

THE HUMANITARIAN PROJECT FOR EAST TIMOR

No one can speak. No one can demonstrate.
People disappear. We live as if under the old
Soviet Union regime. For ordinary people, there
is no freedom, only a continuing nightmare.

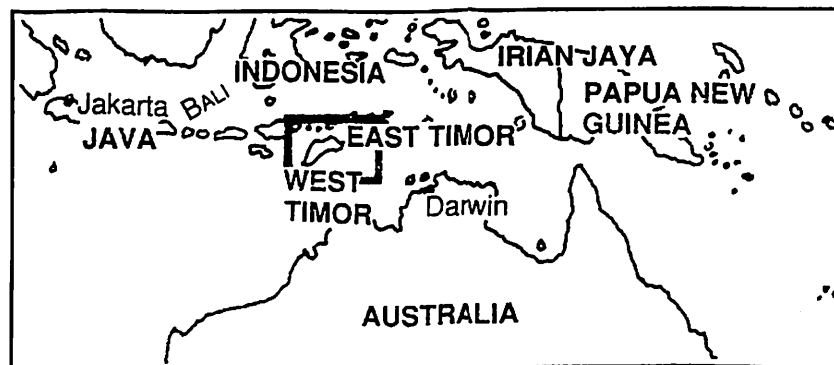
Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo
Bishop of East Timor

In 1975 the Indonesian army invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. Since then, the story — when it does get out from the isolated island — has been one of military occupation, political repression, torture, bloodshed and distant cries for help.

With the awarding of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, there is a real prospect for change. It is urgent that activity to support Bishop Belo's efforts in East Timor increase.

For over twenty years members of what is now called The Humanitarian Project have:

- SUPPORTED THE WORK OF BISHOP BELO and his predecessor Mgr. Martinho da Costa Lopes.
- PLACED DOZENS OF EDITORIALS and articles about the situation in East Timor in major newspapers and magazines such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe and the Los Angeles Times in the United States and abroad.
- PARTICIPATED IN THE PRODUCTION of three documentary films on East Timor and network television news reports in the U.S. and abroad.
- HELPED GENERATE PRESSURE for an international relief operation during the catastrophic famine in East Timor from 1978-1981.
- PLAYED A KEY ROLE in advocating the release of more than 4,000 political prisoners in East Timor in the mid-80s.
- HELPED BRING ABOUT DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION that helped avert further violence in the period following the November 1991 massacre at Santa Cruz cemetery in East Timor; gener-



ated pressure for improvement of human rights conditions on numerous occasions in the 1990s.

- ENCOURAGED THE PROVISION of humanitarian aid through church and private organizations.
- PROVIDED INFORMATION to policy-makers in Congress, the State Department and other major governmental, private and religious organizations in the United States and abroad.
- STIMULATED NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS and letters of concern in Congress and elsewhere.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- The formation of an international secretariat to assist the efforts of Bishop Belo with offices based in Washington, Rome, Lisbon, and other locations.
- Encourage greater contributions of humanitarian aid, especially in the field of health and education.
- Encourage greater involvement on the part of international Parliamentary institutions, the news media, the religious community, and nongovernmental organizations.
- Arrange fact-finding delegations to East Timor.

Contact with the outside world is vital. It gives us hope and some of us protection. More films please, more conferences, more letters . . . keep speaking, everyone must keep speaking about us.

Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo

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