

FRETILIN External Delegation

It is a great honor for FRETILIN to address this conference on East Timor.

We thank the Chancellor of the University, for this commitment for the realization of this conference. We extend our greetings and gratitude to all the Philippines Human Rights Organizations as well as NGOs and citizens of Philippines. You have honored the image of the Democracy in Philippines. You have honored the brave Filipinos, that for so many years have fought for the Independence, Democracy and Human Rights. To these men and women we express our great respect and admiration.

Since 1975 when Indonesia first accused FRETILIN of violating their territory, our organization have appealed to ASEAN members to send observers including troops to the border area. On 7 of December 1975, when Indonesia launched a full scale invasion, by sea, land and air, we have launched appeals to the peoples of South East Asia and the world to help the East Timorese People. A small, tiny and Pacific Nation, a defenseless People, was invaded by its powerful neighbour. It was a very difficult time for us. But FRETILIN successfully organized the People of East Timor in order to defend their own country.

Without any external help, the Timorese People continues to resist: army resistance in the mountains, cultural and political resistance in the occupied areas. At the beginning, FRETILIN assumed the responsibility of conducting the resistance alone. But some years later the other Timorese Political Parties assumed their role in the struggle; the adoption of a multi Party democracy and the creation of CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance), in 1987, gave to FRETILIN the same role as any other Timorese political Party. The FALINTIL, (army wing of FRETILIN) became a National Army, and its policy depends on the Leader of CNRM, Commander in Chief Xanana Gusmão.

The Indonesian Government claim that East Timor was integrated into Indonesia according to the UN charter, is challenged by the Timorese Catholic Church, by the United Nations and by the two main Timorese Political Parties: UDT and FRETILIN.

In a letter addressed to United Nations Secretary General on 1989, Bishop Belo demanded a referendum for self determination on East Timor. The United Nations Security Council resolutions 384 and 389 on East Timor, demanded Indonesia to withdraw all its forces from East Timor, and called all countries to respect the territorial integrity of East Timor.

In the same line, various resolutions of General Assembly, Human Rights Commission and its Subcommission have regarded East Timor, as a territory to be decolonized.

After the official proclamation by Indonesian Government on 17 July 1976 that East Timor is an integral part of Indonesia, the General Assembly of United Nations in 1977 approved a resolution rejecting that claim and regarded East Timor as a non Self Governing Territory, under Portuguese Administration.

We Believe that the struggle for the implementation of the Conventions on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the respect of Security Council and General Assembly of United Nations Resolutions on East Timor are a priority for our generation.

FRETILIN is convinced that the resistance of the East Timorese People is closely interrelated to the struggle of Indonesians towards a democratic and free Indonesia. We firmly believe that a real Democracy in South East Asia will contribute to the stability of the region and to the solution of the East Timorese cause. Therefore we condemn the Indonesian Government expansionist and dictatorial policy of mutating Generals and Politicians of other ASEAN Countries as their army corporals and puppets. We strongly denounce the Indonesian economic blackmail against Philippines; but FRETILIN deplores the failure of General Ramos Government to resist the Indonesian Generals diktat.

As South East Asian and Pacific Country we would like to apply in the future, for the membership of the ASEAN. But we believe that ASEAN has to be, an organization of Sovereign States, and not an Indonesian bantustan. We would like to have an economic growth for all the region, but not at the cost of slavery and under paid workers and peasants.

We appeal to the Democrats and Human Rights activists in Philippines and the Catholic Church, as well as, other religious confessions in order to help save lives in East Timor and to promote a peaceful and just solution to put an end to the dramatic situation in East Timor.

In this difficult struggle for our independence and freedom, we need your solidarity for an urgent realization of a referendum in East Timor under the United Nations Supervision, in order to decide the future of our Country.

FRETILIN is ready to accept the verdict of the Maubere People.

Unidade e Acção
Resistir é Vencer.

José Luis Guterres, Chief of Delegation
Maputo, 2 June 1994

Xanana Gusmão in Prison

Dear companheiros,

A warm embrace to all of you (from all of us in jail). I hope that the conference achieves a great success for our beloved people.

Please convey my gratitude to President Fidel Ramos and the Government of the Philippines for being faithful to, and consistent with, the Filipino Constitution. Also, for not giving in to the Indonesian pressure.

Please convey as well a special greetings to the Filipino human rights organizations and a big embrace from the Falintil guerrillas for the Filipino solidarity.

And to his Eminence Cardinal Sin as an eminent figure in the struggle for the human rights of the Filipinos, may he pray and raise his voice for the martyred Maubere people.

A special message to Mrs. Cory Aquino. After her struggle for democracy and justice in the Philippines, we hope that she will preoccupy herself with the dramatic situation of the people of East Timor.

A special embrace to all the participants.

Homeland or death! To resist is to win! The struggle continues on every front!

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, CNRM
Cipinang, 18 May 1994



East Timorese Political Prisoners in Dili

We, the political prisoners and survivors of the tragedy of 12 November 1991, in the name of the people of East Timor, send our congratulations for your praiseworthy initiative in staging the Manila Conference in order to make known to the world and in particular to the ASEAN countries the resistance struggle of the Maubere people against the illegal occupation of our country.

In this time of great transformation the political relationships of the world while a new political world order is emerging, oriented to the defense of legitimate aspirations and fundamental values of peace, respect for the dignity of human beliefs and peoples, it is appropriate that individuals, groups, organizations and governments who love peace, liberty and justice should promote initiatives of this kind so that the truth should be like a road to bring men and peoples to find their liberties.

Certainly today the struggle of the Maubere people is developing new dimensions. Before, the total blockade of information to the outside world by the occupying Indonesian government made possible the extermination of more than one-third of the Timorese population. Today it is an international issue, occupying the attention of peoples and governments, including the peoples of ASEAN, thanks to efforts of brave men like you.

We hope this conference will be successful and fruitful for the future.

Finally, we send our most respectful greetings to you and to all the participants at the conference, and in particular to Madame Mitterrand and Dona Maria Barroso.

Military Prison in Dili, East Timor, May, 1994



APCET organizer Augusto "Gus" Mielat Jr.

The New York Times

Founded in 1851

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1935-1961
ORVIL E. DRYFOOS, Publisher 1961-1963
ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1963-1992

MAY 24, 1994

Timorous on Timor

It is generally reckoned that at least 200,000 civilians died after Indonesia lawlessly invaded in 1975 and then annexed the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. But unlike recent massacres in Rwanda, it caused no international outcry, no calls for military intervention by the United Nations. One reason for the different response is that Indonesia is a big and powerful Islamic country, a leader of the nonaligned bloc, yet also a lucrative market for Europe and the United States. And Jakarta has few scruples about using its muscle.

This has been confirmed afresh by Indonesia's crude pressure on President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines to censor a human rights conference in Manila scheduled to begin next Tuesday, at which eight exiled East Timorese activists were invited to speak. When Indonesia's military regime learned of this, it warned that unless the conference was canceled, Indonesia would probably refuse to be host to peace talks between the Philippine Government and Muslim separatist rebels.

Initially President Ramos tried to mollify Indonesia, sending an envoy to Jakarta and stressing

that Manila recognized East Timor as part of Indonesia, adding that his Government was powerless to halt a private conference. The rumbling only increased in Jakarta, so Mr. Ramos on Friday increased non-Filipinos from taking part in the conference, saying their presence would be "inimical to the national interest." Now Jakarta has pulled out of a Filipino trade fair, which has been postponed. Thus does Indonesia assert its right to silence debate on East Timor anywhere.

Will Australia be the next target? In years past, Australian journalists have defied travel restrictions to East Timor. But like the Philippines, Australia meekly refuses to challenge Indonesia's illegal grab of this unfortunate former colony. Indeed, in the tradition of Orwell's Newspeak, Australian diplomats avoid mentioning the words "East Timor" and pointedly talk about "Timor," thus uniting in their vocabulary what Indonesia has vainly striven to unite with gun and bomb. The sound of those dropping knees surely has not escaped the Suharto regime, and Canberra may soon be pressured to carry self-censorship even further.

The Manila Folder

JUNE 11, 1994

Credit President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines with blunt honesty in explaining why he bowed to Indonesian pressure and censored a conference in Manila on East Timor. "What was at stake here?" Mr. Ramos remarked to reporters. "Some 15 billion pesos [\$700 million] worth of investments, projects, enterprises and agreed partnerships or consortiums."

For that consideration, the Philippine Government prohibited foreigners from taking part in the Manila meeting, barring Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French President, and deporting the Irish Nobel Peace laureate Mairead Maguire.

This mess of pottage has apparently satisfied the Suharto regime in Jakarta, which wishes everybody would forget its lawless grab in 1975 of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. As many as 200,000 people there have perished since Indonesia's seizure and annexation. One can fault Mr. Ramos for yielding to Indonesia's economic threats,

but the greater blame and the larger guilt lie with Manila's powerful and bullying neighbor.

Still, there is a consolation. Indonesia's use of a 15-billion-peso club to stifle free speech in a neighboring democracy has stirred an uproar elsewhere in Asia. Instead of rendering East Timor less visible, Indonesian diplomacy has achieved the reverse, riveting attention on Jakarta's past reluctance to permit unimpeded access by humanitarian and human rights groups to a people it characterizes as content and submissive. The reality was expressed in a message to Manila from the absent Mrs. Mitterrand, censuring Indonesia's military regime for relying on "terror, prohibition, gagging," and avoiding good-faith negotiations.

More may be known about East Timor in July, when it will be visited by a U.N. special reporter on human rights. In trying to manage the news in Manila, Indonesia has only quickened the world's curiosity about what it seems to be hiding.

An Update from APCET

Renato Constantino, Jr.

Delivered during the
2nd Introductory Course on Indonesia and East Timor
and
Vith Symposium on East Timor of Oporto University
Lisbon, Portugal
March 21 to 27, 1995

The Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) which took place in Manila from May 31 to June 4, 1994 has long ended. But it brought back world-wide attention to the issue of East Timor which Suharto had succeeded in hiding all these years — most especially in the ASEAN region.

APCET challenged not only Indonesia's annexation of East Timor but also Suharto's invasion of Philippine foreign policy. In an attempt to walk the thin line between recognition of the freedoms guaranteed to Filipino citizens by our Constitution and appeasement of Suharto, President Ramos banned the participation of foreign delegates — a gross miscalculation on his part as this act only served to draw more attention to what both governments were collaborating to hide.

APCET is the first major experience of South-South solidarity of its kind. Considered to be among the poorest in a region of "economic tigers," we Filipinos are nevertheless proud of our democratic traditions and staunch commitment to human rights and civil liberties.

That APCET was successfully held and achieved its aims far beyond our expectations only proved that no government can disempower a people determined to empower themselves.

The issue of human rights and self-determination can never be left solely in the hands of government. Only people in solidarity with the struggles of other peoples against violations perpetrated by governments can assure the ventilation and final resolution of the issue. The Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor has ended. In its place now stands the Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor — forging a people-to-people solidarity, inspite and despite ASEAN's stand on the issue.

It is with a certain amount of pride, therefore, that I would like to report on the various efforts of the different solidarity groups in Asia in

general and in the Philippines in particular to wage a relentless and uncompromising information and awareness campaign on East Timor.

As a side note, I would also like to say that ever since APCET, hardly a week goes by without a news item on East Timor in major Philippine newspapers. I also continue to receive a number of clippings from friends abroad. There is obviously a continuing interest now in the issue. Strangers have walked up to me at the airport, in shopping malls, hotels, bookstores, even at my doctor's clinic to ask me how the East Timor issue is coming along. There was a time when leaving for Bangkok, an immigration officer said to me, "Mr. Constantino, I hope you're not thinking of going to Indonesia." So my friends, thanks to Suharto and Ramos, East Timor has become part of the consciousness of quite a number of my people.

But I have digressed. The last regional Council meeting of the Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor held in Bangkok just last February 5-6, 1995 designated certain dates where all concerned groups in different countries would hold simultaneous activities/actions to focus attention on the unresolved issue of East Timor and as an expression of solidarity with the Maubere people. Following are the salient points:

Thailand:

A group organized specifically for East Timor has not yet been formed due to the relative scarcity of translated materials and information on the subject. But they're working on it.

Nepal:

Nepalwatch wants to be aligned with APCET and has expressed its desire for videos and background materials so that a Southeast Asia Forum on East Timor based in Nepal can be formed.

Sri Lanka:

A solidarity group for East Timor now exists. This was initiated by Sri Lankans who were barred entry and deported by the Philippine government during APCET. The Peoples' Plan for the 21st Century (PP21) is holding its conference in December in Colombo. Leading members of PP21 have committed to promote awareness of the East Timorese issue.

Hongkong:

Hongkong has been busy. The Asian Centre for the Progress of Peoples have launched urgent appeals and actions and have been visiting East Timorese groups in Macau.

Australia/New Zealand:

The East Timor issue continues to be very much alive in Australia. 1995 being the 20th year of the Indonesian invasion, a number of institutions and organizations are finalizing plans to hold conferences and speaking tours with foreign speakers as well as Timorese and Indonesians in key cities to ventilate the issue further. Five national groups, in fact, have just formed the Australian Coalition for a Free East Timor. It is also in the agenda of activists working in New Zealand.

New Caledonia/Pacific Islands:

The growing concern over East Timor in this area can be seen in the expression of Melsol, IKRUFF and NFIP to affiliate with APCET.

Japan:

Media coverage on East Timor has very notably increased in 1994. The Japan Coalition for East Timor is currently working on a plan to hold an international forum on the issue in November.

Korea:

For the very first time in Korea, a demonstration for East Timor in front of the Indonesian embassy was held last December 1994. A support group for East Timor has also just been formed.

Indonesia:

Inasmuch as Suharto's Indonesia regards East Timorese as "separatists" and "criminals," a project that would demystify and educate the Indonesians on the East Timor issue is going to be followed up by Indonesian friends.

INFOD will soon be publishing articles on Irian Jaya, Aceh and, like the Pijar magazine, will raise the issue of East Timor.

Four Indonesian organizations are conducting a national campaign to release all Timorese political prisoners. In August they will publicly declare their solidarity with the Maubere people.

Philippines:

The Philippine Solidarity for East Timor and Indonesia (PHILSETI) is currently embarked on an education program

designed to widen awareness and continuing interest on the issue among the students in particular and the Filipino public in general. It is also involved in lobby and advocacy work in Congress, particularly the Foreign Relations Committees of both houses as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs. It will join simultaneous activities being planned by APCET, including mobilizing support for Bishop Belo's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. PHILSETI intends to draw further attention by commemorating APCET (the conference) this coming June.

But more than anything else, a significant bond has been forged among the East Timorese, Indonesian and Filipino people. Last January, I made an appeal to various human rights advocates and organizations to help us Filipinos in our continuing struggle to free more than 290 political prisoners who continue to languish in 57 jails all over the country. One of those to whom I addressed an appeal was Xanana Gusmao who, as we all know, is currently incarcerated in a maximum security prison in Indonesia. Despite this fact, and with the help of Indonesian friends, my appeal got to him and I subsequently received his reply addressed to our political prisoners who were then on a hunger strike to dramatize their plight. I mention this because this incident clearly illustrates that beyond prison bars and barbed wires of government, there will always be the people who will reach out to help and give comfort to one another — prison to prison if need be.

Once again, it has been made clear that while the governments of ASEAN may maintain their conspiracy of silence with Indonesia; the peoples of the region certainly will not.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Short-range Objective: To popularize the East Timorese issue within the Philippine context.

Proposal: **A Creative Visual Presentation Popularizing the East Timorese Issue to the Filipino General Public**

Proponent: **Department of Visual Communication**

College of Fine Arts

University of the Philippines

1. **RATIONALE**

The main problem encountered by APCET in popularizing the East Timorese issue to the Filipino general public is the seeming isolation of East Timorese experience from the Filipinos' concerns. In order to solve this problem, this project proposal focuses its efforts in the providing the unifying connection between Philippine issues and East Timorese issues. In general, it is believed that in the realms of economic, political and cultural domination, both Filipinos and East Timorese have similar historical and current experiences. It is further perceived that there is only one "enemy" with the intention of global exploitation, including the Philippines and East Timor, in the name of their "development" activities.

With the above mentioned focus, this project intends to confront the problem by providing a creative visual presentation which will popularize the East Timorese issue to the Filipino general public. It is believed that the failure of popularizing many significant issues in the world is generally attributed to the saturation of words, both textual and oral. A creative visual presentation is more easily absorbed, mentally retained, emotionally touching and visually attractive.

2. **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 Short-range Objective: To popularize the East Timorese issue within the Philippines context.

- 2.2 Long-range Objective: To establish solidarity groups among Filipino students and academicians, etc.

3. AUDIENCE

The audience of this project will certainly be the Filipino people. For a more organized visual presentation, however, three levels of Filipino audience must further be addressed:

- 3.1 The academic Filipino audience (universities, colleges and schools - students and faculty members),
- 3.2 The non-academic Filipino intellectual (corporations, institutions and media), and
- 3.3 The Filipino general public.

4. COMMUNICATION APPROACH

One of the main obstacles to confront is how to make the Filipino general public identify, empathize with the East Timorese issue. Deeper than this, do Filipinos themselves really understand their own local problems? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

One task therefore is to make local issues and concerns comprehensible to Filipinos themselves. The recommended approach is by visually presenting particular human rights violations in the Philippines such as the displacement of tribal communities from ancestral lands, the absence of government support for OCWs, the military actions against counter-insurgency in the name of NIChood, etc.

What will be underscored and highlighted is that Filipinos should be concerned with gross violation of human rights.

And such gross violations of human rights do not only occur in our own land - but also among our Asian neighbors as well as across the globe. The East Timorese experience is one of these countries which urgently needs attention. It must likewise be pointed out that in solidarity with East Timor, the Filipinos must "fight" the same enemy: entities that disregard human rights in the process of exploiting natural resources.

5. THE CREATIVE SOLUTION

The general overview of the creative solution will provide the unifying connection between Philippine and East Timorese experiences. The main sentiment will be that both Filipinos and East Timorese must struggle against the same "enemy" of foreign economic domination. It is the people versus the conspiracy between local governments and TNCs.

The visual presentation will be formulated in two phases:

- 5.1 Philippine Issues using TNC angle: economic, political and cultural, and
- 5.2 East Timor issue within the Philippine context.

6. MEDIA VEHICLES

Due to the high cost of traditional media vehicles, the project's communication will utilize/optimize alternative media vehicles. These media vehicles may be used for conferences, seminars, school fairs, as well as integrated in the social studies (Araling Panlipunan) and social sciences curricula for elementary, high school and tertiary level education.

- 6.1 Posters: Two types of posters will be designed, one for the

more intellectual audience, the other for general popularization of the issues.

- 6.2 Video documentary for institutions, universities and possibly broadcast television.
- 6.3 Maximizing existing mass media formats such as Probe, Inside Story, etc. for high profile puproses.
- 6.4 Optimize last year's conference to demonstrate the conspiracy between local government and TNCs.
- 6.5 Pamphlets and visual manifestos
- 6.6 T-Shirt designs as mobile promotional vehicles
- 6.7 Wall and desk calendars
- 6.8 Book markers
- 6.9 A set of travelling photo exhibit
- 6.10 Tapping *Samahan ng mga Kartunista sa Pilipinas (SKP)*, editorial cartoonists and columnists.

The problem is how to organize all the media blitz as a gradual development of issues that will create the BIG BLOW!

THE END

Mensagem de Solidariedade aos presos políticos nas Filipinas

Prezados Senhores
Participantes do APCET em Bangkok

Não há foro mais adequado para os povos da Ásia e Pacífico expressarem a comunhão de interesses que nos unem do que o género de encontros como o APCET.

Aqui, nós, oriundos de diversas partes da região, clamamos ao mundo os nossos direitos violados por regimes militaristas como o de Myan-Mar ou por regimes ditatoriais-expansionistas como o do Suharto.

Como prisioneiros políticos, os timorenses conhecem bem a repressão dos regimes anti-democráticos e sentem na pele as mais incríveis formas de violação dos Direitos Humanos.

E quando passamos os olhos sobre a região, ficamos arrepiados. Os Direitos Humanos são desacreditados ou são simplesmente interpretados pelos Governos como direitos dos que estão no poder, seja político como sobretudo económico, direito de não serem molestados nem criticados e direito de institucionalizarem a violência e o crime. E justificam perante o mundo que tudo é para 'preservar a paz e a segurança nacional', paz que significa sossego de espírito para esses detentores do poder e segurança que significa estabilidade na corrupção, na exploração dos trabalhadores e na repressão dos camponeses.

Assim como a Aung San Su Ki no Myan-Mar, os combatentes da liberdade na China, ou os prisioneiros políticos na Indonésia~~ia~~ condenados à morte e cumprindo já 30 anos de prisão, isto tudo não é mais do que a realidade gritante da natureza criminosa destes regimes, como fora também o de Ferdinando Marcos.

Contudo, o que nos espanta de^{que}veras é o facto de governos aparentemente democráticos continuam a reter prisioneiros políticos, baptizando-os já de criminosos. Nada é mais fácil que manobras assim para deitar poeira aos olhos do mundo. Jakarta também faz isso em relação aos timorenses. É por isso que nós compreendemos

demos bem o que sofrem outros prisioneiros políticos em iguais condições.

A tão aplaudida por nós, no seu movimento inicial, mas continuamente inconsequente democracia nas Filipinas, revelou-se muito claramente influenciável pelos interesses contrários às liberdades democráticas, ao provar a sua subserviência política à ditadura dos generais de Jacarta, na ocasião da APCET de Maio, em Manila. E afinal é isto que explica a existência de 291 prisioneiros políticos agonizando em 57 prisões em toda a Filipinas.

Na 'New Bilibid Prison', Muntinlupa, Manila, prisioneiros políticos filipinos procederam à greve de fome para exigir a libertação imediata e incondicional de todos os prisioneiros políticos, cuja existência o governo de Fidel Ramos tenta esconder ao mundo. A democracia é incompatível com a falta de liberdade política e com o desrespeito pelos direitos mais elementares do homem.

Como um povo pequeno, brutalmente reprimido pelo colonialismo indonésio, os timorenses do leste deploram a existência de prisioneiros políticos num país dito democrático como as Filipinas e apelam para a denúncia desta situação inverossímil no período dito pós-Marcos, o ditador.

Viva a Solidariedade dos Povos oprimidos!
Viva a Luta comum pela Paz, Justiça e Liberdade!

Pe'l O CNRM,

Kay Rala ~~Manana~~ Gusmão
Comandante das FARC

Prisão de Cipinang, 4 de Fevereiro de 1995

TRANSLATION

CNRM-FALINTIL

Message of Solidarity to Political Prisoners in the Philippines

Ladies and Gentlemen, Participants in the APCET Meeting, Bangkok

There is no more adequate a forum for the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region to voice the common interests uniting them than a meeting such as this APCET Conference. Originating from different parts of the region, we are demanding here that the world respect our rights which have been violated by military regimes such as that of Myanmar or by dictatorial-expansionist ones such as that led by Suharto.

As political prisoners, the Timorese people are well acquainted with the repression of anti-democratic regimes and they feel in their skin the most unimaginable forms of human rights violation.

And looking at this region gives us goose bumps. Human Rights are discredited or simply interpreted by governments as the rights of those holding political and, above all, economic power; the right to go unchallenged, to not be criticised and to institutionalise violence and crime. And such an attitude is justified to the world as being in the interests of "preserving peace and national security", peace meaning tranquility of spirit for those retaining power and security meaning a stable setting for corruption, exploitation of workers and repression of farmers.

For Aung Sam Su Ki in Myanmar, the freedom fighters of China and the political prisoners of Indonesia who continue to languish in jail 30 years after being condemned to death, all of this is nothing more than painful proof of the criminal nature of such regimes, included amongst which was that of Ferdinand Marcos.

However, what is truly frightening is the fact that apparently democratic governments continue to detain political prisoners, labelling them criminals. Nothing is easier than such maneuvers to cloud the truth and to hide it from the eyes of the world. Jakarta is doing this in relation to East Timor. We therefore understand well the plight of political prisoners suffering under similar conditions.

The democracy of the Philippines which we applauded so enthusiastically in its early stages, but which continues to be without substance, has shown itself to be quite clearly open to the influence of interests in conflict with democratic freedoms, as proven by its political subservience to Jakarta's generals on the occasion of the APCET Conference held in Manila in May last year. And it is this, finally, which explains the existence of the 291 political prisoners currently incarcerated in 57 prisons throughout the Philippines.

In New Bilibid Prison, Muntlupa, Manila, Filipino political prisoners have staged a hunger strike demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, the existence of which the government of Fidel Ramos is attempting to hide from the world. Democracy is incompatible with an absence of political freedom and with disrespect of the most fundamental rights of men and women.

As a small nation which has been brutally repressed by Indonesian colonialism, the East Timorese people deplore the existence of political prisoners in a so-called democratic country such as the Philippines and denounce the situation as one inappropriate to the post-Marcos era.

Long live solidarity among the oppressed!

Long live the common struggle for Peace, Justice and Freedom!

on behalf of CNRM

(signed)

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao
Commander of the FALINTIL

Cipinang Prison, 4 February 1995



HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA
60 BOTELER STREET
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1N 8Y7
CANADA

Telephone: (613) 241-5182
Telex: 053-3520
Cable: MALAWAKIL OTTAWA
Fax: (613) 241-5214

Your Ref:

Our Ref: SR(050)107-2

Date: 22 November, 1996

Mr. Joao Santos Rolo
National Office Coordinator
East Timor Alert Network
Box 562, Station 'P'
TORONTO, M5S 2T1

Dear Mr. Rolo,

SECOND ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON EAST TIMOR (APCET II)

I refer to your letter dated 12 November 1996 addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and copied to H.E. High Commissioner for Malaysia to Canada and wish to clarify on the position of the Malaysian Government with regard to the above conference.

2. The organisers of APCET II decided to go ahead with the conference despite the Malaysian Government's reservations and objections. On the day of the conference, on Saturday, 9 November, 1996, a group calling itself the "Barisan Bertindak Rakyat Malaysia" (BBRM) or "Malaysian People's Action Front" gathered near the venue of the conference. The aim of this group, consisting of about 200 members, was to oppose the holding of APCET II on grounds that East Timor was an internal matter of Indonesia. Some members of this group, which reportedly included members of the Youth Wings of Barisan Nasional component parties, then marched to the conference venue and attempted to disrupt the proceedings. The fracas that ensued became a "law and order" problem. The police were then called in to restore the law and order and in the process, a total of 113 persons including 46 foreigners were detained.

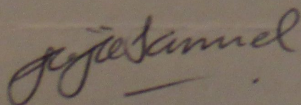
3. All the foreigners detained were either participants at the conference or foreign journalists who came to Malaysia for the purpose of covering the conference. They were detained on the grounds of misusing their social visit pass by attending a conference. All foreigners detained were initially taken to the Immigration Headquarters and then housed at the Subang Airport Hotel before being deported to their home country by Monday, 11 November, 1996. In most cases, the actual period of detention did not exceed 30 hours.

4. Allegations that the Malaysian Government only detained participants of the conference and not the demonstrating members of BBRM, who disrupted the conference, are not true. Seven of the demonstrators had also been detained for organising and participating in the illegal demonstration. They were subsequently released on bail pending mention of their cases in court. Of the other Malaysians detained, most of them were released within three days leaving a total of ten only to be charged in court. Even the charges against these ten remaining Malaysian participants were dropped on the decision of the Kuala Lumpur High Court on 14 November, 1996 which quashed a Lower Court's decision to extend their remand.

5. The Malaysian Government has gone on record to state that neither it nor the main coalition party, Barisan Nasional sanctioned the actions of BBRM. BBRM members, are believed to have acted on their own just as the organising NGOs had acted on their own in deciding to go ahead with the conference despite the Government's objections. The police only intervened when a "law and order" problem was created necessitating its involvement.

6. I hope the above information gives you a better understanding of the situation and the position of the Malaysian Government.

Sincerely,



(JOJIE SAMUEL)
Second Secretary

X-BlackMail: gn.apc.org, gn.apc.org, maggie@web.net, 194.202.158.2
X-Authenticated-Timestamp: 08:47:16(EST) on March 02, 1998
Date: 01 Mar 1998 23:08:43 -0500 (EST)
Reply-To: Conference "tapol.etimor" <tapol.etimor@conf.gn.apc.org>
From: maggie@web.apc.org
Subject: Thailand tries to muzzle APCET-III
To: Recipients of conference <tapol.etimor@conf.gn.apc.org>
Sender: Conference to Mail Gateway <conf2mail@gn.apc.org>
Precedence: bulk
Lines: 52

From: maggie (Maggie Helwig)

/* Written 3:53 PM Mar 1, 1998 by tapol@gn.apc.org in web:reg.easttimor */
/* ----- "Thailand tries to muzzle APCET-III" ----- */
From: tapol@gn.apc.org (Tapol)
Reply-To: tapol@gn.apc.org (Tapol)

AFP, Bangkok, 1 March 1998

The Thai Foreign Ministry has tried to muzzle a planned conference on East Timor in Bangkok to avoid embarrassment during Prime Minister Chuan Lockpai's visit to Jakarta, organisers said Sunday.

Organisers of the International Symposium for Peaceful Settlement in East Timor (Peace-Set) said an unknown foreign ministry official had made a personal plea to a leading academic not to speak at the conference.

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development spokesman Somchai Homlaor, who is organising Peace-Set, said the government was trying to smother the two day conference due to start Monday.

'The Prime Minister will be in Jakarta today and tomorrow and he may feel unhappy if he has to answer questions asked by officials there,' Somchai told reporters at a press conference.

Somchai said foreign ministry officials had privately requested that Chulalongkorn University end its involvement with the conference. The University has backed out of its organising role but one senior academic would still address the conference as an independent analyse, Somchai said.

In a statement issued Friday, the ministry warned Peace-Set organisers to be balanced and follow official regulations.

'We have the right to organise this symposium under our constitution rights to freedom of expressio, association and acedemic freedom,' Somchai said.

He said Nobel Prize winner Bishop Belo had been asked to give a keynote speed but would probably not come due to uncertainty over his ability to get a visa to enter Thailand. 'We would love it if he could come but nothing is confirmed at this stage,' Somchair said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that approving a visa for Belo might be good for the country's international image but ran the risk of offending Indonesia and violating ASEAN's code of 'non-interference in members' internal affairs'.

[Comment: The first conference on East Timor held in Manila three years ago went ahead despite massive obstructions by the Philippines govt under intense pressure from Jakarta to ban the event. The second East Timor held in Kuala Lumpur early last year was broken up with force by thugs in the pay of the government party, UMNO.]

X-BlackMail: gn.apc.org, gn.apc.org, maggie@web.net, 194.202.158.2
X-Authenticated-Timestamp: 09:09:08 (EST) on March 05, 1998
Date: 04 Mar 1998 23:38:23 -0500 (EST)
Reply-To: Conference "tapol.etimor" <tapol.etimor@conf.gn.apc.org>
From: maggie@web.apc.org
Subject: Protest to Thai Government
To: Recipients of conference <tapol.etimor@conf.gn.apc.org>
Sender: Conference to Mail Gateway <conf2mail@gn.apc.org>
Precedence: bulk
Lines: 79

From: maggie (Maggie Helwig)

/* Written 6:32 AM Mar 4, 1998 by tapol@gn.apc.org in web:reg.easttimor */
/* ----- "Protest to Thai Government" ----- */
From: tapol@gn.apc.org (Tapol)
Reply-To: tapol@gn.apc.org (Tapol)

The two conferences being convened in Bangkok to discuss the question of East Timor have been subjected to constant harassment by the Thai authorities. The second of the two events, APCET-III was due to start this evening, Wednesday, 4 March but has been subjected to harassment and disruptions by the Thai authorities.

TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign, has therefore sent the following letter to the Thai ambassador in London for immediate transmittal to the Thai Foreign Minister.

You are requested to make similar protests and pleas either to the Thai Foreign Minister, Mr Surin Pitsuwan, in Bangkok, fax: 00 66-2 225-6155 or to the Thai ambassador in your country.

The text of our letter follows:

4 March 1998

H.E. Vidhya Rayananonda,
The Ambassador of Thailand
London

For transmittal to the Foreign Minister, Mr Surin Pitsuwan

Your Excellency,

This organisation is deeply distressed to learn that participants to two conferences being held in Bangkok to discuss the question of East Timor are facing harassment and disruption from the Thai authorities.

The first meeting, the International Symposium for the Peaceful Settlement for East Timor, was due to end today, 4 March but was unable to hold the closing session because the hall had been virtually occupied by police officers and officials of your government.

The second meeting which is being convened by the Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor was due to commence this evening. However, we have been informed that officials of the Thai Government are insisting on being present and the organisers fear that the proceedings today, tomorrow and Friday may be disrupted.

The Thai Constitution safeguards freedom of expression and assembly. We therefore regard it as being incumbent on your Government to ensure that a gathering on its soil to discuss the situation in East Timor, a matter of legitimate concern to the people of Thailand and the whole of Southeast Asia, should be allowed to proceed without disruption or harassment.

During the earlier conference which lasted from 1-4 March, attempts were made to prevent foreign delegates from addressing the conference on the spurious grounds that they needed work permits. There were even rumours that foreign delegates who spoke at the event would be arrested.

TAPOL strongly protests against these pressures and urges your government to safeguard and protect the integrity of all the foreigners who are currently in Bangkok in order to attend and participate in discussions on the question of East Timor.

I would be grateful if you would convey these views to your Government at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

(Ms) Carmel Budiardjo

X-BlackMail: igc7.igc.apc.org, igc7.igc.org, notes@igc.org, 192.82.108.35
 X-Authenticated-Timestamp: 08:52:22(EST) on March 04, 1998
 Date: 04 Mar 1998 04:46:51
 Reply-To: Conference "ifet.private" <etimor-private@igc.apc.org>
 From: tapol@gn.apc.org
 Subject: Protest to Thai government
 To: Recipients of etimor-private <etimor-private@igc.apc.org>
 X-Gateway: conf2mail@igc.apc.org
 Precedence: bulk
 Lines: 73

*** This is a private communication. Do not circulate without approval. ***
 (NB: I am putting this round to several networks. I am putting it here to make sure you all see it fast.)

The Thai government is doing everything possible to obstruct a conference taking place in Bangkok to discuss the situation in East Timor. I would therefore ask you please to issue an immediate call for pressure on the Thai government to stop harassing the meeting and allow it to proceed without interruption in accordance with the Thai Constitution which safeguards freedom of expression and assembly.

The conference due to open today, Wednesday evening in Bangkok is being convened by the Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET). Two previous conferences convened by APCET in Manila and Kuala Lumpur were serious obstructed by the governments of the Philippines and Malaysia. Like the other ASEAN governments, the Thai government is now seeking to protect the Indonesian regime from legitimate criticism by preventing dialogue about Indonesia's unlawful and brutal invasion and occupation of East Timor.

Background

Two meetings were planned to take place in Bangkok. The International Symposium on the Peaceful Settlement for East Timor, PEACE-SET, took place from 1-4 March, bringing together academics, religious leaders, government officials, legal practitioners and human rights and peace activists. The Asia Studies Institute of Chulalongkorn University had endorsed the event but shortly before it started, was prevailed upon to withdraw its support by the Thai government.

The Thai authorities then tried to obstruct the proceedings by threatening to arrest foreign delegates attending the meeting, alleging that they needed work permits in order to address the meeting. The meeting was able to proceed but under constant harassment. It is not clear whether foreign delegates did in fact address the meeting. Police and intelligence agents were present throughout the proceedings, despite the efforts of the organisers to ask them to leave.

When participants arrived at the venue this morning, 4 March, for the closing session of PEACE-SET, they found the hall full of agents and police officers and decided that it was not possible to go ahead.

Participants of APCET-III scheduled for 4 - 6 March, are now gathering at the venue to start their own meeting but the atmosphere is extremely tense and it is not clear whether they will be able to proceed with their three days of discussions.

Action requested:

1. Send strongly worded protests to the Thai Government for their attempts to disrupt the International Symposium on the Peaceful Settlement for East Timor. Stress that seeking a peaceful solution to the long-drawn

but occupation of East Timor is a legitimate concern for people throughout Southeast Asia.

2. Demand that the Thai Government end immediately all attempts to disrupt APCET-III and allow it to proceed peacefully.
3. Demand that the integrity of all foreign delegates attending the meeting be protected.

Send your protests to:

1. Mr Surin Pitsuwan
Foreign Minister of Thailand,
Foreign Ministry,
Bangkok,
Fax: 00 66-2 225 6155

2. The Thai embassy in your own country for immediate transmittal to the Foreign Minister.

Carmel Budiardjo, TAPOL

Foreign mission faces probe for assisting E. Timor leader

The Nation, Agencies

THAILAND is trying to "establish the facts" and will talk to a foreign diplomatic mission in Bangkok which reportedly provided transportation for an exiled East Timorese leader on a police blacklist to attend a human rights conference and address the meeting.

On Friday, Jose Ramos-Horta, who had been in hiding for a week, surfaced at the conference at Don Muang in a beige Mercedes-Benz limousine with diplomatic licence plates. The vehicle was believed to be from the Portuguese Embassy.

Despite the presence of about a dozen policemen around the conference site at the We-Train Guesthouse Horta, who holds a Portuguese passport, was allowed to enter and later address the meeting and a press conference on the situation in East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesian forces in 1975 and annexed by Jakarta the following year.

The United Nations does not recognize Indonesian rule over East Timor and still considers Portugal the island's lawful administrator. Human rights groups say 200,000 people have since died in East Timor, either fighting the Indonesians or from famine and disease.

Don Pramudwinai, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's East Asian Affairs Department, said the ministry "needs some time to establish the facts".

"We will have to talk to [the embassy]," he said.

Early last week, police blacklisted 11 East Timorese those who were prevented from attending the human rights conference and warned foreign participants that they risked arrest if

they did not have permission from the government to attend.

On Thursday, immigration authorities deported three foreign participants who were associated with Horta's National Council of Maubere Resistance, the main East Timor resistance group fighting for independence from Indonesia.

The three were identified as Margherita Tracanelli, a media consultant to the resistance group who has dual Italian and Australian citizenship; Frank Coorey, an Australian lawyer and film maker; and Lito Ocampo, a photographer from the Philippines.

Don said Indonesia had not sent any signal or message about Horta's use of a diplomatic vehicle. "I have not heard of Indonesia making any protests or anything. This is because, I think, they know that we have already done a lot of things," he said.

In late May, the wives of the Portuguese and French presidents cancelled their appearance at the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor in the Philippines after Indonesia lodged an official protest. Spokesmen for Maria Barrôso Soares in Lisbon and Danielle Mitterrand in Paris said they were turning down invitations to address the conference.

Philippines President Fidel Ramos was later influenced by Jakarta to ban all foreign participation in the conference.

Mitterrand, in a faxed message to the Manila, conference said the Indonesian government had informed her that it would cancel investments worth US\$30 million in the Philippines if she attended the East Timor meeting.

During Friday's press conference, Horta stated that of the six Asean countries, Indonesia "stands out as

the worst case of human rights and rule of law".

He added that Jakarta had put a lot of pressure on Thailand to stop the human rights meeting and had threatened to delay implementing a joint development project if Bangkok let East Timorese attend the conference.

The Thai director-general, however, rejected Horta's assertion that Asean had informed Jakarta of the need to change its policy towards East Timor and to consider granting autonomy, at the least, to the island province.

"I don't think Asean foreign ministers have discussed anything about East Timor. We consider this an internal affair of Indonesia. I have never heard anything about it," said Don.

Speaking to reporters yesterday at the Shangri-la Hotel, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Horta did "not represent the eternal truth about East Timor".

"He's a political man and represents a small group of dissidents who want to sway public opinion their way. The majority of East Timorese have a different opinion," he said.

Asked whether Indonesia was trying to block discussion of East Timor by Asean, Alatas replied: "We have never blocked anything. East Timor has never been discussed in the 27 years of Asean, so why should it be now?"

Earlier at the hotel, guards tried to bar four human rights activists from presenting a statement to reporters at the Asean conference.

"This is part and parcel of the Indonesian government bullying the governments in Asean to try and stop them from talking about human rights



ACTIVIST LEAVES: Jose Ramos-Horta, left, of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM) at Don Muang airport before leaving Thailand yesterday morning.

violations," said one of the activists, Filipino human rights lawyer Cecelia Jimenez.

The activists arrived at a press area at the hotel where the foreign ministers conference was taking place. Security guards immediately approached them, then ushered them

into a room where Asean officials told them to make their statement outside.

So they went right outside the hotel and read their statement. One of the activists, Sarawut Pratoomraj of Thailand, put a bandage over his lips to demonstrate how he had been silenced.

Post OPINION

Tragic about-face on human rights

IN February last year, the government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai won worldwide praise when it refused to bow to pressure from China and allowed the Dalai Lama to enter the country to join a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates in calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Now, nearly 17 months later, it appears that the moral justification and show of conscience upon which this foreign policy was based have vanished. The resolve to stand up against human rights violations has also wavered and been sacrificed on the altar of ASEAN solidarity or, in plainer words, the need to save the face of a participating country, Indonesia, at the forthcoming ASEAN foreign ministers' meet.

The timing of the conference on human rights and development organised by the Thai NGOs with participation from their counterparts from Southeast Asia to coincide with the ASEAN foreign ministers' meet may be inappropriate and invite suspicion about the motive of the organisers. But the Government's ban against the foreign NGOs by invoking the labour law which requires the organisers of the forum to seek permission from the authorities 30 days in advance is simply overreacting despite the fact that the legitimacy of the ban itself is questionable. On top of that, the police manhunt for the foreign delegates already in the country will further cast the Government in a negative light because of its treatment of the human rights activists as if they were criminals with a price on their heads.

Time flies and things change. But aspirants for true democracy and human rights had not expected this government to change that much—from a government which once embraced human rights as an inalienable right of all individuals to a government which sought to silence voices against human rights violations; from a government whose rise to power owed much to the dedication and support of democratic aspirants to a government which sought to antagonise the human rights activists.

Now that it is at the pinnacle of power, the Government may feel it does not need the support of the NGOs to survive politically in the

same manner in which it virtually ignored the repeated calls for constitutional and political reform by all the pro-democracy groups. But by discarding the Vienna World Declaration on Human Rights that this Government adopted last year, particularly Article 13 which states "There is a need for states and international organisations, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, to create favourable conditions...to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of human rights", the Government seems to have sent the wrong message to the world declaring, in effect, that its pledges and words are not to be treated seriously.

The meeting on human rights and development will provide the other aspect of the problems facing this region that the ASEAN foreign ministers may be reluctant to discuss, simply for the sake of ASEAN solidarity. But these questions, such as the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and the absence of democracy in Burma, are as important to the peace and prosperity of this region as with the other social, economic and political issues on the agenda. The problems will not simply go away if ASEAN countries bury their heads in the sand and pretend they do not exist.

Jakarta may feel too embarrassed to have the East Timor issue discussed while the ASEAN foreign ministers are meeting here in Bangkok. But it must be reminded that the plight of the Timorese and the repression which is still going on in Timor by the Indonesian occupation forces which, in the very first place, have no legitimate right to be there, should be given a higher priority than Jakarta's embarrassment.

Instead of seeking to silence the voices of conscience against the foreign NGOs, the Government should have politely told Jakarta or SLORC that freedom of expression is accepted here provided that it is done peacefully and does not jeopardise public order and good morals. As such, the Government will do them a favour by reminding them of the moral responsibility and conscience which seem to have gone missing.

Alas, it is a great pity that our Government chose to become like one of them.

Bangkok Post

Blacklisted Horta speaks at conference

The Nation, Agencies

EXILED East Timorese leader Jose Ramos-Horta, one of 11 participants at a regional human rights conference who were blacklisted by police, addressed the meeting yesterday without incident.

Horta arrived at the conference venue in Don Muang in a beige Mercedes-Benz limousine with diplomatic licence plates, believed to be from the Portuguese Embassy, and was cheered by about 30 participants and a horde of local and foreign journalists.

About a dozen policemen had earlier ringed the We-Train Guesthouse owned by the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women, but allowed Horta to enter without arresting him.

In his speech to the conference, Horta said though the Indonesian government had tried to blackmail an Asean government into submission, the voice of the Timorese people could not be silenced.

"As we gather here to review the state of human rights in the Asean region, we are faced with some stark reminders that this entire region is still infested with military regimes answerable to no one.

"Of the Asean countries, Indonesia stands out as the worst case of human rights and rule of law," Horta said.

After delivering his speech, Horta left the conference for the airport. "We don't want to overstay the hospitality of the Thai authorities so we will be leaving this evening," he said.

The leader of the National Council of Maubere Resistance, an umbrella of the main East Timorese groups in exile, told reporters on Thursday that Indonesia had put heavy pressure on Thailand to stop the rights meeting.

□ See HORTA, Page A4

Horta allowed to address human rights conference

□ Continued from Page A1

Horta said Jakarta had threatened to delay implementing a joint development project if Thailand let Timorese activists attend the conference.

However, Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Irawan Abidin denied this.

"It is not true. His (Horta's) voice is only to draw world attention," he said.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese East Timor in 1975 and annexed it as the country's 27th province the next year. Human rights groups say at least 200,000 of the island's total population of 600,000 have died from either fighting the Indonesian troops, famine or disease. The United Nations does not recognize Indonesian rule over East Timor and still considers Portugal as the island's administrator.

The Thai government early this

week threatened all foreign participants at the human rights conference with arrest if they had not requested permission to attend at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Police also issued a blacklist of 11 East Timorese who were banned from the country.

Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri said there was no problem for Thai non-governmental organizations (NGOs) holding conferences in Thailand, but foreign NGOs were required to comply with Interior Ministry regulations and submit a proposal 30 days in advance of the scheduled forum.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he was pleased with the Thai treatment of the Timor activists, whom he said did not represent the people of East Timor.

"Our crime — which we admit to — is to struggle for the independence of our country," Horta, who has Portuguese nationality, said.

On Thursday, immigration authorities deported three foreign participants who were associated with Horta's resistance group, seeking independence for East Timor.

The three were identified as Margherita Tracanelli, a media consultant to the resistance group who has dual Italian and Australian citizenship; Frank Coorey, an Australian lawyer and film maker; and Lito Ocampo, a photographer from the Philippines.

A diplomatic source who demanded anonymity told *Associated Press* that Thai immigration police took the three to the Immigration Division on Thursday to revoke their permission to stay in Thailand.

They were then taken back to their hotel to pack before being escorted to the airport despite an Australian government request that the Thai government reconsider the move, the source said.

The three were charged with illegally crossing the Thai frontier into Burma, the source told the news agency. They had gone to Manerplaw, a frontier base of Burmese rebels and activists opposed to the military government in Rangoon.

Thai Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sudhaya Simasakul said the three were not East Timorese and were not deported, "but politely asked to leave the country."

Earlier, Ramos accused Thai authorities of singling out people who were associated with the East Timorese resistance.

"All the problems in this conference were because East Timor was one of the items in the agenda. Indonesia ordered Thailand to clamp down on any East Timorese activity.

"The Thai government quite obediently followed orders and they singled out East Timorese or East Timorese supporters."

23 July 94 Nation

Timorese give immigration the slip to attend meeting

23 July 94 Post

EAST Timorese exiled leader Jose Ramos-Horta and his aide managed to slip through the Thai immigration police and attend the regional conference on human rights yesterday.

● Reports: Page 2

Ramos-Horta and Mari Alkatiri, secretary for the external relations of Fretilin, a French acronym for Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor, entered Thailand with European Union passports.

They were driven to the seminar in Don Muang in the Portuguese Embas-

sy's Mercedes-Benz.

However, three foreign participants, including a Timorese, were not as lucky. They were deported by Thai immigration police on Thursday.

"We were so pessimistic about being able even to come here. We thought we would arrive and say goodbye to our friends before it was off to the airport."

"We don't want to overdo the hospitality of the Thai authorities," said Ramos-Horta to reporters at the seminar.

He said the reason given for the deportation of his three colleagues was that they had visited Karen headquarters and entered the country illegally.

gally. The three were Margherita Tracaneli, media director for an East Timorese opposition group; film-maker Frank Correy; and Lito Ocampo, a Philippine photographer.

Ramos-Horta said Indonesia had put pressure on Thailand to stop Timorese from attending the human rights meeting by threatening to delay implementation of a joint development project. This message, he said, was passed by the director-general of political affairs in Jakarta to his counterpart in Bangkok. Indonesia earlier denied this assertion.

The Timorese exile said he was told by Thai diplomats that the country illegally entered the country illegally.

mats that ASEAN had conveyed to Indonesia the necessity to change the policy on East Timor and suggested that Indonesia should give at least autonomy to East Timor.

He said ASEAN as a whole was embarrassed by Jakarta's policy on East Timor.

A comparative seminar on East Timor and Tibet is scheduled in Macau before the end of the year or early next year, he said.

The organisers' attempt to change venue from the emergency home in Thung See Gun to the Meridien President Hotel was again aborted as the hotel declined to accept the conference.

Exile leader lists Timor peace plan

EAST Timorese exile leader Jose Ramos-Horta proposed a comprehensive peace plan yesterday aimed at ending the East Timor conflict with Indonesia since 1974.

"Our imprisoned leader, Xanana Gusmao, has proposed and reiterated time and again our very basic stand. We remain ready to enter a dialogue with the Indonesian authorities, under the auspices of the United Nations without preconditions, to explore all possible ideas towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict," said Mr Ramos-Horta in an address to the Southeast Asia Forum on Human Rights and Development at an emergency home in Don Muang.

Mr Ramos-Horta and a colleague managed to slip by Thai immigration police and attend the regional seminar on human rights which focuses on the East Timor and Burma issues.

He said the three-phase peace plan comprised of:

Phase One — Humanitarian phase.

He said the first phase would take up to two years for full implementation and would involve both parties working with the UN to implement a wide range of "confidence building measures".

It would not deal with the "core" of the problem which is the issue of self-determination.

This phase of the talks, said Mr Ramos-Horta, must focus on achieving:

- An immediate end to all armed activities in East Timor;
- A reduction in the Indonesian troop presence to a maximum of 1,000 within a six-month period;
- Removal of all heavy weapons, tanks, helicopters, combat aircraft and long-range artillery;
- Immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners;
- A reduction by 50 per cent of Indonesian civil servants;
- The stationing of UN specialised agencies in the territory;
- A comprehensive census of the population;
- Establishment of an independent human rights commission under the Catholic bishop;
- Lifting of all media controls by the army;
- Freedom of political activities;
- Removal of restrictions on the teaching of Portuguese and the setting up of a Portuguese cultural institute; and
- Appointment of a resident representative of the UN Secretary-General.

Mr Ramos-Horta said some of these ideas could be implemented immediately without a loss of face for Indonesia.

"On the contrary, its international standing would improve significantly," he said.

Phase Two covers autonomy and lasts between 5-10 years, during which even-

ample powers vested in a local, democratically-elected Territorial People's Assembly.

Mr Ramos-Horta said the following ideas should be explored during the second phase:

- Legalisation of political parties in East Timor;
- The setting up of an European Union legation headed by a senior Portuguese official;
- Elections for the Territorial Assembly with only Timorese eligible for election;
- Election of a territory governor by the assembly;
- A five-year mandate for the assembly and the governor;
- The territory may enter into trade relations with foreign countries and promulgate its own laws affecting investment, land ownership, property, etc.;
- Remaining Indonesian troops to be withdrawn within three months;
- No army for the territory except a police force trained by the UN and under the supervision of the governor;
- Further reduction of Indonesian civil servants; and
- Normalisation of relations between Indonesia and Portugal.

Mr Ramos-Horta said the autonomous status of the territory could be extended by mutual accord at the end of Phase Two.

"Seven years would have elapsed since this peace plan was put into effect. The East Timorese people, having enjoyed a period of peace and freedom without the presence of the most hated symbol of the occupation, the army, might decide to continue this form of association."

"Conversely, the changing generation, attitudes and perception in Indonesia might also result in Indonesia accepting as very natural that East Timor becomes independent."

Mr Ramos-Horta said that if all parties agree that Phase Three which deals with self-determination should enter into effect immediately, then the UN could begin to prepare a referendum on self-determination to determine the final status of the territory.

"For the past 18 years, our neighbours have turned their backs on us. They allowed Indonesia to invade a small member of the regional family without a protest," he said.

"While ASEAN can be proud of its contribution to the resolution of the Cambodian conflict, it cannot be proud of its role on East Timor nor on Burma."

Mr Ramos-Horta then appealed to Thailand and the other ASEAN countries to offer "words of wisdom" to their Indonesian neighbours to seize the olive branch East Timor has been offering.

NGO rights meet discusses E. Timor

22 July 94 Pst

DESPITE watchful police eyes and the absence of Timorese representatives, the regional human rights seminar yesterday opened discussions on the Timor issue.

Conference spokesperson, Cecilia Jimenez of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocate, said she was not sure whether Timorese representatives would be able to attend the meeting today.

But she said there were other participants well-versed on the Timor problem who could present a case for discussion.

Two Burmese and one Indonesian showed up yesterday to present reports of human rights violations in their countries.

Eddy Meechai of Burma criticised ASEAN's constructive engagement policy, saying it had no chance to convince the State Law and Order Restoration Council to change heart.

He also said he doubted the policy reflected the view of the Thai people.

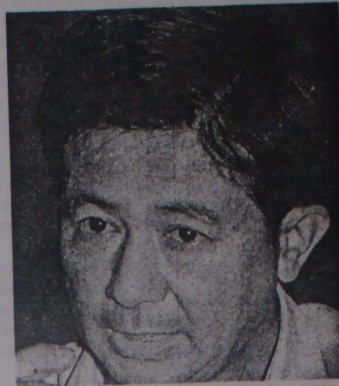
The meeting yesterday discussed obstacles to social development and the role of NGOs at different levels.

Participants said development should mean equitable distribution of wealth, non-discrimination of all forms, participation of the masses in decision-making, protection of freedom of speech, freedom of peaceful assembly and protection of the environment, said Ms Jimenez.

Meanwhile, six Burmese students yesterday staged a hunger strike at their detention centre in Bangkok to protest against the presence of SORC representatives at the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting.

A police representative said the six students refused to accept food at their detention centre inside the Bangkok police private school.

They said they would end their strike



Burmese representative at the human rights seminar, Eddy Meechai.

after the end of the conference and the departure of the SORC delegation, the police source said.

He said the Police Department had ordered close monitoring of the condition of the hunger strikers and to try to convince them to end the strike.

Any strikers who became sick would immediately be taken to the Police General Hospital, he said.

He said no extra restrictions were imposed on 100 Burmese housed at the Maneeloi temporary shelter in Pak Chong District of Ratchaburi.

They were allowed to leave the shelter to do business outside, but were asked not to take part in any political activities during the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, he said.

Special Branch police reinforcements had been assigned to the Burmese Embassy and to hotels where foreign delegates were staying during the conference.

Report: Indonesian military obsolete

Sydney, AFP

A CONFIDENTIAL Australian government report has warned that Indonesia may be unable to contribute to regional stability because of the increasing obsolescence of its military.

The report was published by *The Australian* newspaper yesterday on the eve of the ASEAN regional forum meeting in Bangkok to discuss the new concept of regional security through neighbourly interdependence.

It said the failure of Indonesia's armed forces ABRI "to achieve even modest modernisation has caused a gradual decline in operational capability and has eroded Indonesia's ability to contribute to regional stability."

Prepared by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, it also warned that while defence ties between Australia and Indonesia had matured they were still too fragile to survive a setback in the wider bilateral relationship.

The relationship could be damaged by adverse reporting on Indonesia by the Australian media, it said. Relations were virtually severed several years ago over a report here criticising Suharto.

However, the report said this danger was fading.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told AFP yesterday he had read the embassy report but did not attribute any particular significance to it.

"I must confess that in reading that report in its totality and in its context at the time it didn't seem to me to be enormously significant," said Evans.

"My instinct is that the defence relationship with Indonesia is growing in substance and maturity all the time."

The report was quoted as saying: "ABRI's capacity to maintain internal security by use of its territorial apparatus remains strong, but its capacity for controlling a generalised crisis which might arise over presidential succession has not improved and cannot be assured."

Evans told a news conference in Canberra the importance of the first meeting of the regional forum was that it was the formal beginning of a new approach to security in the region.

He described it as the concept of developing trust, confidence, working together on preventive diplomacy strategies and expanding the range of traditional defence co-operation.

"This all fits into a larger concept of security where you are not just talking about security as involving military capability, but of security as being the function of economic relationships."

Harold Crouch, lecturer at the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific Studies, said the reported Australian assessment was "very strange" and it appeared to have basic flaws.

22/P/S

Real opportunity for an ASEAN initiative

21 July 94

Post opinion

Bangkok
Post

THAILAND's proposal for a grouping of the so-called SEA-10, which would include all nations in our corner of the world, has received a lacklustre response from most ASEAN foreign ministers. One exception to date is Philippine Secretary for Foreign Affairs Roberto Romulo who declared yesterday that his country supported ideas along the lines of the SEA-10 grouping, which he said would contribute to an eventual 10-member ASEAN.

"As a vision, I continue to believe there should be one South-east Asia family. The more we talk about it today, the better it is for all parties in Southeast Asia," Mr Romulo said.

How right he is, and what an incentive this would be for Burma to return to democracy and prove that it deserves membership in such a group of progressive countries. Only the Rangoon regime itself can demonstrate it belongs and the obvious forum is the ASEAN meeting where the Rangoon participants have an opportunity to vindicate the Chuan Government's faith in constructive engagement.

The decision to invite representatives of Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council to sit in at the session of ASEAN members as a guest of host country Thailand has been criticised in many quarters, but now is irreversible. It now must be considered an opportunity instead of the lost cause many have labelled it. The presence of SLORC members at a summit attended by ASEAN leaders is a chance for all to test both the Rangoon junta and the policy of "constructive engagement." If this is a worthwhile scheme, then Burmese leaders should respond when they are engaged, constructively.

The Chuan Leekpai Government claims its policy towards Burma is more realistic than sanctions and open criticism of SLORC repression of its citizens. The Government has placed our country in the world firing line because of wide scepticism that Rangoon's military regime will respond to any civilised suggestions to clean up its act. Mr Chuan, Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri and others have maintained that the best way to change the undemocratic SLORC is through trade, tourism and other actions. Many other governments and individuals disagree. They believe such actions are seen by SLORC as a right, or even a reward for their suppressive ways.

The Burmese military's power monopoly has proved insufficient to quiet overseas criticism of their poor human rights record. Neither has this power succeeded in promoting development of the country's near-destitute economy, or in attracting significant foreign investment. Widespread sympathy for SLORC's political opponents has increased, notably for the still-detained Nobel laureate

came the focus of worldwide appeals yesterday on the fifth anniversary of her detention. The ruling junta recently staged a variety of "reforms," headed by a protracted exercise of constitution-writing designed to create the appearance of civilian rule while solidly entrenching military control.

The policy of constructive engagement will take the spotlight during the ASEAN meeting. There should be no chance that SLORC can mistake this policy. It aims at changing the recalcitrant Burmese junta's repression as much as that of the staunchest supporter of use of sanctions. The supporters of constructive engagement — first and foremost our own leaders — must directly inform SLORC delegates the policy aims at emphasising the advantages of moving towards democracy and freedom for all Burmese. Diplomats must make clear to junta members that constructive engagement is no reward for SLORC. On the contrary, by treating Rangoon in the same way that it treats other governments, its supporters clearly imply they expect Rangoon to behave like other governments.

Burma's current regime first came to power in 1962. It took direct control in a second bloody confrontation in 1988. SLORC paid lip service to democratic values by staging parliamentary elections in 1990. But when the elections resulted in a landslide victory for the opposition, the junta simply ignored the results. Hundreds of opposition leaders, writers and intellectuals, including over 60 MPs-elect, were imprisoned. The leader of the victorious National League for Democracy opposition party, the charismatic and widely beloved Mrs Suu Kyi, was condemned to virtually total isolation under house arrest.

A new constitution may set this repression into law. It requires that candidates for president must have a military background, cannot be married to foreigners or be second-generation foreigners, and must have lived in Burma without interruption for at least 20 years. These stipulations are clearly custom-designed to exclude the Oxford-educated Suu Kyi, the wife of a British academic. In SLORC's view, these are "political reforms." Few others are this charitable.

In the six years since Burma's military seized full power in bloody repression, neither sanctions nor constructive engagement has succeeded in winning freedom for the Burmese. At the ASEAN ministers' meeting, the latter policy will be at centre stage.

If SLORC now takes concrete steps towards liberal and meaningful political reform, proponents of constructive engagement should claim some credit. Indeed, in such a case, Burma can truly demonstrate it deserves a place at the diplomatic table with other

21/7/94

Dirty tricks by authoritarian regimes

One charitable way to view the ongoing uproar over the proposed meeting of the Southeast Asia Human Rights Network (Seanet) in Thailand is that it was all a foul-up mishandled from the very beginning. Some overzealous bureaucrats must have tripped over the alarm button and by the time the bad news reached Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, the Foreign Ministry had already got itself stuck in an irreversible position.

To save the minister's face, everybody in the Cabinet had to go along with his hard line. Throw the book at the human rights activists. Send out the Special Branch. Talk tough about "protecting national interests." Invoke the Asean spirit. Appeal to the mass by citing the policy of "not letting Thailand be used as a venue to attack neighbours."

Then came an afterthought: Somebody high up in the government must insist that the Chuan government, whose birth had in fact been closely linked to the fight for the freedom of political thoughts, still adheres to the principle of human rights.

The self-evident contradiction between policy statements and actions in this case will have to be dealt with some other day, preferably after the joint communiques to be issued towards the end of the Asean Regional Forum extolling the regional spirit and virtues of the "constructive engagement" towards Burma and the conspicuous absence of any mention

THAI TALK



SUTHICHA YOUN

The government's attempt at hair-splitting will not hide the fact that all countries represented in the series of deliberations on regional security here are signatories to the UN Charter on Human Rights.

of the East Timor issue have been forgotten.

This seemingly innocuous scenario, however, is being rendered outdated by a more sinister picture based on what has just transpired.

Obviously, the government has badly overreacted and in the process has given Thailand's long history of fighting for political freedom a bad

name. It is now clear that the government is intent upon employing all political, legal and social devices to ban the local and regional human rights groups from airing their divergent views on Burma and East Timor.

It is also evident that the police have been given the greenlight to try every possible means, including threats of arrest, to block the convening of Seanet's conference.

The blacklisting of conference participants and unofficial pressure placed on proprietors of potential seminar sites smack of dirty tricks employed by authoritarian regimes rather than a government which came to power riding the wave of popular resistance against a military dictatorship only two years ago.

The government claims that what is said at the human rights conference could sour its good relations with neighbours — as if suggesting that continued violations of basic human rights in a neighbouring country would go a long way to cementing ties between this country and its present allies.

When the Thai government decided to invite the representatives of Burma's military regime to attend the upcoming Asean ministers' conference in Bangkok later this week, it effectively also threw in the challenge for those who had been protesting Sior's authoritarian rule to demand a chance to state the case in favour of democratization in that country as well. The Thai government could not possibly have been so naive as to

assume that it could get away with such a provocative act.

The government may have thought it wise, if not cunning, to dust up an ambiguous clause in the labour law requiring a foreign non-government organization to seek permission to hold a meeting 30 days in advance, but no officials can stop a local NGO from raising human rights issues in Burma or East Timor, or anywhere else in the world for that matter, at the height of the Asean ministerial conference.

The government's attempt at hair-splitting will not hide the fact that all countries represented in the series of deliberations of regional security here are signatories to the UN Charter on Human Rights. Regional "security," after all, cannot be achieved without the basic guarantee of personal security in terms of political, economic and social rights.

This government came to power in a pool of blood shed by courageous Thais who fought armed soldiers over the question of political liberty and human rights. The least it can do is to respect the right of people who are clamouring for a chance to speak about the unspeakable oppression in our neighbours where their leaders — who are being offered red-carpet treatment here this week — have declared the freedom to express one's views as illegal.

Even in international relations, hypocrisy will have to give way to reason and compassion.

The Nation, 21 July 1994

21/7/94

21 July 1994

22 July 94 Nation

Indonesia's misinformation

In a statement distributed on July 21 to the media, which was published in *The Nation's* letters column, Sri Rahayu Purnomo of the Indonesian Embassy, attempted to play down the grave incidents that occurred in the occupied territory of East Timor on July 13 and 14. To set the record straight, I wish to issue the following statement with a chronology of events.

On June 28, at Remexio, South of Dili, two Indonesian non-Christian soldiers joined a Catholic religious service and publicly desecrated the communion wafer. This deeply offensive action shocked the entire Catholic and non-Catholic communities in East Timor. The Indonesian authorities did not take any action against the perpetrators. Instead, 11 local residents who demonstrated against the incident were arrested and mistreated by Indonesian security forces. Only when Bishop Ximenes Belo issued a vehement public protest, the Indonesian military commander issued a public apology. But these were empty words since no specific action was taken against the

offenders and provocations continued.

On July 13 in Dili, three Indonesian military intelligence agents — not students as the authorities later pretended — publicly insulted two East Timorese Catholic nuns at the East Timor University. The three were identified as Abdul Hamid, Tadung Massora and Purwanto, members of the local military intelligence, the latter armed with a pistol.

On July 14, several hundred students joined in a peaceful procession to deliver a petition to the local legislative assembly. Security forces violently disrupted the procession, beating the demonstrators, resulting in serious casualties. At least 20 students suffered injuries and eight student remain in critical condition at Dili's Wirahusada military hospital. Between 70 and 80 students were arrested and tortured. Four students are presumed dead.

The anti-Catholic incidents in Dili were not isolated events. They follow a pattern of anti-Catholic violence deliberately provoked by the security forces in East Nusatenggara and Java. The anti-Chinese riots in Medan were also deliberate actions orchestrated by the intelligence aimed at deflecting attention from the growing labour grievances and challenges to the regime by the labour and democracy movements in Indonesia.

A managed religious conflict would deflect attention from the growing public concern with corruption, nepotism, labour unrest and the inevitable Suharto's succession.

The world knows just too well by now the truth about Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. Deceit, outright lies, omission, hypocrisy and arrogance will no longer be enough to hide the ugly truth of is colonization of East Timor.

Indonesia criticizes the West for

pressuring Third World countries but here there is the leader of the so-called Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) with the worst possible record of blackmailing its fellow neighbours. Just ask President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines about Indonesia's South-South solidarity. And now, ask Thailand about the costs of its "friendship" with Indonesia.

East Timor is not Indonesia's "internal affair" not only because human rights are matters of international jurisdiction and responsibility but also because East Timor is illegally occupied by Indonesia in violation of two UN Security Council resolutions and eight General Assembly resolutions. The majority of the international community does not recognize Indonesia's occupation of East Timor.

Mari Alkatiri
Secretary of External Relations
of FRETILIN

Three rights forum participants deported

The Nation, Associated Press

THREE foreign participants to the ongoing regional human rights conference here were deported yesterday by Thai immigration authorities, informed sources said.

The three are associated with the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), an umbrella of the East Timor resistance groups headed by Jose Ramos-Horta.

Ramos-Horta named his three associates deported by Thai authorities as Margherita Tracanelli, a media consultant to his group, who holds dual Italian and Australian citizenship; Frank Coorey, an Australian lawyer and film maker; and Lita Ocampo, a Filipino photographer.

The three were earlier detained by the immigration police and were escorted back to their hotel by the authorities to pack their belongings.

They were given half an hour to pack and were then taken to the international airport.

Earlier, the immigration police refused to disclose their whereabouts when Ramos-Horta complained to reporters in the afternoon that his associates were missing. The immigration authorities instead said they could have been taken away by the

□ See RIGHTS, Page A4

Three forum participants get half an hour to pack

□ Continued from Page A1

Special Branch.

A police source said the three were suspected of crossing into Burma to meet Burmese ethnic minority leaders two weeks ago and were wanted by Thai immigration for violating the conditions of their visa.

Human rights abuses in East Timor and Burma are among the topics to be discussed at the regional conference organized by the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Thailand.

However, the foreign participants to the conference had yet to show up at the meeting which opened on Wednesday at the We-Train Guesthouse in Don Muang owned by the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women.

On Wednesday, Police Director

General Pratin Santiprapop said foreign participants to the conference would not be arrested.

"Police cannot arrest them if they do nothing wrong," he said.

Earlier that day, Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri told the conference organizers that he welcomed and agreed with any activities on human rights as he himself was also involved in the pro-democracy demonstration in May 1992.

Earlier in the week, police issued a blacklist of 11 East Timorese who were banned from the country and threatened to arrest any foreign participant who did not have permission from the government to attend the conference.

Prasong said there was no problem for Thai non-governmental organizations to hold conferences in Thailand but foreign ones are required to

comply with Interior Ministry regulations and submit a proposal 30 days in advance of the scheduled forum.

Ramos-Horta, an Australian-based representative of the main East Timorese resistance coalition, said Indonesia had threatened to delay implementation of an "economic triangle" project involving Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia if Bangkok allowed public debate of the East Timor issue on its soil. He said he received the information from Thai sources.

Other reports have said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas threatened not to attend a regional meeting here this week if Bangkok did not clamp down on discussion of East Timor.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975 and human rights groups say 200,000

out of the total population of 600,000 died as a result of fighting, famine and disease.

"Our crime — which we admit to — is to struggle for the independence of our country," said Ramos-Horta, who has Portuguese nationality.

He said that although he had a Thai visa valid until next Wednesday, he planned to leave the country today after making a presentation at the human rights forum.

He said he thought the Thai authorities might make an effort to detain him if he went to the forum, and he "would not be surprised if they tried to do something unpleasant," such as detain him for extended interrogation, to please Indonesia. In such a case, he said, he would ask for Portuguese diplomatic intervention on his behalf.

22 July 91

Dear friends,

Our Cahaya tour is about to depart, and looks very good so far. of course we have had the inevitable last minute changes and confusions, but all seems well.

The final participant list looks as follows:

- 1. Bishop Soma of Japan, APCET Chairperson Asia
- 2. Senator David Norris of Ireland. Europe
- 3. Ms Patricia McKenna Green Euro MP from Ireland
- 4. Rev Ann Batten of New Zealand. One of the first women Anglican Ministers. Recently organised a womens "peace Charter" to Tahiti. Australasia
- 5. Ms Naida Pou, Maori rights worker, NZ
- 6. Paul Stewart, well known Australian musician, brother of Balibo murdered journalist Tony Stewart.
- 7. Prominent Aboriginal poet and human rights activist Lionel Fogerty.
- 8. Mr Daniel Botha, former Namibian SWAPO MP, anti-apartheid activist now working for the strengthening of civil society in nations of the South. Student at Victoria University Canada. Africa
- 9. Reed Brody, Human Rights specialist, consulting with UN Human Rights agencies. Directed UN HR mission to El Salvador, International Human Rights Law Group, Executive Secretary of International Commission of Jurists etc. N America
- 10. Brian A Brown, Director of Programs at Freedom House, New York.
- 11. Jurgen Meier, Secretary General German-Asia Foundation, activist with the Greens in Germany.

Several others are still to be confirmed. particularly one group of Moslem leaders and others from the Philippines, an UK parliamentarian, and a Buddhist monk.

>From Indonesia we have issued tickets for Abdurrachman Wahid (Gus Dur) the prominent NU leader, who promised to come, and HR lawyer Ponke Prinsen. There are 6 journalists joining as well.

THERE IS A TOTAL NEWS EMBARGO on this tour until Wednesday 08 November at 16.30

hrs Bali time (GMT +8).

This is essential, because we are hoping to prevent the Indonesian Intel to find out about the tour and block the departure of the participants in Bali, or

send them back to Bali on the same plane they arrived in ET.

Please observe this deadline the best you can.

If there is an incident at Bali airport, or Surabaya airport (the group is being split up into two smaller ones, travelling on different flights, one leaving at 09.40 from Bali, the other at 11.40 from Surabaya on 08 Nov) earlier on, and it all gets exposed, then there is no need for embargoes any more.

Please help to get as much publicity for this event as you can. We will post personal profiles of participants later, as soon as the list is finalised. We do not know what will happen in Dili. We hope that they will be allowed to have the peace prayers ceremony at Santa Cruz on Thursday 09 November in the morning,

and that it all will be peaceful. They intend to light the candle at that time, which will be formally presented to the world on Saturday in Singapore at

10.00 am.

Note that even with Singapore, discretion is needed in advance of the event. The authorities are not that friendly with media.

Some contact numbers for participants, to use by media follow. But please be discrete before the embargo deadline!

CAHAYA TOUR CONTACT NUMBERS

07 Nov.- Check in at the Santika Beach Hotel in Bali.(tel +62 361 751267)

08 Nov.- arrival Dili: 11.40 and 15.35 (we need to split the group into 2 flights).
Transfer to hotel. Day free.

In the afternoon, after the whole group has arrived, it will meet and announce its trip intentions. This will happen around 16.30 local time.

We expect the group to stay at Turismo hotel, (tel +62 390 22029, 22186, 22651) or Resende (tel 22094, 21768), or Mahkota (tel 21283, 21664).

09 Nov- early morning prayer ceremony at Santa Cruz cemetery, or alternate spot if forbidden by military.

10 Nov- midday departure to Bali. Arrival 14.30. Meeting foreign media correspondents accredited in Indonesia at airport.
Connection to Singapore on SQ 147 at 18.00 arrival at 20.20.

Overnight in Singapore, at Furama Hotel, tel +65 533 3888, fax

11 Nov.- 10.00 am media conference at Singapore at Furama hotel, with regional media correspondents.

Please ensure that there is NO MENTION OF THIS TOUR in the media until 16.30 Bali time (GMT +8) on 08 November.

It is particularly important not to arouse suspicion of authorities, hotel employees or others until that time. This should be kept in mind when contacting tour participants at Bali or in Dili before that deadline.

After that deadline, please get as much publicity as possible. When phoning Dili remember that conversations could well be monitored.

If the group is blocked at Bali from going to Dili, we will try the Santika Beach Hotel again. for accommodation.

APCET in Manila (+632 921 6774, Gus private: 631 9119), and Darwin (tel +61 89 855678, fax 855622) are reference points at all times.

4 November 1995

I received the following fax from the APCET headquarters in Manila earlier today. I believe the Bishop is not using the word "deport" in the correct sense, as he is still in Indonesia. I got a report that he and his party is at the Melaspi Hotel in Bali at this Tel NO: 62-361-751-335

(also) 751-860

756-796

756-791

Bishop Soma is in Rm. 105

His interpreters (a Briton and a Japanese) in Rm.108

Senator Norris of Ireland is in Rm 308

Paul Stewart (Australian rock musician) Rm 309

EU Green Party parliamentarian Patricia McKenna in Rm 307

Jean Inglis (Free East Timor Japan Coalition)

Statement on being Denied Entry to Dili, East Timor

Aloisius Nobuo Soma, Retired Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Nagoya, Japan
Chairperson, Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET)

I arrived today, November 9, at the Surabaya Airport with the intention to board a flight for Dili, East Timor, but was asked to deplane from my Sempati flight by the Indonesian Government.

I am a Japanese Catholic bishop and a close friend of the leader of the Catholic Church in East Timor, Bishop Belo. The purpose of my trip to East Timor was to pray for the souls of the victims of the terrible Santa Cruz massacre that took place on November 12, 1991.

According to investigations by respected international human rights organizations, the precious lives of 273 youths were taken by Indonesian troops in this incident. Yet the Indonesian Government has still not revealed the truth about what happened, and to this day we do not know the full reality. Of particular concern is the fact that the bodies of the victims have never been returned to their families, and the youths who went missing after the incident, almost the same number as those who were killed, are largely still unaccounted for to this day.

Surely any human being would be naturally moved to mourn such a terrible tragedy that claimed the lives of so many people and to want to offer prayers for them. But as a Catholic bishop representing many Catholic faithful in Japan, I feel it as a duty incumbent upon me to go to the Santa Cruz cemetery and offer prayers there where the actual incident took place.

I hereby express great regret that the carrying out of my duty as a leader of the Catholic Church has been prevented in this way by the Indonesian Government's deporting me (sic) and I hereby protest this action.

*** This is a private communication. Do not circulate without approval. ***
Statement from Reed Brody, one of the U.S. people on the Ahi Nakalakan delegation that was kicked out of East Timor yesterday. He gave this to me over the phone at 7:30 pm Bali time (6:30 am EST) on Thursday, Nov. 9:

"As an ecumenical delegation, we went to East Timor to hold a service in commemoration of the victims of the 1991 Dili massacre. Although we were prevented from carrying out the ceremony at the Santa Cruz cemetery, we were able to light candles and to say prayers at the statue of Christo Rey.

"Equally important, in our 24 hours, were able to experience, in a very small way, what the East Timorese people must face every day under Indonesian occupation. We were constantly followed by Indonesian security. At one point, we were surrounded by police in full riot gear, and we were expelled from East Timor although we had done nothing wrong.

"We also met with many East Timorese who bravely told us of the escalating repression of the past weeks -- of riot squads systematically breaking into people's houses, beating people in the kidneys, liver, and backs of their heads in an attempt to intimidate or incapacitate them from coming out.

"We will each be bringing back candles that we lit in East Timor to light candles all over the world in solidarity with the people of East Timor."

Indonesia Thwarts East Timor 'peace pilgrims'

By Jim Della-Giacoma JAKARTA, Nov 9 (Reuter) - Indonesia prevented foreign

activists from commemorating the 1991 killing of unarmed protesters in East Timor on Thursday by expelling seven and barring eight from entering the territory, officials said.

The so-called peace pilgrimage by American, Japanese, Australasian and European individuals highlighted the issue of East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesian forces in 1975 and has been ruled with an iron hand since.

"I asked them to leave and I would have used force if they refused," Y.S. Triswoyo, East Timor's immigration chief, told Reuters by telephone from Dili.

The incidents follow the departure of eight East Timorese youths for Portugal on Wednesday after seeking asylum in the Dutch embassy in Jakarta 24 hours earlier.

A member of the expelled group, Reed Brody, told Reuters by telephone after arriving in Bali that the group included Namibian MP Daniel Botha and American, German, Australian and Filipino activists.

"We were told no tourist would be allowed in Dili before the 12th of November and we would have to leave for security reasons," Brody, adding that only six members of the expelled group were on the flight.

Residents in Dili reported increased military security in the town before the anniversary on Sunday of the 1991 Santa Cruz massacre, when troops shot dead at least 50 people who were taking part in a procession to mourn the death of a pro-independence activist.

The expelled six were Botha, Americans Brody and Brian Brown, Australian Aboriginal poet Lionel Fogerty, an Australian doctor Andrew McNaughton and an Australian journalist travelling with the delegation.

Officials said seven had been expelled.

Brody said another three, who could not be found by authorities on Thursday morning, were to be expelled overland.

Their expulsion followed the earlier barring of eight dignitaries from boarding a flight in Bali to Dili. Officials told them it was for their own safety, one of the group, European MP Patricia McKenna, told Reuters from Bali.

The eight also included Senator David Norris from Ireland, Bishop Soma from Japan, Anglican minister Ann Baten from New Zealand, and Paul Stewart, an Australian musician and a brother of a journalist killed in East Timor in 1975.

The Indonesian foreign ministry said in a statement it regretted several "foreign dignitaries" had been prevented from boarding a plane.

The statement said the decision was made because of continuing activities by anti-integration groups in creating disorder in East Timor. Brody, an American human rights lawyer, said his group

arrived in Dili on Tuesday and Wednesday and had been under surveillance the entire time.

"When we went to the beach on Wednesday night to try and find somewhere to talk we were surrounded by at least 15 riot police and virtually forced back into our hotel," he said.

Brody said the group was disappointed they were unable to hold an ecumenical service in the Santa Cruz cemetery but their experience would draw attention to the plight of East Timorese.

"I think we experienced in a very mild way for 24 hours what the people of East Timor experience all the time," he said.

Triswoyo said he feared that the groups could undermine stability, adding their activities were not compatible with their status as tourists.

"I know that they are trying to collect information. It is not natural that tourists are collecting information," Triswoyo said. "It would be better for them not to have come this time."

Indonesia expels E Timor visitors By SUKINO HARISUMARTO

JAKARTA, Nov. 9 (UPI) -- Indonesian security authorities Thursday expelled seven foreigners from East Timor and prevented the several other dignitaries from boarding a flight to the troubled province three days before anticipated demonstrations marking the anniversary of the massacre in Dili.

Immigration officials said there was a fear for the visitors' safety if violence erupts during the commemoration of the Nov. 12, 1991, massacre in which dozens of protestors were killed during a funeral.

Reed Brody, an attorney from the United States, told United Press International by telephone from the Indonesian tourist city of Bali that he and his six colleagues were expelled from East Timor after a brief 24-hour stay in the former Portuguese colony.

He said 15 Indonesian security police told them to leave the beach they were visiting.

"This morning, we were lectured by head of (Dili) immigration who told us to make sure only to behave as tourists, if not, we will be picked up one by one," Brody said.

"But then at about 11:30 Thursday, Triswoyo, the head of the immigration in East Timor told us that we would all have to leave and that no tourist would be allowed in Dili before the 12th of November. We and the other tourists would have to leave now for security reasons," Brody said. A group led by Japanese Bishop Aloisius Nobuo Soma, who is also

Honorary Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET), was prevented from leaving on their chartered plane from East Java's capital of Surabaya for East Timor.

The party had planned to lay a wreath and pray for the victims of the Nov. 12, 1991 Dili massacre, but the flight was canceled after Indonesian officials told them that as of Thursday, East Timor officially was closed.

"I arrived today (Thursday) at the Surabaya airport with the intention to board a flight for Dili, East Timor but was asked to deplane from my Sempati flight at the airport by the Indonesian government," Soma said in a statement.

During the Dili massacre, Indonesian soldiers opened fire on demonstrators at a funeral in East Timor's Santa Cruz cemetery, killing dozens of protestors.

The government admitted that 50 people were killed in the incident, but international human rights groups put the death toll at more than 200. The incident sparked international outcry and focused attention on Indonesia's nearly 20 years of rule in the former Portuguese colony.

Immigration officials in Jakarta confirmed the expulsions, saying the visitors were in East Timor with unclear reasons.

Rahardi Suroprawiro, director of control and execution for the immigration office, told the state-run Antara news agency that the move was taken because of fears the visitors could be in danger if there are demonstrations commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Dili massacre.

Suoprawiro said the foreigners' presence could incite East Timor residents to protest the massacre.

Brig. Gen. Suwarno Adiwijoyo, meanwhile, said the immigration office had authority to expel the foreigners.

"The immigration has its own reason to do the move...maybe the foreigners' presence in East Timor was not in line with the existing procedures," Adiwijoyo said.

Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor





South-South Solidarity

APCET has brought into the mainstream the relevance of people-to-people solidarity particularly among the nations in the South. The East Timor struggle is a concrete expression of South-South solidarity. For East Timor is Asian, if not, an international issue.

APCET demonstrates that the interest of peoples specially in the South are always interrelated and complementary.

APCET epitomizes global peoples' solidarity.

Human Rights

APCET highlights the Asian and Pacific peoples' unflinching commitment to human rights and civil liberties.



East Timor was brutally annexed by Indonesia in December 1975. The East Timorese people resisted Indonesia's occupation of their land, to which the Indonesian government responded with such a ferocity that reduced East Timor's original population by a third.

Until lately, ASEAN has virtually become silent conspirators to hide Indonesia's dirty, bloody secret in East Timor.

Women and Gender

APCET recognizes the fact that the women of East Timor bear the brunt of the war in their country - rape and sexual abuse as methods of war, famine, forced birth control, beatings and torture, disappearances. They too are the mothers and wives of the sons and husbands waylaid in the struggle.

Women's emancipation must happen in all forms particularly because women are active players in all aspects of the society.

In the farms or in public service, in education or health, in the armed liberation struggle or at the negotiation table - women are always present.

It is against this background that APCET is committed to contribute to the transformation of gendered power structures by integrating women and gender concerns and issues in the processes and policies of the coalition.



Goals

The East Timorese people are moving towards complete self-determination. Disparate East Timorese forces have bonded together to form the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT). The birth of CNRT manifests the innate readiness of the East Timorese people to unite amidst their sovereign and inherent right to govern themselves.

The formation of a self-governing country is a far wider and more intricate undertaking than merely determining the form of government. It involves every aspect of managing a country that requires careful and long-term planning.

Thus, the coming months, even weeks, will be critical for the East Timorese and APCET in escalating not only the campaign for self-determination but more importantly for laying the foundation of a new independent East Timor.

APCET seeks to:

- ◆ Lobby governments particularly those from Southeast Asia to actively mediate, if not, participate in the peaceful resolution of the conflict;
- ◆ Assist East Timorese partners in identifying development models for possible adoption;
- ◆ Consolidate and strengthen the coalition and its national and regional affiliates;
- ◆ Sustain the gains made by the coalition in education and awareness campaigns and solidarity formations;
- ◆ Prepare the Coalition to support and cooperate with the East Timorese civil society in a post-independent East Timor.

Activities

In addition to biennial conferences, the coalition's efforts are also geared towards providing advocacy assistance, building awareness, lobby work, networking and organizing. These initiatives and efforts and the responses the coalition generated from governments, media, regional and international bodies have broadened and strengthened the Asia-Pacific peoples' solidarity for East Timor.



Organization and Structure

APCET CONFERENCE

This body which meets once every two years is the highest policy-making body of the coalition. It is here where the coalition's broad directions are defined and specific resolutions are drafted.

COUNCIL

Representatives from the national affiliates comprise the APCET Council. The Council is the policy-making body of the Coalition in between the conferences.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Composed of five members elected from the Council, the Steering Committee is the Executive Body that guides the Secretariat's operations. It also acts as the Editorial Board of APCET's regular newsletter, the Estafeta.

SECRETARIAT

Runs the day-to-day affairs of the Coalition. Initiates and implements plans and resolutions of the Council under the direction of the Coordinator.

APCET

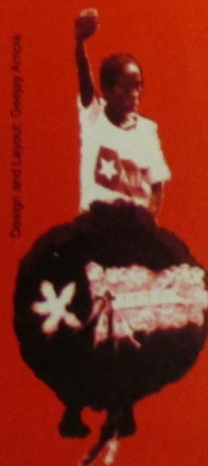


The Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) is a network of local, national, regional, sub-regional and international organizations and institutions that are involved in solidarity initiatives on East Timor. The Coalition was born after the watershed first Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET I) in Manila in 1994. Since then, APCET has been at the forefront of solidarity efforts in the Asia-Pacific region in support of the East Timorese quest for self-determination. APCET was successful in bringing the East Timor issue to the attention of freedom-loving peoples everywhere and into the mainstream of public opinion. And especially so within Southeast Asia. From APCET also emerged a victorious, broad, Asian-based peoples' solidarity movement for East Timorese resistance and human rights in general.

APCET Affiliates

Organizations that are national, sub-regional, regional or international in character may affiliate with APCET. Local affiliates are organizations in each country that are not national in character. They may become part of APCET if they are not a member of an existing national affiliate to APCET. However, the Council encourages local organizations to be part of existing national affiliates.

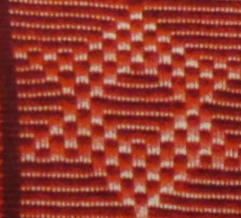
- Action in Solidarity with Indonesia and East Timor (ASIET-Australia)
- Asian Students Association (ASA-Youth Caucus)
- Australian Coalition for a Free East Timor (ACET-Australia)
- Center for Information and Reformation Action Network (PIJAR-Indonesia)
- East Timor Action Network-US (ETAN-US-U.S.A.)
- Free East Timor Coalition (New Zealand)
- Free East Timor Japan Coalition (FETJC-Japan)
- Friends of the Third World (G/Lanka)
- Hong Kong Round Table on East Timor (HongKong)
- Indonesian People in Solidarity Struggle with the Maubere People (IPSS-Indonesia)
- Indonesian Solidarity for People's East Timor (SOLIDAM-Indonesia)
- Korean East Timor Solidarity (KETS-Japan/Korea)
- Philippine Solidarity for East Timor and Indonesia (PHILSETI-Philippines)
- Solidaritas Timor Timur Masyarakat (S2TA-Taiwan/Malaysia)
- Thai Friends of East Timor (TFET-Thailand)
- Women's Caucus
- Moslem Caucus



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APCET Secretariat
c/o Initiative for International Dialogue
27-D Galaxy Street, Q888 Heights
Maitim 8000, Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax: (632) 799-2000
Telephone No.: (632) 299-2574 to 75
Email: apcet@skyinet.net
Homepage: <http://www.skyinet.net/~apcet>

Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor





ASIA-PACIFIC COALITION FOR EAST TIMOR

26 June 1996

David Webster

East Timor Alert Network - Toronto
P.O. Box 562, Station P
Toronto ON M5S 2T1
Canada

Dear David and Friends,

Two years ago, the watershed Asia-Pacific Conference for East Timor – or APCET as it was later popularly known – transpired in Manila. This was a turning point in the international campaign on East Timor and more so the Maubere people's struggle for self-determination.

APCET's aftermath showed vividly that the reality does not necessarily jibe with the rhetoric. Indonesian strongman Suharto refused to admit gross human rights violations in East Timor and showed nothing but sheer contempt for his ASEAN neighbors. For his part, Philippine President Fidel Ramos— himself an ex-general - tried vainly to suppress the constitutional guarantees of free speech and free expression in an effort to scuttle APCET to appease Suharto. At the end of the day, Philippine foreign policy was in shambles, the Ramos government's claim to democracy unmasked for what they are, and ASEAN realpolitik – characterized by Big Brother Indonesia's virtual domination of the regional grouping – revealed for all the world to see.

The voices raised in anger may have faded into oblivion by now, the diplomatic skirmishes and the media tit-for-tat nothing more than a distant memory. But they are definitely not mere footnotes in tomorrow's history books.

Yes, even if APCET has come and gone, certainly its impact has not been fleeting, nor its lessons so easily forgotten.

It is time to meet again.

Specially now as East Timor continues to be battered by the occupier. As the conflict has reared an ugly spectre – of how certain quarters project the issue as a religious strife.

This lie has to be smothered at the bud even as we continue to aggressively probe for peaceful solutions.

It is likewise time to consolidate the gains that emerged from APCET - a victorious, broad, Asian-based peoples solidarity movement for East Timorese resistance and human rights in general.

It is also time to assess and enhance our myriad endeavors to the more heroic and concrete struggle for peace. For the East Timor issue has long before become an international – more so – ASEAN issue.

That is why we are inviting you again to the Second Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor, or APCET II. We will congregate under the theme **"EAST TIMOR: THE SEARCH FOR PEACE"**. This will be held in November 8 to 12 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where a dedicated support network for East Timor is blossoming. Details of the venue and other mechanics of the conference will be sent to you after you signify your interest or confirm your attendance.

We hope that in Malaysia we would be able to buckle down, explore and exhaust all the possible avenues for peace in East Timor and how we in the international community – states or social movements – can contribute in bringing about peace and justice to the long-suffering nation of East Timor.

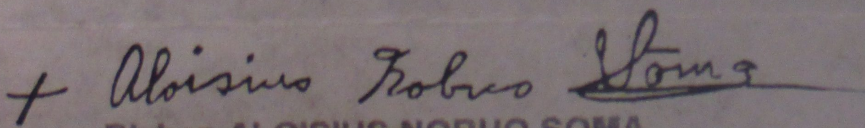
We look forward to be honored by your presence in November.

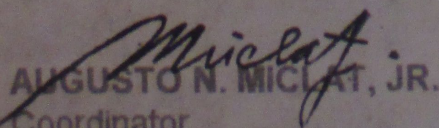
Please relay your response or queries to the **APCET secretariat in Manila** or the **Malaysian Host Committee c/o Sharaad Kuttan, SUARAM, 11 Road 1A/71E, Jalan Carey, 46000 PJ, Selangor, Malaysia, Tel. No. (603) 7943525, Fax (603) 7943526 and e-mail: suaram@pactok.peg.apc.org**

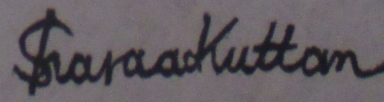
See you in Kuala Lumpur.

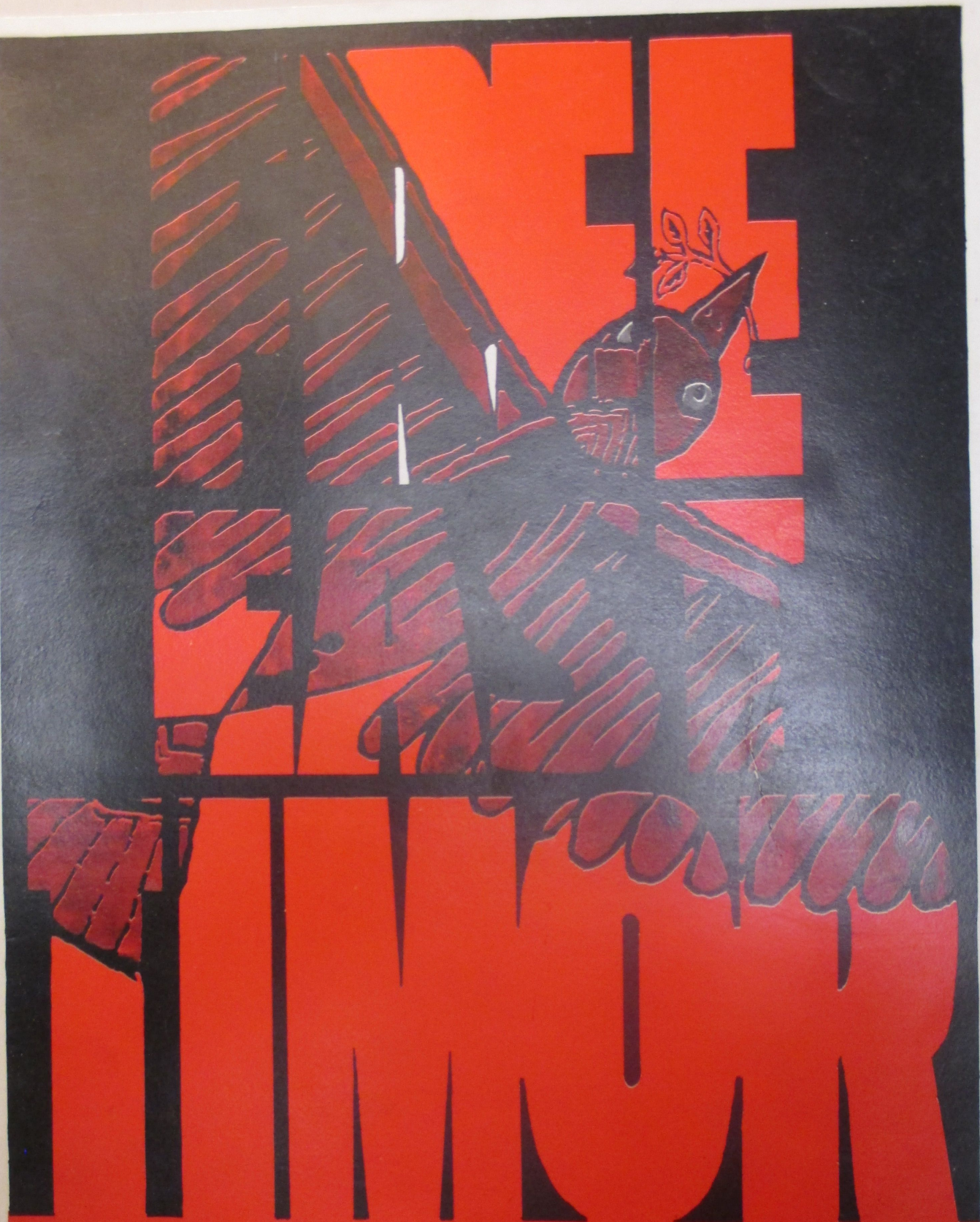
A Luta Continual

Yours very sincerely in warm solidarity,

+ 
Bishop ALOISIUS NOBUO SOMA
Honorary Chairperson


AUGUSTO N. MICLAT, JR.
Coordinator
APCET
Committee


SHARAAD KUTTAN
Convenor
Malaysia Host



Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET)
Report and Proceedings

May 31 - June 5, 1994

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Table of Contents

Foreword	i
Breaking the Silence: The Story Behind APCET	1
Welcome Remarks	14
Programme	18
An Account of the APCET Proceedings	20
Resolutions	36
Workshop Reports	38
Workshop 1: Implications and Perspectives of the APCET on Human Rights and Advocacy Work in the Asia-Pacific Region	38
Workshop 2: Building Asian Solidarity Links with East Timor	46
Statement on Behalf of the Foreign Delegation	52
Speeches and Messages	53
Keynote Speech 1: The Tragedy of East Timor is Our Own Tragedy	53
Senator Wigberto Tañada	
Keynote Speech 2: The Right to Self-Determination is the most Important Human Right	57
(Ret.) Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan	
Keynote Speech 3: What Needs to be Said, will be Said, Here and Elsewhere	63
Madame Danielle Mitterand	
The Right of Self-Determination and the Question of East Timor	65
Pedro Pinto Leite	
Asian Perspectives on Solidarity for East Timor	70
Yong Whan-Cho	
An Analysis of the Human Rights Situation in East Timor: An Asian View	72
Atty. Cecilia E. Jimenez	
Excerpts from Speech Video-taped inside East Timor for the Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor	77
Nino Konis Santana	
Let Us Continue the Struggle because the Light is Clearly Visible at the End of the Tunnel	79
Ines Almeida	
East Timor: History, Testimonies and Perspectives	82
Max Stahl	
East Timor's Struggle is also Indonesia's Struggle	86
Rachland Nashidik	
All peoples have rights to self-determination	88
John Otto Ondawane	
Don't forget East Timor	90
Bishop Aloisius Nobuo Soma	
Messages from Two Nobel Peace Prize Awardees	92
Justice will come to East Timor	92
Mairead Maguire	
Message to the APCET Participants	93
Rigoberta Menchu	
Closing Address:	94
Cardinal Sin's Letter	95
Appendices	97
CNRM Statement	98
Message to the Manila Conference on East Timor (FRETILIN External Delegation) To The Coordinator Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (ACFOD)	101

Message to the APCET from Agir Pour Timor, France	102
Message of Solidarity To The Organizing Committee Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	104
AKSI - Indonesia Solidarity Action Australia	
East Timor: 19 years of Human Rights Violations	105
Amnesty International Philippines	
Solidarity Message to the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	106
ASIN - Asia-Pazifik Informationsstelle	
To The Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	107
Human Rights Council of Australia Inc.	
Joint Statement by Malaysian NGOs on East Timor	108
Message to the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	109
L'Association de Solidarite avec Timor Oriental (ASTO)	
Letter from the East Timorese Political Prisoners in Dili	109
From University of Oporto, Portugal	110
Letter from Xanana Gusmao in Prison	113
Statement of Concern by Thailand-based NGOs and Individuals on the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	114
Greetings to APCET Organisers and Participants	116
Tapol: The Indonesian Human Rights Campaign	
A Message of Solidarity to the Struggling People of East Timor	117
Cordillera People's Alliance	
Statement on the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	117
Council for People's Development	
Movement for People's Genuine Autonomy	118
Let a million fists be raised! Advance the struggle for liberation!	119
National Democratic Front-Mindanao	
Statement of Solidarity for a Free and Independent East Timor	120
Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas	
A Statement of Solidarity to the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor	121
Pasig Masigasig Jaycees	
To the Organizers and Delegates of the Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor	121
Redemptorist Community	
State versus People	122
Sandigan para sa Mag-aaral at Sambayanan-University of the Philippines	
A Message of Solidarity to the People of East Timor from Small Filipino Fisherfolk	122
MALUPIT KA - Indonesia	
List of Convenors	123
Foreign Delegates to APCET	124
Philippine Delegates to APCET	125
List of Participants Blacklisted by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation	128
Documents	129
Temporary Restraining Order	129
Petition for Certiorari to overturn the TRO	130
Copy of Court Summons to Answer TRO	132
Agreement forged by APCET counsels with the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation	133
Supreme Court Order Overturning TRO	134
Selected Press Statements	136
Acknowledgments	140