East Timor (IFET) is encouraging individuals and groups to join our project to send nonpartisan volunteer observers to East Timor to ensure a fair vote without to the outcome. In addition to observing and reporting on the campaign and voting process, IFET observers, by their visible presence as representatives of the world community, will help deter violent efforts to subvert the process.

IFET observers will work primarily in three areas:

1. We will provide organized accompaniment, when requested, for East Timorese human rights workers, high-profile personnel associated with local religious institutions, East Timorese people campaigning for the consultation, and others who feel threatened.
2. Our people in the field will monitor the human rights situation by personal observation and by interviews with religious personnel, public

officials, local non-governmental organizations, political activists, and the population in general. These monitors will communicate their findings to the IFET office in Dili which will report the information to U.N. officials, journalists, governments and other appropriate authorities.

3. IFET personnel will observe the registration process, the campaign, the actual day of balloting (including polling sites, people travelling to and from voting, and other related matters), as well as the transportation of ballots and the tallying of votes. We will issue a report. Some of us will remain in East Timor after the vote to observe that there is no retaliatory violence and that subsequent steps proceed smoothly.

As an international federation, IFET takes no position for or against the proposed autonomy plan. We are in East Timor to ensure that the East Timorese people are able to make that decision themselves. Our observers will be non-partisan; we will work with non-aligned groups in East Timor as well as with various Indonesian non-governmental organizations, U.N. personnel, and other observer missions. IFET will also be in contact with both pro-independence and pro-autonomy advocates, as well as with Indonesian civilian and military officials, to ensure them that we are not taking sides.

We need your help with this project!

First, we need volunteers. If you can spend three weeks or more in East Timor, and particularly if you have experience in human rights, nonviolent accompaniment or electoral monitoring, you may be a suitable volunteer. People who can speak Indonesian or Portuguese are especially welcomed to apply. If you think you might be interested, contact Maggie Helwig, maggie@web.net, (416) 537-7290. (Please be aware that this is an unpaid position and you will probably be asked to cover your own travel and living expenses).

Second, we need funds. We have already opened an office in Dili; we need to pay rent, buy office equipment, and probably bring in food for volunteers so that we will not place a strain on the local food supply. If we are able to raise enough money, we hope we can also provide partial subsidies for qualified volunteers. Please donate generously. You can write cheques to CAFIET, earmarked "IFET observers project", and mail them to PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto M5S 2T1.



Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

July 6, 2000

Ms. Maggie Helwig
Canadian Action for Indonesia and East Timor
P. O. Box 562, Stn P
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 2L4

Dear Ms. Helwig:

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, I wish to thank you for your E-mail messages of September 29, 1999 and January 25, 2000, concerning East Timor. Minister Axworthy appreciates your support for his efforts in this matter. I regret the delay in this reply.

I understand that you have discussed the TAPOL memorandum included with your E-mail of January 25 with our East Timor desk officer, Ms. Nancy McKay-Dietrich.

The security situation in East Timor has improved dramatically in the past several months. The approximately 600 peacekeepers that Canada contributed to the multinational peacekeeping mission to East Timor have since returned home after completing their assignment.

As the matter of immigration to Canada is the responsibility of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Honourable Elinor Caplan, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to her office.

The UN Transitional Administration for East Timor (UNTAET) is now administering East Timor during the transition to independence, a period that could last between two and three years. The Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), the Honourable Raymond Chan, visited East Timor from April 14 to 16. While there he announced on behalf of the Minister for International Cooperation, the Honourable Maria Minna, a new Canadian contribution of \$1.9 million to UNTAET. The transfer of responsibility for East Timor's security from the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) to UNTAET forces was completed in February. Minister Minna has since announced that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has established an \$18 million assistance program for East Timor, with \$7.4 million allocated for this year.

The status and safety of East Timorese refugees in West Timor remain a concern. By the end of May these were estimated to number approximately 100,000 people. Although roughly half may wish to stay in Indonesia permanently, the Indonesian government has signed an agreement with the UN promising to allow the return from West Timor of those who so wish. Humanitarian agency-sponsored flights, ferries and convoys have already helped return some 160,000 displaced East Timorese, again estimated at the end of May. A number of factors are inhibiting the return of East Timorese in some areas. These factors include the harassment and misinformation spread by the Indonesian militias in the refugee camps, the need to resolve the issue of accumulated pension benefits accrued to East Timorese civil servants, and the frailty of essential services and infrastructures in returnee communities in East Timor.

The Canadian government is seriously concerned about allegations of violence in the refugee camps in West Timor, particularly against East Timorese women, and is investigating these allegations through the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta. Embassy officers, including our Ambassador, Mr. Ken Sunquist, have travelled to the camps on a regular basis, and Member of Parliament Svend Robinson, accompanied by a Canadian officer, was there in April. Canada has raised concerns about facilitating the return of East Timorese refugees at the highest levels of the Indonesian government and in the UNSC, pressing for an end to militia intimidation. Access to the camps has generally improved, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees reports no significant problems at present.

The international community must ensure that those who have committed atrocities in East Timor are brought to justice. Canada strongly supported parallel investigations undertaken by the UN's International Commission of Inquiry and the Indonesian Human Rights Commission into the crimes carried out against the people of East Timor. Both the UN and Indonesian Commissions visited East Timor in November and December to collect evidence. The UN and Indonesian inquiries' reports were released on January 31. Canada applauds the in-depth investigation carried out by the Indonesian Human Rights Commission and is heartened by its concrete findings and by the commitment made by the Indonesian government to prosecute those responsible for serious crimes. Canada strongly believes that there should be no impunity for those who committed serious human rights abuses; we are pleased to see that an Indonesian investigative panel on East Timor has been created, and we will monitor its investigation closely. Canada assisted this investigation by sending a team of forensic experts to East Timor in March. They completed their work by the end of April and have returned home.

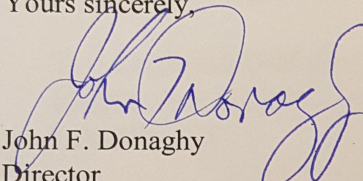
In addition to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, Canada supports reconstruction and reconciliation efforts for and by the East Timorese people and the early voluntary return of East Timorese who remain in the refugee camps in West Timor. Canada provided during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000, approximately \$7.6 million in development and humanitarian aid for the people of East Timor, including emergency relief, longer-term capacity building, and contributions to various UN efforts. Fifteen civilian police officers and trainers from Canada

have been part of the UN's efforts in East Timor.

I also note your concern about the extension of credit by the Export Development Corporation (EDC) to the PT TEL pulp and paper mill in South Sumatra. As you may know, EDC has approved this credit extension in consideration of its commercial and employment potential for both Canada and Indonesia. Last year, Indonesia had its first democratic elections and chose a new president after having convened a new legislative assembly, which includes substantially reduced military representation. There is a dramatic growth in freedom of the press, academic liberty, and in the numbers and political activism of non-governmental organizations. The Canadian government is careful not to take measures against Indonesia that might endanger this process of democratic reform.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,



John F. Donaghy
Director
Southeast Asia Division

c.c. The Honourable Elinor Caplan, P. C., M.P.

Note - I can't write about most things in much detail, so this may seem like a pretty vague letter. Sorry.

Thurs Aug 12th 1999

Dear Jared. (Good afternoon, Thursday, a little Tatar Portuguese.)

I thought I'd write a group letter for you because I'm sorta in a weird headspace & I thought I'd see how it went (plus I'm lazy).

So, I feel like I've been here forever, & there's no other existence, & yet I don't quite feel real here. Right now, I'm sitting in the front room of our rented house in ~~the~~ Same in the southwest of East Timor. It's a very nice house, on the main road. I can hear beinis (minivan buses) & motos (motorcycles) going by. It's actually a small town, but lots of noise. Every night from about 7pm to midnight, dogs roam the streets, fighting for territory, yapping & howling & growling. The cocks crow all the time, but mainly from midnight (there goes one) to 7am.

Here, why ~~don't~~ I tell you more about the house etc? I'm here with a team of 5 people, myself included - there's Aaron from Vancouver, 24, studying International Relations; Rob from Darwin, Australia, something of a wildman (31); Allie from Chicago (25) activist; & Inge^(?) from Chicago (34) non-ordained pastor. We're all got our own rooms, we have TV (& satellite dish), great, tasty healthy food cooked for us, the washing-up etc done (except laundry). So it's actually a fairly pampered life.

But it's all so weird, & hard hitting, & unreal, & I don't know what we don't do very much, & yet we seem constantly busy. It's boring, yet exciting &

exhausting. Imagine living in a culture where you don't know the language or customs, where you're an exotic stranger & people everywhere stare & wave & follow you (the latter mostly kids, shouting "Hey Mr.") Many of the people are very friendly & are glad you're here; some are hostile & suspicious. Always, you have to be on your guard, alert, aware. You have to be watching for events to unfold, signs of trouble details that paint a story. You have to be aware of your own safety, & the safety of others, & how you might put that at risk. And so you're wandering, & smiling to the crowds, watching everything around them, trying to interpret language etc. Always diligent. It's really weird. And there's very little privacy. People drop by the house all the time ~~we~~, we go out to meetings & visits, walk the streets to be a presence etc. And yet, when there is privacy, it consists of a certain loneliness & lack of tasks. We all get on more or less, & were friendly with various Instructional Groups who come through, & the UN etc. But there are conflicts, different styles of communication etc, & we have to be careful with how friendly we get with who (w?).

(Phil
Cross,
O'Brien,
Portuguese
Observers)
etc

So this morning (as an example of a typical day) we got up around 6-Ten, took turns in the (washroom), had breakfast, & went out for a pick-up ride. I sat in the back, with Alia & Aaron, & we rode around the back roads, through villages etc, just observing, letting people know we're watching, we're a presence. We walked through a

(Josh
Rob)

few of the villages just to get a closer feel, & we were surrounded by kids. Ever see the Hitchcock movie The Birds (ask Steven W.). There were probab 40, screaming & laughing & gesticulating. They followed us all through town, holding our hands, laughing at our "antics", singing songs. It was exhilarating & kind of frightening & exhausting. All the while we had to smile & wave to the people in their houses / huts (most of whom were quite amused) & keep an eye out for activities (irregularities etc. We did this kind of thing for about 2 1/2 hours, then came home at 11 am.

It's a
with
hungry
& people
available
to buy the
local
pale wine
here

Then we went to the market, which is interesting but creaky - people aren't as friendly here, you get a lot of uncomfortable stares. We bought some coconuts (2 got ripped off of course, foreigners pay double for everything) & came back to ^{drink} eat them. Then we went to see the puppies that our families' (from whom we rent the house) dog had, then had lunch. Now it's 2:25 pm, & Sim bored stiff. We might go to hear some music at 4:30, dinner around 7 pm, & that's it. I read a little, I study a little (Indonesian I do some odd tests (seeing ^{learning} etc.).

The country is beautiful, which helps; there are always mountains & plants & stars & people to look at. We're not bothered by too much heat or mosquitos here (in the mountains), not like in Dili (the capital) where I spent 2 days before I came here. But for the dry season, it's awfully rainy. It rains 2 days out of three, & the nights are chilly (I use 2 blankets). (Later note: the weather's improved)

I fear this is a bit of a downer of a letter - probably because I can't find my headspace. We all say that it feels like we've been here for months. But I want to emphasize that I'm glad I came, & that it's all been an amazing experience. The 3 day plane trip was fun & a good transitional period - I enjoyed some of the challenges, & every moment / event seemed to work out just right. ~~It was~~ ~~an~~ ~~experience~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~missed~~, & ~~hopefully~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~repeated~~. (Total insanity & chaos of a city, in a state of rapid decay) Flying into Dili was a beautiful, magical feeling, & it was great to meet the team there, the people I'd been hearing about. I only got to see some of the city, but I hope to see more when I go back through. And the ride here's lovely, 5 hours through the mountains, sitting in the back of a jeep on top of a pile of luggage, blue skies, cool air, villages, coffee plantations (Starbucks) & a few rice paddies. I feel at times like I never want to leave & at other times like I have to get the hell out of here tomorrow.

Tues Aug 17th 1999

* Well, it's almost a week later. I was interrupted by a surprise "visit" - head office in Dili sent us 2 new people for the team without telling us (we don't have a phone though). It was vaguely known for a few seconds, but it all came together, & now we're all fast friends. Christian is 29, from Norway a human rights lawyer; Nat is a bike courier from Washington DC. At first it seemed like a

(Nat but looks 32)

(5)

it was going to be a tight squeeze, but now I can't imagine the place without them. Of course, poor Alli has to leave for home on Thursday - she's really unhappy about it. She got to experience registration & some of the campaign, but not the actual vote. Oh, & today's Indonesian Independence Day, so she got to be here for that. I think we spent most of the day at the beach. I actually came slightly close to drowning - huge waves, coral reefs & undertow aren't a good combo if you're not a strong swimmer. I do have a coral reef scar on my big toe (right) as a souvenir. Oh, & to complete the picture, of course all the village kids, & some adults, came running to the beach (45 min from Sane) to watch the funny white people, with the big noses, take off their clothes & walk into the ocean. Those funny foreigners.

Until now, I've written a very vague letter, because the mail (& the phones) are monitored here & we can't run the risk of saying the wrong thing. But now that Alli's leaving, she's going to mail stuff for us from the States, so maybe I'll write a bit more.

I write, truck loads of the local militia (ABKAT) are driving by, flying Indonesian flags. The pro & anti-autonomy groups are alternating campaign days (as scheduled by the UN etc.) & it's one of their days. It's interesting that the anti-autonomy days are pretty quiet - those wanting independence have decided that discretion is the better part of valour & avoid campaigning (for now). (There was another truck - they all followed dump trucks with ppl standing in the back - that's our way people campaigning in

(6)

Indonesian, driving round & round). On Sunday I
went to a campaign event about 1 1/2 hours away
& met the local (pro-autonomy) King. My first-
brush with royalty. But baseball caps & western cloth-
don't stir feelings of awe & serenity in me. But
the older East Timorese women! They wear beautiful
braungs as skirts, & that sit on their heads in
bells. Today at Independence Day celebrations we
saw men & women dressed up, doing local dancing &
drumming. They had lovely, simple, plumed headdresses
plumes on their shoes, woven clothes, & necklaces.
I fear the days of seeing traditional clothes, dance etc
are numbered here; the young here, as everywhere,
favour MTV (Asian). The son of the household
here plays Celine Dion on his guitar, Christina just
bought a notebook here with Ricky Martin & Agneta on
the cover (Celine Dion & Backstreet Boys on the back).

I'm sorry this letter is so chaotic. There's so
much to say, & yet I'm afraid to say too much.
(Plus I keep having to wave at all the people passing by,
shouting "Hello Mr." - I'm on the front steps of the house)
I've been witness to a couple of violent incidents here,
machete attacks - I was political, the other 'just'
personal. Not ~~mean~~ ^{stupid} witness - it's a game everybody gets to
play. ~~Damn~~, I'm ~~so~~ ^{so} accustomed here to speaking
in whispers & subtlety, & being cautious, I'm
still for cautious to write about that stuff now -
I'll have to save it. But suffice it to say we're
pretty safe here, as westerners: we're not the main
subject of attack, so no need for much worry.

isn't
with
around
any
trap
is
many
own
with
marks)

(1)

Wed Aug 18th 1999

Well, I got interrupted again - a Zambian UN DEO (District Electoral Officer) was walking by & stopped to talk. Then I had to go to the UN (a New Zealand Security Guard borrowed my Indonesian language book ages ago & still hasn't returned it) then to the local Telcom (phone company). I was at the latter for 2 hours, trying with Inge & Christian to make some calls. I got through to my Mommy, but the others weren't so lucky. They call Indonesian time "Rubber Time" since it's elastic, & you can bend it as far as you want. So the Telcom guy was making on average 1 telephone connection every 15 minutes (though they have 2 bookies).

Today's been quiet: I climbed a local hill with Rob, to a Jesus statue on top. There were lovely views of the surrounding mountains & valleys. Then we heard there will be a few unapproved pro-independence campaigns today, but too late for us to attend (3 hours & away from us). Especially since we're not supposed to be out after dark (6 pm). (Did you hear that pig squeal? It's got the dogs going now.) And there goes a guy on a motor, holding a rooster - those big on cock fights here, though I haven't seen one yet. You also see babies on motors, & women riding sidesaddle. A few people wear bucket helmets for safety, but not many. (There goes a 2-yr-old)

So Inge told us it's safe to write 'secret' this so I'll say 2 more things before I go. About the UN - we've been fairly chummy with them, especially the higher ups here, since SAME is a regional

headquarters. I think they've all been here together too long especially since there's a shortage of women. So they're always asking us out to the local Portuguese "restaurant" for dinner etc. We've done some socializing with them, but we tend to travel in pairs or more, so we're reasonably safe from their clutches. On a business level, they've been pretty good, keeping us fairly informed & breaking or bending rules (e.g. some let us ride in their cars; they've put us on their Emergency Evacuation Plan). They've cooled off a bit lately though - either higher-ups are putting the ~~brakes~~^{brakes} on, or they're tired of sexual frustration.

OK, by the way, I'm happy to report I've stopped taking my anti-malarial medication. It just has too many nasty side effects, & it doesn't help anyway. Aaron on our team just came down with malaria, & he ^{was} on medication. Others around taking anything & they're fine. Malaria's such a bugaboo to the West, but here it's just like the flu - you take your medicine, get better, then that's it.]

I'll also tell you a bit about the first muckete incident, since you probably heard something about it. The five original team members were at one of the local registration sites, ~~for~~ for the last day of registration (Fri. Aug 6th). It was around 11 am, & I was talking to the Indonesian Observer (Ghar Sami) who had been telling me how calm it was here, & how all the trouble was just rumors. Then he said "What's happening?" & I turned around to look across a field that sloped down towards the town, away from the registration buildings. And I said

⑨ → the local militia
all wear T-shirts & baseball caps with their names & logos. They also have ^{handwritten} numbers on their shirts, and people often such it.

"It's ABLAI, chasing people with machetes." It was sort of satisfying, in a weird way, to call his bluff. There were ~~21~~ people, about 15, pouring through an opening in a hedge, & fanning out across the field towards us. They were followed by men waving machetes & throwing large rocks. The leader looked really crazed (they might be doped up) & was yelling in Indonesian. "It's going to be 1975 all over again!" The ~~people~~ ^{people} ran into the UNAMET site, & into classrooms with schoolkids in them (the site is really a building on ~~the~~ schoolgrounds) & the machete man followed, banging on the windows of the classroom & yelling. We ran forward to witness what was happening, Bob taking pictures, when they turned our way. The police ~~was~~ came at this point (they have posts outside reg centres to provide security) & sort of quickly guided the attackers along towards the road (the police have automatic weapons, but never take them off their backs). The lead militia (Alexander) yelled "No photo" at Bob & walked towards him with an expressed machete. We all started retreating towards the reg site, & the attackers went out to the road, where the police chatted with them & let them go. We were going to follow them down into town to see what was happening, when we saw several men crossing the field up towards us, bringing a wounded man. Aaron knows first aid (he took a 2 day course before he came) & so went to help. ~~The~~ ^{They} was brought into the reg site, where people were still hiding, & it was total chaos.

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Too many people, blood everywhere, Aaron yelling "Suzan there's a cloth in my bag, get the fucking cloth!" The man had a small machete wound on his right shoulder, & a bit one through his left wrist, that went through the bones. The UN doctor came, but said he was only allowed to treat UN people - he wouldn't even tend Aaron his wrist so that he could take the victim's pulse. Poor Aaron probably saved the man's life himself, using one of his own shirts, & my bandages, as tourniquets. So Aaron went with the man to the hospital, & we stayed on site,

since the militia had apparently taken over the town. Registration was closed here for the day, but everyone stayed until the official closing time of 4 pm. No food, no water, no bathrooms (just like the poor local Timorese kids do every day while waiting to register, sometimes for days at a time). At 4 pm, we didn't know what to do. ABLAI had 'released' the town, but the people who had been closed (pro-independence students) were afraid for their safety & had nowhere to go. So we mediated, with the UN, that the police (joke!) would provide the 24-hour protection in a church building down the field. But all this took 3 hours to accomplish, so we ended up staying with about 26 students on the veranda of this ^{church} building, in the dark, in the rain, waiting while the UN had civpol (civilian police) orchestrated this. It was somewhat eerie, staying in the dark, not being able to see the face of the person standing next to you, not knowing if ABLAI were gathering beyond the field & hedges.

Books Plus.

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If it doesn't seem too worrisome,

is meant for everyone & anyone, including (but not limited to) - Steve W, Steve B & Ellen, Don & Susa, Eric, Rob, Catherine & Adam, Odette & Derek, Maura Yates & George. Just photocopy it or pass it around & I'll try to be better about writing, frequently & to individuals. But be warned! Letters sent from here will have to be innocuous, the service is very unreliable & the mail probably only leaves Sana once a week. I have no access to phone or e-mail, & the public phones here are atrocious & expensive (or I'd call y'all). For a ^{broken} ^{voice} ^{delayer} ^{line}, I paid about \$15.00 for 6 minutes.

Whoops! Another interruption (15 minutes this time) Dili just sent us 6 visitors, & we have our dinner party in 10 minutes! 4 might stay with the nuns, ^(or maybe 2.22?) & 2 here, so now it's 18 for dinner. I wish they'd been us. They said people were coming on Friday or Saturday (today's Wednesday)! Ok, well, you just have to go with the flow here. I don't mind sleeping on the couch, but having 6 uninvited guests to a goodbye party's a bit much. Especially if the UN guys come by later.

* Thursday morning, 8 am, all went fine. Had yum tempé & peanut dish, glass noodles, rice, portuguese salad (with olive oil), veggie dish, & ^{cream} avocados with chocolate for desert. And that's how we eat every day! Honestly! All vegetarian course. The new people just added to the fun (& languages being spoken: Tetum, Portuguese, Indonesian, Norwegian, English, Spanish). There was some brief chaos at the beginning, when we heard about militia intimidation "in town" (we're about a 5 minute walk from the centre), & then ABLAI came by, drunk in a truck, looking for

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UNAMET (they left), but nothing came of any of it.
OK., just 2 more quick things to mention, then
I'll leave you mercifully alone.

- Mainly for my mother: the water here is fine - it's
clear because it comes down from the mountains. And
Niko (our 'valet') boils it for us to drink as well - it
has a lovely smoky flavour that makes me think
of Whitbourne & Dad's smokehouse.

- Every night at 7 pm we try to watch
"UNAMET TV" - it's really popular with the locals
(they've never seen T.V. etc. in Tetum) & it's really
cheesy. It's educational skits about registration
campaigning, the vote, & it's usually in 4 different
languages segments (English, Tetum, Portuguese, Indonesian)
At the end, there's the "UNAMET Song" sung
in a local style, by local musicians, & tells
people to please Decide. It's a big hit here, &
everyone comes running to watch it. I love it,
& I'm going to try to get a copy from the
UN (Shelil), the regional administrator here, works
for UN broadcasting back home). As an aside, the
main singer is pro-independence (the band won a
UN contest to perform the song) & was in jail for
3 years.

Just heard that the (NRT (pro-independence)
office, & UNAMET, were attacked in Maliana, ^{last night}
3 killed or seriously wounded, 26 injured. We do
hear rumours here, but I assure this isn't one.
I guess will find out more later, possibly from
UNAMET here. But don't worry, Maliana is a

"hot spot", with an attack on the UN before. And so far non-East Timorese are never attacked - bad press you know. But small brown people are always expeditable, at least in the important "Western" Press.

Gonna sign off now, Allie should be leaving soon. ^{But} I might add a postscript if anything else occurs to me, or occurs.

Oh, my flight back is scheduled for Sept 13th, but it's an open ticket, so I might be shifting it backward or forward, depending on what happens here, what the need is. Everything's so chaotic, & changes so much from day to day. I mean, who do you go to for a vote, after the vote, if the vote is for independence.

Anyway, love to everyone, hope everything's going well in Hogtown (& surrounding areas is Paris, & far away areas i.e. Vancouver) & I'll see everyone soon (or at least somewhat :)).

Love, SUZAN

(P.S. I have a policeman been here, Wayan from Bali, 24. He says he has honey at his home, & I should come over to sample some. The local equivalent of etchings? The other day, when there was a 'personal' incident in the market, he came with a load of police (first time I'd seen him with his automatic weapon) & wandered over with a smile, to chat me up. Very weird in the circumstances. Life's like that here - strange juxtapositions, layers of laughter & fear.)