

ETAN/ST. JOHN'S PROPOSAL FOR HOSTING ISABEL GALEOS - FALL 1995

WHEN:

- * for numerous reasons it may be best for us if we try and host Bella during late September or early October;
- * if we did this then we wouldn't clash with the key dates of November 12th and December 7th, where she would most likely be needed elsewhere;
- * it would give us a guest/speaker around which to build our first "public ETAN" meeting (which we want to have early in the fall anyway);
- * Bella's visit and the corresponding "founding" of the ETAN group, would help us to raise public awareness of November 7th and December 12th (and would create momentum for our new group to do something on these dates);
- * if September/October is not possible we could certainly still try for other dates;
- * I would need to check any "possible dates" with the Youth for Social Justice and the Human Rights Association;

BUDGET:

- * we have no money at this point (do you?);
- * however, if we can get some dates nailed down, and can figure out how much funding we need, then I firmly believe that we can come up with the cash to get her here for a few days;
- * some key questions/ issues are:
 - re: ticket - would Bella be travelling from Ottawa (might the NS groups be interested in sharing the expenses if she stopped over in NS?);
 - if we can be clear about the dates (well in advance), we could likely get a cheap ticket;
 - would she be willing to be hosted (ie: billeted) and therefore help us to reduce costs;
 - what sort of per diems \$\$ might she need (what has been the arrangement in the past?); obviously she would be well looked after and would eat with her billets for the most part BUT what would be appropriate in terms of additional funds?;

4 pages

Bruce C. Gilbert
64 Mullock Street, St. John's
Newfoundland
A1C 2R8
(709) 576-2194/2324 (fax)

ETAN/Toronto
PO Box 562 Station P
Toronto, ON
M5S 2T1

August 28, 1995

Dear David:

The following is my thinking on the possibility of Bella visiting St. John's.

I say "my" thinking because at this point I have not formally discussed the details with the current "informal" committee (although I have discussed it with numerous individuals on the committee).

Most of the Human rights Association Board/staff types are away on holiday and they need to be a part of this. I expect to meet with them in early September.

As well, as I stated in my B-Mail, the Youth for Social Justice Network is interested in getting involved, but we haven't met yet to discuss their role (hopefully next week we will discuss how they can coordinate the school visits and help with fund raising).

So, the following is rough and vague...but its a start!!

Ciao for now,

Bruce

- would we need to consider an honorarium?; if so how much?;
- * in any case, answers to these questions will give us a clearer idea of the total cost involved; once we have this, we can approach the HR Association and YSJ etc for funds;

CONTENT/ACTIVITIES:

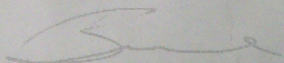
- * this needs to be worked out with the committee in conjunction with Bella;
- * the committee will meet in early September;
- * from my experience with St. John's, I see the following possibilities:
 - one well advertised public meeting where Bella speaks and the founding of ETAN St-John's is announced; possible performance by the Crackies (the street theatre group which you are familiar with--we would likely write something related to the Liberals new "non-human rights" policy););
 - two days of school visits (high schools in the St-John's area); this might mean 2-3 schools per day; details as to size of group (ie: classroom vs general assembly) will need to be worked out with the help of YSJ; what would Bella feel comfortable with);
 - various media interviews (primarily regional CBC radio/tv and the Evening Telegram);
 - possible meeting with St. John's Women's Centre, NAPE (Newfoundland Association of Public Employees, and Coalition for Equality);
 - one social event for the human rights/social activist community;
- * a possible schedule might be something like:
 - Sunday evening: arrive; get settled;
 - Monday: school visits/media interviews (both events would advertise the public meeting on Tuesday);
 - Tuesday: school visits/media interviews/public meeting;
 - Wednesday: meet with local groups, unions etc/see the area/social;
 - Thursday: depart

* this is rough but it gives you an idea of the scope of what we are discussing; it could be shorter/tighter or longer;

* key questions are: what type of activities would Bella like to be involved with?; what has worked well in other areas?; how long is she able/willing to come for?; how busy will she be at this time of year?;

Anyway, that's it for now !! Stay in touch !!

Sincerely,



Bruce

PS

I'd E-Mail this but I don't know how to download yet?!

ETAN NATIONAL MEMO

DATE: JULY 27, 1995

TO: ALL ETAN LOCAL GROUPS

FROM: ETAN/NATIONAL OFFICE

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS FOR
ISABEL GALHOS

Greetings!

As you may know by now, Bella has still not received final word regarding her refugee status in Canada, and may not receive an answer until late August or even September. She is, however, still planning to continue her speaking tour. It is important that we all think about where and when we would like her to speak and attend events, so that when and if her status is finalized, she will be able to make decisions which accommodate as many requests as possible.

Also, because so many of us would like to have Bella speak, it is important that she is aware of who wants her when, for what. Therefore, **we are asking that all groups send a proposal to the national office in Toronto, by August 31 at the latest, indicating the following:**

- where and when you would like her to speak;
- the nature of the event;
- expected attendance, media coverage, etc.;
- the nature of the audience;
- where and with whom she would be staying;
- financial and travel arrangements.

Also, please include more than one option as far as dates are concerned, so that if she cannot make it for the preferred dates, she can arrange for others (ie. if first and second choices).

The decisions regarding her schedule will be made objectively, taking into account geographical locations and Bella's own personal needs. Obviously, the events which will have the best impact for her country will be given priority throughout this important period.

Any concerns regarding this notice should be forwarded to David Webster in Toronto as soon as possible.

In solidarity,

David Webster
ETAN/ National Office

David Webster

2 page

THINGS WE NEED TO DISCUSS RE: BELLA'S VISIT TO ST. JOHN'S, NF

1) Money:

* do you know of any funds available that could help subsidize Bella's visit to NF?

* what sort of additional expenses might we expect? (has Bella been paid per diems in the past? if so how much per day? what about an honorarium? would this be expected?)

* at this stage we have \$300 committed and a fundraiser planned ... so our resources are limited. At this stage we are trying to determine the "minimum" costs to be incurred;

2-wk adv. special leaving Saturday
maybe go back.

2) Travel:

* is Bella ready to confirm dates? we need to know her arrival and departure dates BEFORE we can schedule some activities (ie: if she is here until Thursday we will have the public meeting on Wednesday night... if she is here only until Wed, then we will have it on Tuesday night etc); this info is critical!!!

* we can book and pay for the flight from here once we know the dates UNLESS THE TRAVEL AGENT YOU MENTIONED CAN GET US A DIFFERENT DEAL; CAN YOU GET US THIS TRAVEL AGENTS PHONE #?

3) Billing:

* is Bella OK with this?

* any special needs? (ie: allergic to cats?)

4) School Visits/Presentations/Public Meeting:

* we are leaving towards classroom type (40-60 min) presentations VS general assembly type sessions... is this OK?

* what has Bella been comfortable with in the past?

* we are also hoping to set up 1-2 presentations at the university (perhaps with the Women's Studies which has a fairly large project in Indonesia... is she OK with this?)

* are there any content issues that she would prefer we deal with (ie: is she willing to speak on Canada's role in Indonesia/ weapons sales OR would this be left to us? etc)?

David: I just got your E-mail -- I'll call around 8:30 - 9:00 PM your time!

B

March 7, 1996

URGENT

Honourable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister for Foreign Affairs
By Fax: (613) 992-7559

Dear Mr. Axworthy,

I was informed by your office today that our request to meet with you has been denied. I am writing again on behalf of Isabel Galhos and the East Timor Alert Network to ask you to reconsider your decision.

Your office has offered us the opportunity to meet with someone else in your department. But as I indicated in my last letter, we have already attempted to bring our concerns about Ambassador Parwoto's behaviour to the attention of your department. These concerns have not been acknowledged. I have forwarded your office copies of this correspondence for your information.

Ms. Galhos is embarking on another speaking tour on Tuesday March 12, 1996. As I wrote before, she and the East Timor Alert Network are very concerned about her freedom to continue speaking in Canada.

I am sure you must appreciate the seriousness of Ms. Galhos' situation and her urgent desire to meet with you in person before she leaves.

We would be grateful if you would reply as soon as possible by facsimile.

Thank you for your consideration.



Kerry Pither
Fax: (613) 563-7861

East Timor Alert Network

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M5S 2T1
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Local ETAN Chapters:

Vancouver
Calgary
Winnipeg
Windsor
Essex County
Guelph
Toronto
Ottawa
Montreal
Halifax
Newfoundland/Labrador



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- Montréal
- Halifax

Newfoundland/Labrador

March 4, 1996

BY FAX

Honourable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
by fax: (613) 992-7559

Mr. Axworthy,

On February 21, 1996, the East Timor Alert Network wrote to ask for a meeting. Today, I am writing again on behalf of Isabel Galhos and the East Timor Alert Network to stress the importance of this request. We have not yet received any assurance that you will meet with us.

We understand you are very busy, but we feel it is important to stress that this request is of an urgent nature. Please note that our complaints to your department about recent behaviour by Indonesian Ambassador to Canada have not been acknowledged. We are extremely concerned about Ms. Galhos' freedom to continue speaking in Canada.

As we pointed out in our last letter, Ms. Galhos will be leaving Ottawa on March 12, and would like to meet you to discuss her concerns before she leaves. Please inform us in writing if you are unable to meet with her before this date. I can be faxed at (613) 563-7861.

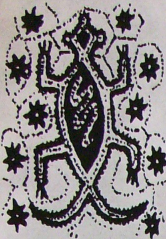
Thank you for your consideration,

Kerry Pither

for the East Timor Alert Network and Isabel Galhos

tel: (613) 236-7238

fax: (613) 563-7861



East Timor Alert Network

National Office:

Box 562, Stn. P

Toronto, ON

M5S 2T1

tel./fax: (416) 531-5850

email: etamor@web.apc.org

February 21, 1996

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
By Fax, 613-992-7559

Dear Mr. Axworthy,

At International Development week in Winnipeg, you indicated that you would be willing to meet with Isabel Galhos, an exile from East Timor, and with the East Timor Alert Network. We are now writing to request a meeting at the earliest possible date.

As you know, the East Timor Alert Network is a national association founded in 1987 by the Canadian Council of Churches. We would like to meet with you in light of several recent worrying events. These include continuing threats made by Indonesian Ambassador Benjamin Parwoto against the family of Isabel Galhos. The ambassador has repeated threats even after your government specifically asked him to cease in a letter of protest.

We would also like to discuss the issuing of Canadian military export permits to Indonesia, and the linkage of trade with human rights with regard to Indonesia and East Timor.

We are asking that you agree to meet to discuss these issues with Isabel Galhos and representatives of the East Timor Alert Network and the Canadian Labour Congress. Given recent events in East Timor, it is particularly urgent that you give your personal attention to these matters as soon as possible.

We would like to hold the meeting before the end of February if at all possible, but in any event before March 11, when Isabel Galhos will leave Ottawa. Please reply by fax at your earliest opportunity to (416) 588-5556, or phone (416) 531-5850.

Finally, our congratulations on your appointment as foreign minister. Given your past interest in and support for East Timor, we look forward to a productive relationship.

Yours sincerely,

David Webster, for the
East Timor Alert Network

Local ETAN Chapters:

Vancouver

Calgary

Winnipeg

Windsor/

Essex County

Guelph

Toronto

Ottawa

Montréal

Halifax

Newfoundland/Labrador



April 2, 1996

Honourable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0G2

By fax: (613) 992-7559

Dear Mr. Axworthy,

I received your reply to our request for a meeting today, and feel it is necessary to clarify certain points.

First, you say in your letter that we declined the offer of a meeting with officials of your department. We have not declined any meeting with your office, but on the contrary, we were informed by your office on March 4, 1996 that a letter containing this offer would be sent to us. We have not received this letter.

In your March 26 letter, you ask that we direct any further concerns to Mr. Vachon or Mr. James in the Southeast Asia Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs. As you may know, we have directed our concerns, in writing, to Mr. James. Unfortunately, his response of February 19, 1996 does not address most of our concerns. In fact, his response has raised new concerns, which we would like to bring to your attention.

As you may know by now, we faxed you a letter yesterday, April 1, 1996, asking again for a meeting. As our request indicates, we have received new information from East Timor which we would like to discuss with you. Ms. Galhos in particular, who is back from her speaking tour, would like to meet with you in person.

We at ETAN and Ms. Galhos know that you have spoken as a strong advocate for the people of East Timor. We are encouraged by your appointment as the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, and we hope now that you will accommodate our request to meet with you, in person.

Sincerely,

Kerry Pither
For ETAN and Ms. Isabel Galhos

**East Timor
Alert Network**

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SOURCE:	CLIENT	STATION:	----
PROGRAM:	SCRUM	TIME:	----
REFERENCE:	FA0123.T1	LENGTH:	05:00
DATE:	JANUARY 23, 1996		

ANDRÉ OUELLET ON EAST TIMOR

(POOR SOUND QUALITY)

Q: ...est menacé par le gouvernement indonésien?

ANDRÉ OUELLET (Foreign Affairs Minister): Si ces allégations s'avèrent véridiques, c'est une situation qui est absolument inacceptable. Nous ne pouvons tolérer de semblables pressions exercées sur quelqu'un qui habite au Canada, de la part d'autorités étrangères, et les fonctionnaires font une enquête présentement, et nous allons prendre des mesures aussitôt que nous aurons plus d'information.

Q: C'est pas embarrassant, à la suite de la visite de M. Chrétien?

OUELLET: C'est évident que si ces allégations sont véridiques, c'est une attitude qui est inacceptable, et nous allons agir en conséquence.

Q: ...la même réponse en anglais?

OUELLET: If these allegations are true this is absolutely unacceptable. We've asked our official to clarify(?) the situation and indeed, if it is accurate we will take measures to correct such a situation, because we cannot accept that a foreign country, representative, exerts pressure on people who live in Canada.

- 3 -

Q: What kind of measures will you take?

OUELLET: Well, I would like first to have more information about the situation, to establish clearly whether or not this is true. Then we will report to you and let you know what is the outcome of our investigation.

Q: Could you tell us what the possible scenarios could be?

OUELLET: Well, I prefer to wait until I have more information before further (inaudible)...

(SPEAKERS OVERLAP)

Q: On another subject, has there been any change on the future of RCI, Radio Canada International?

OUELLET: No, but I hope that the general report will come out soon and that the government will analyze the future of RCI and we'll conclude that this is an organization that should continue, and hopefully we will find the monies to permit this organization to continue.

Q: Could that happen between now and the end of March, which is the end of the...when it's supposed to take place?

OUELLET: Indeed, we will have to make a decision in this regard before the end of March because we know that already CBC has put notice to the employees that by the end of March they will no longer have a job, so it is imperative for the government to act before then.

Q: I'm told that you now have the timing of the Juneau report, is now in (inaudible)...

- 3 -

OUELLET: I...I have not received the Juneau report. As you know it's not given to me, and I...I cannot confirm or deny this. But certainly as Mr. Dupuy said, a decision would be made by our government after he has received the Juneau report.

Q: Will you call in the Indonesian ambassador to ask him about this? You said in French that your officials are investigating. Can you just clarify what the (inaudible)...investigation?

OUELLET: I wouldn't want to indicate exactly what are the measures. But indeed it is possible that the process at some point we will be in contact with the ambassador here. We...

Q: (inaudible)...investigate it without being (inaudible)...

OUELLET: No, you're quite right, that we have to have contact with the people at the embassy here, but I'm not sure it is with the ambassador himself.

Q: In your role as Quebec minister, can you indicate whether we might see some new prominent Quebec faces around here in the next little while?

OUELLET: I think you should ask the question to the Prime Minister.

Q: Well, we did, but he wouldn't answer.

OUELLET: (LAUGHS)...

* * *

Q: ... un remaniement éminent. Est-ce que vous pouvez nous le dire?

Isabel Galhos

Bella Galhos is one of only three East Timorese who have escaped to Canada. She was born in Dili, the capital of East Timor, on November 10, 1972. She was three years old when Indonesia invaded her country on December 7, 1975. In January 1976, the Indonesian military entered her home and killed her two young brothers, because they were crying out in hunger. Her aunt was raped to death after being forced to witness the brutal murder of her two children and husband.

Isabel grew up under the illegal Indonesian occupation, and witnessed much of what has been called the worst genocide, per capita, since the Holocaust.

She remembers the Indonesian military coming to her school and asking all the young women to line up, and all the men to leave.

"They told us we needed to be injected to stay healthy. I was frightened, I didn't trust them. Five of them had to hold me down, and they had a very hard time. Then they came to my home the same week and injected me again."

She later learned that she and her friends were injected with Depo Provera. Forced sterilization has played a big role in the military's attempt to wipe out the entire Timorese population.

Bella also recalls living under a constant fear of being raped. "Women in East Timor are raped all the time by the military. They just come into your home, and force you."

Bella is one of a new generation of Timorese who are more determined than ever to resist the occupation. She began to work with the underground resistance in 1989, encouraging people to join, and organizing demonstrations. In 1991, she became an official member of the clandestine movement, and convinced other women to join.

In 1991, Bella helped organize a peaceful demonstration in Dili after the Indonesian military killed another of her friends. Indonesian soldiers fired on the protesters, killing at least 271 and wounding 382. Bella managed to run to freedom, helping her pregnant aunt to safety. For three days afterward, the massacre continued, as the military rounded up



all of those who had taken part in the demonstration. This is now known as the Dili Massacre.

To stay alive, Bella joined the Indonesian military youth corps. For three years she lived a double life, helping the underground resistance while wearing an army uniform. She later saw this as a way to escape.

In 1994, and after months of interrogation and training, the Indonesian government selected her to represent them in the Canada World Youth program. They trained her to speak on behalf of the Indonesian government to the media in Canada. She was to inform Canadians that the people of East Timor are glad to be integrated into Indonesia. Her family was forced to sign a statement of responsibility for her actions in Canada.

But Bella defected in October 1994, putting her uniform in a box and sending it back to the Embassy of Indonesia in Ottawa.

Since then, Bella has been perfecting her English and touring Canada speaking out for her country's freedom. Once her country is free, Bella plans to return and set up a education centre where women learn to play a powerful role in rebuilding their country.

East Timor Alert Network Urgent Action Request

Summer 1996

Indonesian Ambassador Parwoto must be expelled!

Bella Galhos is one of only three Timorese who have escaped to Canada. She is a survivor of the November 12, 1991 Dili Massacre. She has personally witnessed many of the atrocities committed by the Indonesian military in East Timor.

Since defecting, she has spoken to thousands of Canadians about the genocide of her people. Now, she and her family are facing the consequences. Through their ambassador to Canada, the Indonesian government is trying to stop Bella from exposing the truth about East Timor.

Two days after our Prime Minister and "Team Canada" left Indonesia, on January 20, 1996, Ambassador Parwoto went to East Timor, where he went to Bella's family home and asked Bella's mother to call her daughter and tell her to stop speaking out. This "visit" was very frightening for the family, as it was meant to be.

Publicity pressured the Canadian government to issue a note of protest to the Ambassador about his attempt to intimidate Bella, but back in Canada just one week later, on February 8, Parwoto repeated his threats, stating on CBC national radio news that as long as Bella speaks out in Canada, there will be negative consequences in East Timor.

The Canadian government has checked on the safety of the Galhos family through their embassy in Jakarta, but so far has not taken any further public actions against the Ambassador (Any action taken must be as public as the Ambassador's threats to Bella). A note of protest was a positive step, but it meant nothing next to increasing trade and the continued refusal of the Canadian government to impose an arms embargo.

The Canadian government must not allow the Indonesian government to import its brutal and oppressive policies to Canada. It must demonstrate its support for Bella's right to speak freely, and expel the Ambassador from Canada.

No East Timorese family will be safe until Western governments like Canada's end their support for this brutal regime, and the Indonesian military ends its illegal occupation of East Timor.

The Indonesian government is obviously concerned about growing support for East Timor in Canada. Our Prime Minister should be too.

Please turn the page for action ideas, and help us keep the pressure on the Canadian government and the Indonesian government.



Please write, phone and fax. It will make a difference.

The East Timor Alert Network and its supporting organizations are demanding that the Canadian government immediately end its diplomatic, economic and military support for the Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

End Diplomatic Support!

Diplomatically, as a first step, the Canadian government should immediately demand that Indonesian Ambassador Benjamin Parwoto resign from his post as Ambassador to Canada, and return to Indonesia.

In the words of former Foreign Affairs Minister Andre Ouellet, it is unacceptable for representatives of a foreign government to attempt to intimidate a resident of Canada.

It is imperative that the Canadian government stop speaking on behalf of Suharto and his corrupt and murderous regime. The Canadian government has a responsibility to speak for the people of Canada.

The Canadian government must stop denying that genocide is taking place in East Timor, and stop calling East Timor a province of Indonesia!

End Economic Support!

The Canadian government has linked trade and human rights and imposed sanctions

against many countries like Nigeria and Sudan.

Trade must be explicitly linked to human rights in East Timor and Indonesia as well. Not just in words but in actions, by freezing Canadian investment until Indonesia respects UN Resolutions to leave East Timor.

End Military Support!

The Canadian government should impose an official, public, arms embargo on Indonesia, in keeping with its policy which is supposed to ban arms sales to countries engaged in conflict, and those which might use the equipment against civilians.

Trade unions, women's organizations, churches and thousands of Canadian citizens have demanded these actions. It is time for a change.

Please send copies of your letters to the Prime Minister and your Member of Parliament. In addition to writing your own letter, pass this on to a friend, and get organizations to write letters too. Ask specific questions, and demand answers.

Please call the Minister's office if you do not get an answer within two weeks. Also, please write letters to the editor in support of these demands.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
fax: (613) 992-5571

Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
tel: (613) 995-0153
fax: (613) 996-4309

**Please contact ETAN for more information, and send us copies of your letters:
ETAN/National Office P.O. Box 562, Stn. P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2T1
tel: (416) 531-5850 fax: (416) 588-5556**

To The Office of Jose Ramos-Horta
From [redacted] and Mrs. John VanDuzer, Toronto, Ont. Canada

To Whomever It May Concern, regarding Isabel Galhos and Abe Barreto Soares,

The matter of support for these two East Timorese people, who are living and working on behalf of East Timor in Canada, is vital.

They have been providing the link between East Timor and Canada for five years. They have provided leadership for lobbying and protest actions in Canada. Most importantly, they have ensured that actions in Canada are in the best interest of the East Timorese.

I have been most impressed with their dedication and continued, unending efforts on behalf of their countrymen, particularly in face of their own financial hardship.

As you can see from the detailed list of involvements, even though neither of them was trained for this role of protagonist, each has contributed freely his or her own talents in the interests of East Timor. They have given countless speeches wherever an audience could be provided. They have shown initiative in their activities, helping determine what actions would be most effective.

While they are out of the country on speaking tours, their physical needs are taken care of. However, in Canada, they have little means of support even though they continue to represent the interests of East Timor in a highly visible way.

It seems reasonable to expect that support should be provided to enable them to continue in this important work.

I am suggesting that a shared responsibility for their welfare would make sense, between the international body which is lobbying in all countries for self-determination for East Timor (CNRM) and Canada.

In keeping with this idea, I am also writing to the Canadian lobbying membership group, East Timor Alert Network, to address this question at its October annual meeting.

If there is any possibility that the situation in East Timor can be changed, it is essential that Isabel (Bella) and Abe maintain their efforts in Canada. They cannot be expected to continue without some personal financial stability — self-respect and a decent standard of living should be provided by all of us who count on their leadership. Otherwise, they will be forced to either reduce their involvement and seek employment elsewhere, or continue to live on welfare.

Please present this request for shared support of Bella and Abe, with your endorsement, to your organization.

1/10/11 - J. e. [redacted] [redacted]

APRIL 1995



the

ACTivist

For Peace, Ecology & Human Rights



**Isabel Galhos:
East Timorese woman
speaks out for justice**

**INSIDE:
INNU SUPPLEMENT**

Published by the ACT for Disarmament Coalition