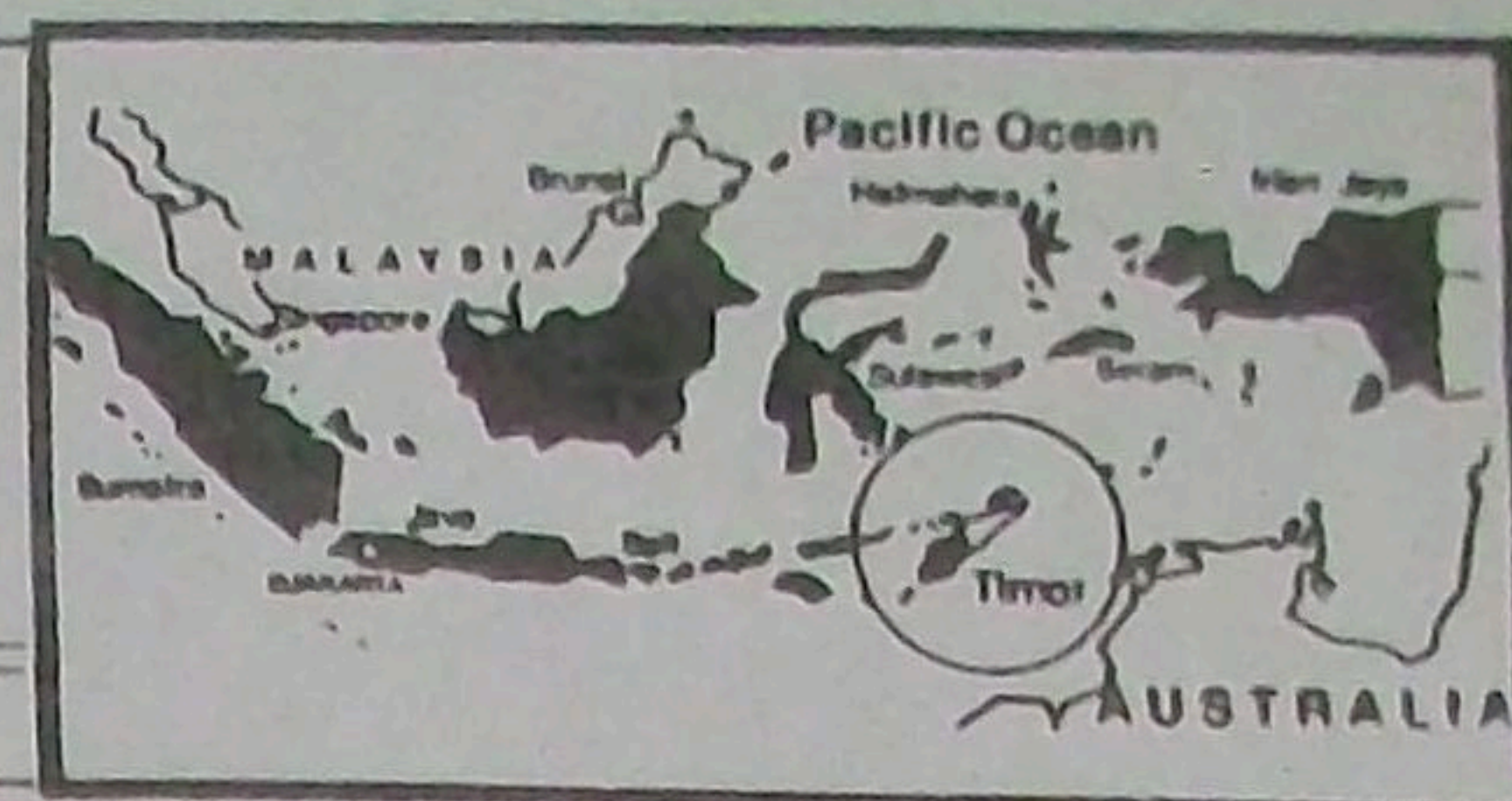


EAST TIMOR WAWATE



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.



Portuguese human rights mission to visit Timor

A Portuguese parliamentary delegation will make a long-anticipated visit to East Timor (formerly "Portuguese" Timor) in late August, after several years of delays and resistance from Indonesian authorities. The agreement for the visit, and for a ceasefire for its duration, was made in July in talks between Portugal and Indonesia at the United Nations.

Abilio Araujo, an overseas leader of the Timorese independence movement Fretilin, said that Portugal should seek guarantees that no atmosphere of terror will be created during the visit (as has been the pattern with previous visits by the Pope and others). After the visit, he added, Portugal "must resume its task of completing the process of decolonization."

Portugal is still internationally recognized as the administering power in East Timor, and has spoken against the Indonesian occupation repeatedly in international forums. The country's diplomats gained increased respect recently by brokering a peace agreement in the decades-old war in Angola.

Council of Europe supports East Timor

The issue of East Timor has moved up on the European agenda since the Gulf war. "Mobilization of support for the Kurds of Iraq should be paralleled by action on behalf of the people of Timor," according to a report recently approved by the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the 24-nation Council of Europe. The Council called for a United Nations-sponsored settlement, for countries with economic links to Indonesia to apply human rights criteria to their aid, and for a ban on arms sales to Indonesia. However, one European state, Britain, has just announced a major new sale of Hawk military aircraft to the Indonesian armed forces, estimated to be worth nearly \$2 billion.

Soccer players defect

In an incident which has embarrassed Indonesia's ruling generals, four members of the first Timorese soccer team to be allowed to travel abroad have defected. The

four travelled with their team to take part in the Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia, and took the opportunity to seek political asylum. Two are now refugees in Portugal and two in Australia. Their team-mates and relatives are now under heavy Indonesian pressure.

Canadian MPs speak out

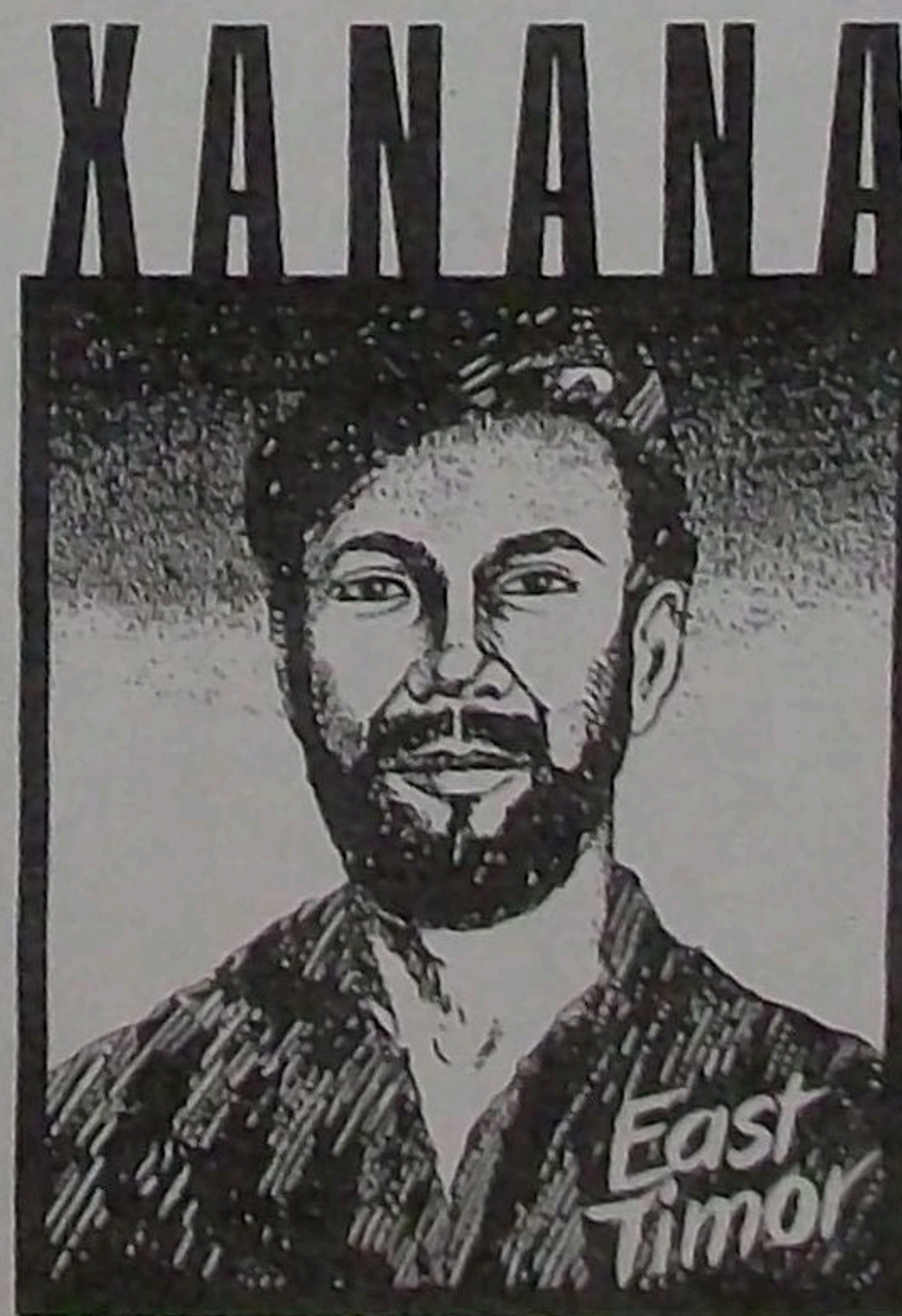
The Canadian branch of Parliamentarians for East Timor, which includes members of the New Democratic, Liberal, and Reform parties, has launched two initiatives: a petition campaign calling for Canada to adhere to UN resolutions on East Timor's right to self-determination (petitions are available from Ray Funk MP, House

of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6, or from the East Timor Alert Network) and a private member's bill sponsored by Lynn Hunter which states "that, in the opinion of this House, the government should recognize the independence of East Timor and condemn the 1975 occupation by Indonesia."

E. Timor at IPB conference

The 99th annual International Peace Bureau conference in Toronto will include a workshop on East Timor for the first time, on Saturday September 14. A campaign to ban all weapons sales to Indonesia will be launched at this conference. For details, call ACT for Disarmament, (416) 531-6154.

scribed in testimony by his 15-year old nephew, Jorge Avelino Gusmão:



This colour poster of Timorese resistance leader Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão is available from the East Timor Alert Network national office. Xanana has become the target for repeated (unsuccessful) Indonesian campaigns to capture him since being interviewed by Australian radio last year. His family, living in Indonesian-controlled territory, has also been targeted, as de-

"After [student pro-independence protests] at my school, I spent one a half months in hiding. [At the police station] I was interrogated. After the interrogation I was told to think hard to see if I would change my mind and denounce my other companions as I had been called upon to do. Fifteen minutes later I was again called to the office and asked if I had anything more to add. When I remained silent two policemen began punching me on the head, chest and belly. When they tired of this, because their hands were hurting them, they began to beat me on the back with truncheons. This suffering lasted nearly an hour. They then put me in a cell to rest. My face was completely swollen and black and blue. At 3:00 in the afternoon they took me from the cell and again began to punch and beat me. These were not the same men that had beaten me earlier.

"On the following day at 3:00 in the morning, they again beat me and then took me to another police prison... Here, two policemen on duty received me and continued the same treatment until almost the following morning. This time the blows were only on the pit of the stomach and on the chest. One would hit me until he was tired and then the other would take over and so on. As well as this mistreatment they hurled insults at me and at my uncle."

EAST TIMOR and KUWAIT

A 14-page background from the East Timor Alert Network — now in its second printing. Available for \$1 from PO Box 562, Stn. P, Toronto M5S 2T1.

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