Biographical Information - Agio Perreira

I was born in Lahava, East Timor in 1956. Attended formal studies in Missionary School - Bispo Medeiros, and later "Externato San Jose" college, now closed by the Indonesian Army due to the activists of that school, working frontally against the Indonesian occupation.

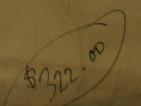
Before the invasion of the 7th of December, 1975, I was sent to portugal with a scholarship to continue formal technical studies. I could not return because of the invasion and the consequent occupation of East Timor.

I flew to Darwin in 1980 from Lisbon, Portugal. While in Portugal, I performed in various parts of the country to let the Portuguese know where is East Timor and what kind of people and culture we are. You may not believe, but the Portuguese people did not know where was East Timor. The only thing they knew was that "everything was in Africa". Together with a cultural group which I trained, we recorded the very first "L.P." in Lisbon, of our political folk songs. Rightly so, we called the album "400 Years Later"!

Due to the misrepresentation of the reality of East Timor in the period of 1975 - 78, together with a group of Timorese students in Portugal, we formed the first Timorese Committee abroad to campaign widely for the cause of East Timor since the invasion. The committee, made up of 150 activists, equipped with a cultural group and public speakers, performed and spoke on East Timor, not only in Portugal but also in France, Spain, Netherlands and other parts of Europe. After five years of activity, we think, we managed to put East Timor on the "map" of politics in Europe.

When I arrived in Darwin, Northern Territory of Australia, I chaired the first official Committee of Fretilin in Australia to challenge the Australian government on their stand on East Timor. Two years later, I became the first Australian regional representative for Fretilin (Timorese Front for National Liberation). I campaigned tirelessly to achieve what I call the "regionalisation" of East Timor i.e. put East Timor in minds of Asians. This is still my objective while, now in Sydney, working on my music and working part-time as the Executive Director of the prestigious "East Timor Relief Association Inc.".

My other interest is in the field of the environment. Conscious of the environmental degradation now taking place in East Timor as a direct result of the occupation, I have been studying environmental biology. I have worked for almost 5 years in Kakadu National Park — a World Heritage Site — in the Northern Territory of Australia. It was during my work in Kakadu that I made most of my songs for East Timor. The nature, sounds and songs of birds, the rivers and creeks, the open eucalyptus forests, made me feel at home and so inspired me.



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- ---- FEST

I am now in Sydney aiming at using the technological resources available to promote the culture of East Timor. I am organizing two big events:

- Paintings exhibition paintings of a Timorese "barefoot" artist, formerly also a student of "Esternato San Jose", recently left East Timor;
- An international Conference in the Philippines (Manila) to highlight the culture and politics of East Timor.

Another major event is, of course, my trip to Canada to work with you!

Kind regards, Agio Perreira

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East Timor freedom plea comes amid massacre

Related story on Page 7

By J. MASON FLORENCE Regional correspondent

OSAKA — A visiting East Timorese activist stopped in Osaka last week to perform folk music and speak about the oppression he and his countrymen are facing.

"I am here today to appeal to the people of Japan to take a stand for justice," said Agio Pereira, 35, a former committee chairman of the Australian chapter of East Timor's national resistance movement, during his three-week Japan visit.

The group, Fretilin, has been struggling to achieve independence from Indonesia.

Pereira's visit comes in the wake of a recent bloody massacre in the former Portuguese colony that has roused world attention.

On Nov. 12, Indonesian troops fired on some 2,000 demonstrators mourning the deaths of two youths killed in an earlier army shooting. According to eyewitnesses, the demonstration had been a peaceful one.

Although the Indonesian

government put the death toll as 19, other sources, including foreign journalists, say the number of victims may be much higher.

East Timor has been occupied by Indonesia since 1975. The area was closed by Indonesia to the outside world until 1988.

Since the invasion, according to Amnesty International, about 200,000 people have died in a place where the population today is about 600,000.

Pereira was born in East Timor at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago. He went to Lisbon at age 17 on a Portuguese government scholarship to study radar technology. He has not been home since then.

Pereira lives in Australia, home to some 15,000 East Timorese refugees. He is a wildlife researcher at Northern Territory University.

Pereira said he started writing songs at the time of the occupation to deliver his message to the world. "Music is one of the most vital forms of communication. It's the universal language."

A crowd of about 100 gathered at Osaka YWCA in to hear his songs and his message, which is that his homeland should have the right to independence and self-determination.

"East Timor has its own culture and identity," he said.

The show began with one minute of silence in memory of those killed in the recent violence. This set the stage for the 12 original songs he performed.

Pereira came to Japan by invitation of the Free East Timor Japan Coalition, a network of 10 citizens' groups campaigning for a solution the issue.

Kiyoko Furusawa, a spokeswoman for the group, became interested in East Timor in 1984 while she was studying developmental issues about Indonesia.

"I decided to inform the Japanese people what our government had been doing regarding East Timor," Furusawa said, referring to the imbalance between the aid Japan gives to Indonesia and the lack of concern for the



AGIO PEREIRA performs last week at Osaka's YWCA.

J. MASON FLORENCE PHOTO

people in the region.

Last year Japan provided about 13 percent of the official development assistance to the country. The volume is more than \$860 million.

Pereira will speak Saturday at a Tokyo symposium organized jointly by Furusawa's group, Sophia University's Institute for Social Justice and Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace.

He will perform in Fukuoka, Nagoya, Sapporo and other cities during his stay until Dec. 5 and will give a concert in Tokyo next Monday.

UM MINUTO DE SILENCIO

Calai Montes Vales e fontes Regatos e ribeiros Pedras dos caminhos E ervas do chao, Calai

Calai .
Passaros do ar
E ondas do mar
Ventos que sopram
Nas praias que sobram
De torras de pinguem.

Calai
Canas e bambus
Arvores e 'ai-rus'
Palmeiras e capim
Na verdura sem fim
Do pequeno Timor,
Calai

Calai-vos e calemo-nos POR UM MINUTO E tempo de silencio No silencio do tempo Ao tempo de vida Dos que perderam a vida PELA PATRIA PELA NACAO PELO POVO PELA NOSSA LIBERTACAO

CALAI - UM MINUTO DE

SILENCIO.

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

Be silent mountains vaileys and springs rivers and streams stony ways and grassy reaches, be silent

Be silent

Be silent

canes and bamboos

palms and grasses

endless verdure

bushes and eucalypts

of tiny Timor, be silent

It is a time for silence

for the silenced time

for the life times lost

FOR OUR LIBERATION

your silence, our silence FOR ONE MINUTE

the lives given

FOR THE PEOLPLE

FOR THE NATION

BE SILENT - ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE.

be silent
Be silent
birds of the air
and waves of the sea
winds that blow
on sands that llow
in lands that no-one owns,
be silent

Laterial Hammun
hand mos
hand mos
hananu
Loke matan hare'
Dalan ne lae kotu
Ema bara barak
Mai be' oin seluk hotu

LAORAI

Hau foin sae Nurak hela deit Mai be, lao rai ba rai

Lao rai Rai ba rai Mai be', rai ema seluk nian Fotoi ulun hare' Lalehan mamuk Manu fuik oan ida mos lae hananu Loke matan hare'

REFUGEE

I'm still young still very young indeed but already travelling everywhere

Travelling to different places but none belongs to me

The skies, when I look up are so lifeless even the sound of one bird is not heard

When one looks ahead it's aiways an endless road so many people around you but none is a familiar face

ASSASSINS

Silence my reason in the reason of your laws Suffocate my culture in the culture of your culture

Smother my revolts
With the point of your bayonet

Torture my body with the chains of your empire Subjugate my soul With the faith of your

religion
Plunderers
Assasins
Murderers
Robbers

My land, my people Bathed in blood Drained, exhausted

Barbarous civilisers:
a nation of
demagogues
Brutal colonialists:
an empire of pillagers

In the point of the bayonet Is carved the trail of your progress in the point of my bayonet Is carved the history in the form of my

liberation

Poetry on the action of colonialism is a form of liberty for colonised peoples.)

FO LIMAN BA MALU

Tan sa tan se Keta nanoin ona Fo' liman ba' malu Hodi **hadau** ita rain

Haksesuk nain sira Keta rona ona Sira Laran sei beik Laran lae naroman

Tan sa tan se Keta hanoin ona Fo' liman ba' malu Hodi **hadau** ita rain

Fo' liman ba' malu Hodi hadau ita rain Mak' ita hakarak manan dunik Hamutuk lolos lai

Hamutuk iha hahalok Hamatuk iha lian Hamatuk iha hanoin Hamatuk iha hahalok

O' metan ka mutin kınur ka malahok Fo' liman ba malu halo ro' ne' lao O'metan ka mutin kinur ka malahok Fo' liman ba malu halo ro'

ne' lao Tan sa tan se Keta hanoin ona Fo' liman ba' malu Hodi hadau ita rain

UNITE

Try now, not to think who or what was the cause united to regain our land Don't worry about troublemakers they are still ignorant they cannot understand that's what we really we we must be, first, genuine united

united
Be united
through our actions
when we speak
when we think
Be united
through our actions
Black or white,
yellow or pale
Unite to sail this ship

EAST TIMOR . I'M STILL FIGHTING

Side At: 1. Um Minuto de Silencio (Lyr. Borja de Costa, Comp. A. Pereira) 2. Lao Rai (A. Pereira) 3. Assassin (Lyr. Borja de Costa, Comp. A. Pereira) 4. Marcha de Manautio (pop. Arr. J. Justino) 5. Fo Liman ba Mabu (A. Pereira) 6. He Belb Sira (pop. Lyr. A. Pereira) 7. Kuda Hare (pop. Arr. J. Justino).

Side B. 1. I'M STIL FIGHTING (A. Pereira) 2. Soldado Java (pop. Arr. F. Pang, A. Pereira) 3. Oh Rai Timor (pop. Lyr. from the prisoners in Comarca-Dill. Comp. A. Pereira) 4. Imi Diak Ka Lae (A. Pereira) 5. Lakateu Tanis (pop. Arr. A. Pereira)

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Still Fighting · Agio Pereira

E



EAST TIMOR . I'M STILL FIGHTING

Many years passed by Many more to come; surrender? NO! NEVER! Two hundred thousand Timorese have died Yet, Ramelau is strong as ever.

Oh ... I'm still fighting I am still fighting In my mountains, in my jungle, In my villages, in the prisons; Oh ... I'm still fighting for my country.

Do you know why?
Do you know why?
If you don't I shall explain
This country is mine;
Everyone may go but I'll
always stay
This is my life
This is my soul
Souls never die
Oh... I'm still fighting etc.

In my mountains I feel free In my mountains I can smile In my mountains my song I can sing In my mountains I can sleep

In my mountains I can sleep In my mountains I can dream That is, in my mountains I can be me.

That's all I want I wanna be free That's all I want I wanna be me

involve produc especi Pereira guitar; recorde Pang -vocals; Teresa Joao Ju & flute. Cover d PRODL Agio Pe Anderso RECOR Trish An Dynami(Special t Abel Gut Konnen I organisin printing, fundraisin aunch of Fighting' for her su patience. And to 3C other orga who gave

kind -TH

Many friend who h