

# E. TIMOR UPDATE

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A Publication of the EAST TIMOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Summer 1981

## November 1981 – A Month of Solidarity and Action

This fall the East Timor Human Rights Committee (ETHRC) and the Pacific Concerns Research Center (PCRC) will be organizing an international month of action on East Timor. The month that has been targeted is November 1981 during which the U.N. will be debating and voting on this year's resolution on East Timor. November 28th is also the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

The objective of this project is to coordinate a united statement of concern and opposition to Indonesia's occupation and policies in East Timor. Through public education and demonstrations, the question of East Timor can be raised before many new people and organizations.

As it is now envisioned, the ETHRC, the PCRC and at least one other organization will mail out a RESOURCE PACKET to all of their interested contacts (see insert). These



packets will probably include a poster, background pieces, leaflets, maps, slides and 8x10 photographs relating to the situation in East Timor.

These packets will be provided to any group or individual

who wants to organize some type of activity for the November action. There is no charge for the packets although contributions are sorely needed. To get a packet, fill out and return the inserted page.

The ETHRC will be taking responsibility for organizing activities in the U.S. and throughout Europe. The PCRC will be coordinating the activities of their contacts in the Pacific Basin and we are working with the Asian Forum on Human Rights to coordinate activities in Asia.

To facilitate these activities, speakers from the ETHRC will be available to speak in communities throughout the U.S. throughout October, November and early December. If you are interested in hosting a speaker, contact us. As always, such speaking trips to communities have to pay for themselves, coordinating such a visit with other organizations or universities helps to offset travel and other expenses.

If people are willing to make this effort at this time, it can have a significant effect. All participating groups will be asked to send back a report on their activities. These will be compiled and published in a November Action Project Report.

We are sure that the Action and the Action Report will help to raise the profile of the issue of East Timor in both national and international circles.

## the UPDATE

Well, we're sure that many people feel it's about time they receive something from us. This is it, we feel that the time, energy and need are right to begin a newsletter on East Timor. For starters, we are planning on publishing it quarterly and if there are items of immediate need, we can supplement it with Action Bulletins. With a quarterly,

we think we can sustain it financially and with sufficient news items. Rest assured that we will publish more often as the need and interest increase. We're asking people to fill out and return the insert to continue receiving the UPDATE. So, if you are still interested in receiving information on East Timor, just return the slip. There's no charge (we are asking for contributions, we need them badly –see the insert.)

## People's Tribunal Verdict

successor to the Bertrand Russell Tribunals which were founded by Bertrand Russell and Jean Paul Sartre. The precepts of the Tribunal are heavily based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recent Tribunal hearings have been on the Philippines, El Salvador and the invasion of Afghanistan.

Although the Tribunal's verdict has no power of enforcement, it is nonetheless significant. It is the first time that an international body has recognized the reality of the genocide in East Timor on the firm and "incontrovertable" evidence of diplomats, lawyers, experts and refugees. The findings of the Tribunal are sure to stir activities on East Timor, especially in Europe where the Tribunal is based.

In its closing remarks, the Tribunal

noted Australia's complicity not only because of its failure to help East Timor despite its ability to do so but also because the Government has placed Australian-Indonesian relations above the rights of the East Timorese. Concerning the governments of Western Europe, the Tribunal noted that money given to Indonesia by the Inter-governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI) for domestic programs had been used by Indonesia to purchase Lockheed C-130 military aircraft which were used to transport troops and equipment into East Timor.

Finally, the Tribunal noted the special responsibility that Portugal had to assure that East Timor achieved its independence.

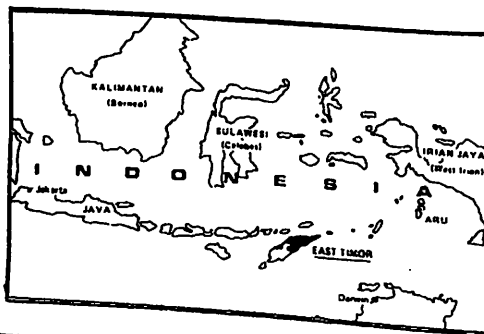
The Tribunal encouraged "all governments and organizations to provide assistance and aid to East Timor" in order to offset the crimes of those governments and agencies which assist Indonesia to continue its occupation.

## International UPDATE

.... Newly elected French President Mitterand's comments on East Timor were quoted in the May 25th issue of Time magazine, "Let us speak of the forgotten man, abandoned, lost, delivered over to the powers that crush him. People in most places are dying of Hunger, of misery and solitude; a whole people was killed in Cambodia, and another is being killed in Timor...." Perhaps the East Timorese will be heartened by this statement as Indonesia is using French-made AMX tanks in East Timor (see TIMOR UPDATE).

interesting to note that the Indonesian military increased its activities at the same time (see TIMOR UPDATE).

.... The Asian Wall Street Journal reports that Israel has agreed to transfer 16 more A-4E Skyhawks to Indonesia. Although Indonesian officials say the deal was worked out with the U.S. and denies any bargaining with the Israelis, U.S. officials were surprised by the deal and said they "weren't consulted or even notified about it." A number of other Moslem nations have been grumbling about the deal, but the planes which cost \$25 million will be shipped directly from Israel to Indonesia with U.S. approval.



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We have positions open for interns with the East Timor Human Rights Committee. These positions, which are unpaid, would entail assisting in the continuing development of the National Education Project on East Timor and organizing at the local, national and international levels. Applicants should expect to find useful experience in human rights organizing, grant development and resource production. Related fields of interest are International Human Rights, Decolonization, Political Economy, Relief and Developmental Aid, World Hunger, International Politics and Militarism in the Third World. Location preferably in New York City or Syracuse, New York. Send inquiries and applications to ET UPDATE.

Please fill out the form below in order to continue receiving this newsletter.

.... Please continue to send this newsletter to the address below. (YOU MUST RETURN THIS SHEET TO BE ON OUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.)

.... Enclosed is a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to help produce and mail the newsletter. (\$5.00 is suggested.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Below are some questions which we are asking you to fill out if you are interested in participating in the November action (see p.1). If you would rather write us a letter, that would be great, but do enclose this sheet too so that we can put you on our mailing list. Even if you cannot participate, we do need help to fund this project, so, please help out.

\_\_\_\_ I/We want to take part in the November action project. I/We can organize:

1) In the following communities:

2) Within these local groups: \_\_\_\_\_ human rights, \_\_\_\_\_ peace and justice, \_\_\_\_\_ hunger, \_\_\_\_\_ religious, \_\_\_\_\_ political, \_\_\_\_\_ Third World related, others \_\_\_\_\_

3) I/We have access to: \_\_\_\_\_ local newspapers and media, \_\_\_\_\_ local universities, \_\_\_\_\_ religious councils (\_\_\_\_\_ local, \_\_\_\_\_ state, \_\_\_\_\_ national), organizational networks: \_\_\_\_\_ human rights, \_\_\_\_\_ hunger, \_\_\_\_\_ peace and justice (at the \_\_\_\_\_ local, \_\_\_\_\_ state, \_\_\_\_\_ national levels), others \_\_\_\_\_

4) I/We would be interested in receiving:

\_\_\_\_\_ a resource packet  
\_\_\_\_\_ a slide show with script  
\_\_\_\_\_ rental(\$10.00)  
\_\_\_\_\_ purchase(\$30.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ inviting a speaker to your community for the fall. (We urge groups to start planning and searching for funding possibilities now.) Dates when we would be interested in having a speaker are \_\_\_\_\_

5) I/We are thinking about these dates to hold our programs:

6) \_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to receive a copy of the complete list of all groups taking part in the action (which will be compiled from the reports of the groups - BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR REPORT.)

\_\_\_\_ In order to help out, we are enclosing a contribution to help pay for our resource packet or the packet of someone who wants to participate but cannot afford it.

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## WILPF and FFP

### Take Up the East Timor Issue

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), a women's peace group founded in 1915, took the East Timor issue under its wing at its June national conference in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Following a presentation and discussion with Patrice Donahue, a resolution was drafted which supported U.N. resolutions on East Timor and an end to U.S. military assistance to Indonesia until the latter withdraws from East Timor. The WILPF plenary session passed the resolution unanimously.



During lunch, the Southeast Asia Committee of WILPF decided to endorse national support for the November Action Project (see p.1) as well as giving space in their newsletter for an article this fall.

We appreciate WILPF's warm welcome, cooperation and overwhelming support for the East Timorese people.

On July 3, Patrice hit the road again to speak at the Annual Friends of the Filipino People Conference at Powell House, near Albany, New York. While the Conference participants included Filipino activists and their U.S. supporters there were also representatives from groups working on El Salvador, Nicaragua and South Korea.

Even though most of the participants had already become familiarized with the struggle in East Timor, all expressed strong concern and support for continued work, especially with regard to the November Action project.

We will be following up on their helpful suggestions and look forward to working with them on the November project. We sincerely thank them for the opportunity to join hands in solidarity.

## Washington UPDATE

... As a result of Indonesia's East Timor. Recent activities increased military operations, by Senators Hayakawa, Tsongas and Kennedy were noted.

Rep. DON EDWARDS (D-Calif.) entered articles and remarks on the activities, saying he was concerned about the military actions. He urged the strongest possible condemnation of any such military operations and advocated the support of Portuguese and U.N. initiatives on East Timor.

... "Across the political spectrum," voices in Washington are focussing attention on East Timor, so writes the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (June 17). The editorial noted that even the conservative swing in both Washington and Lisbon during last fall's elections, both governments have been tuning into the problems facing

East Timor. Recent activities by Senators Hayakawa, Tsongas and Kennedy were noted.

.... Indonesian newspapers reported that Indonesia began "MILITARY EXERCISES" that included amphibious and airborne assaults on East Timor. These "exercises" took place in late March and early April. Reportedly, 10,000 fresh Indonesian troops were involved in raids on several areas where Fretilin resistance has been heaviest, including Baucau, East Timor's second largest city. Indonesian newsreports specifically cited the use of U.S. made Bronco OV-10 aircraft and French AMX tanks for these operations.

## U.N. UPDATE

.... The Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance of the Special Committee on Decolonization heard testimony from AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS and CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED on East Timor. The CALC testimony was prepared and presented by the East Timor Human Rights Committee, which is working closely with CALC on East Timor. In the testimonies, the U.N. was urged to increase its informational coverage of East Timor in its publications, give increased attention to assisting the East Timorese and to prepare a documentary film on East Timor.

.... For the first time since Indonesia's invasion of East Timor, U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM visited Portugal. "Timor Newsletter" reports that during his discussions with Portuguese officials, Waldheim talked about the situation in East Timor. Although it's thought that the Portuguese may have asked Waldheim to act as an intermediary in a plan to bring an end to the occupation of East Timor, no mention of this has been made by the U.N.

## TIMOR UPDATE

-rations.

.... There are still at least 500 REFUGEES stranded in Jakarta who are trying to get the passports they need to leave Indonesia. Reportedly, the Dutch who have acted as Portugal's liaison in Indonesia since diplomatic relations between Portugal and Indonesia were severed, are doing everything they can but it appears that the Portuguese government is delaying the issuing of the needed passports.



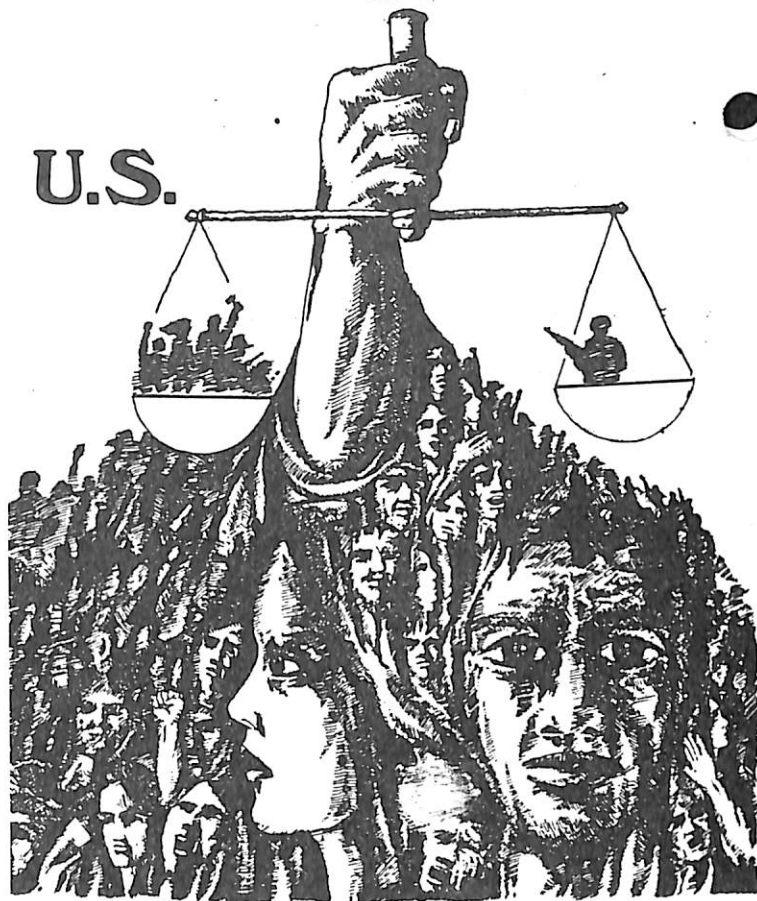
## Verdict: Indonesia and the U.S. GUILTY

In a forty page verdict delivered on June 23rd, the Permanent People's Tribunal found the Government of Indonesia guilty of violating international law and human rights and the U.S. government, along with Australia and many Western European governments, guilty of complicity in these acts.

Most of the document was spent in detailing the historical, political and legal background for the final decision. In the development of the verdict, the Tribunal conferred its recognition of the Maubere (Timorese) people as a national group, the legitimacy of the Democratic Republic of East Timor and the status of Fretilin as the unique representative of the East Timorese in their struggle for self-determination.

Citing the testimonies of several witnesses, the Tribunal found the Government of Indonesia guilty of several specific charges, including violations of the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention.

In addition, the Tribunal spent five pages detailing the specific actions, motives and consequences of U.S. complicity in the crimes. The Tribunal pointed out that the U.S. government has consistently supplied military and diplomatic support to Indonesia at crucial times. The Tribunal felt that the



"systematic subordination of the needs and rights of the people" was due to the interests of U.S. "political imperialism" which was also evident in Indochina, throughout Asia and in "Africa and Latin America too."

The Tribunal had called on Indonesia to present its defense, but it refused to respond. In its place, Michael Chamberlain of the ETHRC was asked to compile and prepare a statement on Indonesia's position.

The Permanent People's Tribunal is the  
(continued on page 2)

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