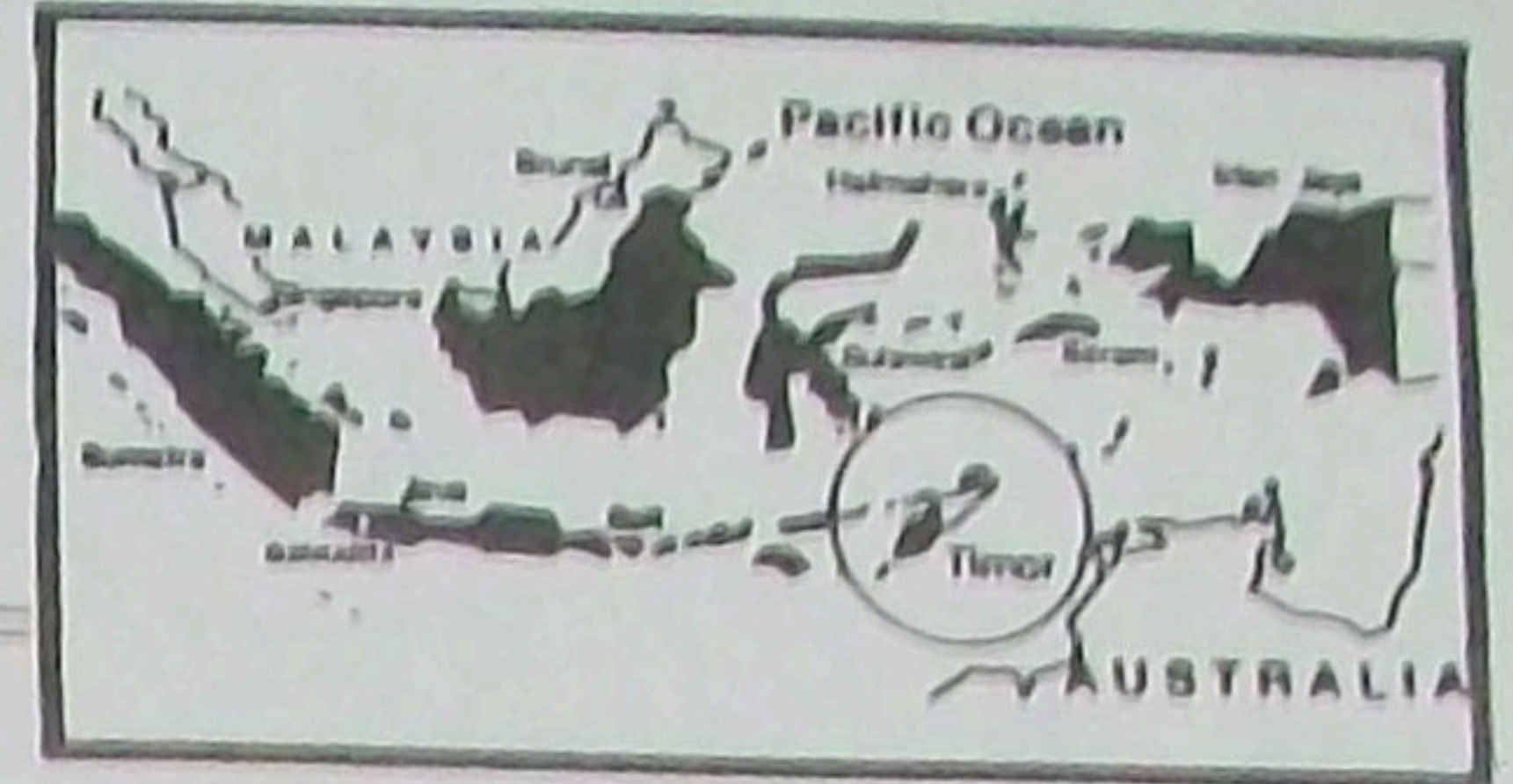


# East Timor Wavata



*In December 1975, just ten days after declaring its independence from Portugal, the tiny country of East Timor was invaded by its neighbour Indonesia. In the decade -and-a-half since, an estimated 250,000 people — over a third of the population — have been killed. Genocide and massive human rights violations — including rape, forced abortions, torture, indiscriminate killings and mass executions — go on to this day. But so does the struggle for freedom of the East Timorese people. It is largely the support of countries like Canada that allows the Indonesian military to maintain its occupation.*

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## East Timor and Kuwait

In 1990 Iraq invaded the tiny state of Kuwait: the international community reacted quickly and decisively to stop the occupation. In 1975, Indonesia invaded the tiny state of East Timor: the world condemned the invasion, but did nothing.

The contrast between the two reactions is the subject of a new backgrounder released by the East Timor Alert Network. It covers the basic facts, war and resistance in East Timor since 1975, the 1990 military offensive, the United Nations position, human rights violations, Canadian policy, and the question of oil. The backgrounder is available for \$1 from the East Timor Alert Network (send to Toronto address).

**ACTION:** Ask your local newspaper to read the backgrounder and give East Timor the same attention given to Kuwait. Copies of the backgrounder and other materials will be sent to editors on request.

## Army tortures students

At the heart of recent East Timorese protest against Indonesian rule is the student-led "Timorese Intifada." Young people have been demonstrating almost constantly since the visit of the Pope to East Timor in 1989, while Indonesian military authorities have grown more repressive in response. According to church sources in the capital, Dili, "never before has the situation been so terrible or so tense." An elaborate network of young Timorese activists has developed, linking the diplomatic front abroad with the resistance leadership in the mountains. No fewer than 16 different groups, active in East Timor and among Timorese students in Indonesia, have become the main target for army operations.

Methods used during army intelligence interrogations include beatings with iron bars, batons and bare fists, burning with lighted cigarettes, slashing with razor blades and immersion for long periods in fetid water.

—Tapol



## STOP ARMING INDONESIA!

The photo above shows Indonesian helicopters in East Timor just before the latest military offensive, launched last fall. Many of Indonesia's military aircraft are powered by engines supplied by Pratt and Whitney of Canada.

Despite its claims to be at the forefront of arms control, Canada is among the countries which sell military equipment to Indonesia. One Canadian company, Pratt and Whitney, provides the engines for many of Indonesia's counter-insurgency helicopters, which are used in the war in East Timor. Other companies, including de Havilland, General Motors of Canada, and Litton Systems, have also been authorized to sell arms to the Indonesian military. According to José Ramos-Horta, former East Timor representative to the United Nations, "these weapons play an important role in the war in east Timor."

Demand Canada ban arms sales to Indonesia until it ends its war against East Timor. Write to: External Affairs Minister Barbara MacDougall, House of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6 (postage free).

## Offensive fails to capture resistance leaders

Information from East Timor indicates that the Indonesian military offensive initiated in November 1990 aimed at capturing resistance leader Xanana Gusmão and other FRETILIN Central Committee members, is proceeding relentlessly all over the country, with atrocities against the civilian population in the villages.

A message dated 13 April, the commander of the 2nd guerrilla unit, Alex Dai-Tula, said the Indonesian army launched a major offensive in mid-February this year, in the sub-districts of Uatolari, Ossu, Venilale, Vemasse, Laleia, Baucau and Viqueque, with 6 battalions, supported by helicopter-gunships.

On the other hand, a report sent out by the underground resistance, dated 17 April, claims that military operations against the East Timorese resistance are continuing; it said that from November till March, at least 149 Indonesians were killed and many more injured, in the areas of Same-Ainaro (70), Aitana (47) and Laleia (32). A large quantity of US-manufactured M-16 rifles, ammunition, a radio trans-receiver, and first-aid kits were seized.

In one typical report, Mau Hodu Ran Kadalak described his escape from an encirclement operation: "The enemy deployed a chain of ambush groups every hundred

metres — on the slopes, the mountains, the hillocks and in our temporary supply bases — the enemy was everywhere! Nobody would have bet a cent on my chances of survival, and when everyone thought I was among the 'saudasos' (the deceased), I suddenly reappeared. They asked me: 'How did you manage to escape?' I just answered, 'Matebian protects us!' (Matebian is the ancestors' spirit)."

—Fretilin

## Pope remembers E. Timor

While visiting Portugal in May, Pope John Paul II made his strongest statement yet on behalf of the rights of East Timor and its largely Catholic population. "I hope this problem of East Timor will be solved in a way that respects the principles of justice, human rights and international law," the Pope told a national radio audience. "What I want for this community is ... that it should be able to live according to the principles that it believes in — with its own language, its own culture, its own traditions and its own religion."

Polls taken shortly before the visit showed that nearly 70% of Portuguese thought the Pope should speak out on behalf of Portugal's former East Timor colony. John Paul's statement came after a leading Lisbon daily headlined its main story 'Pope forgets East Timor again.'

