



EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 27 — November 1, 1993

Canada accused of "hypocrisy" on Timor

"Canada is one of the most hypocritical countries in the world," according to the overseas representative of East Timor's resistance movement.

José Ramos Horta, special representative of the National Council of Maubere (Timorese Resistance) (CNRM), made the comments at an awareness benefit sponsored by the East Timor Alert Network in downtown Ottawa and attended by an estimated 1,000 people. He told the Ottawa Citizen that "Canada has one of the most immoral policies in the world when it comes to East Timor." Canada speaks up for small countries like Haiti and Kuwait when it has nothing to lose, he added. But when it comes to Indonesia, "which is a big trading partner, Canada shows its true colours — utter hypocrisy."

Ramos Horta and ETAN representatives also met with officials from the department of external affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency. Both government agencies have a history of silence in the face of genocide committed by the Indonesian armed forces in East Timor.

External has fostered Canada-Indonesia trade and investment ties. Trade is projected to exceed \$1 billion for the first time in 1993, according to Statistics Canada.

Canadian investments in Indonesia, meanwhile, are probably at least double that figure (one Canadian company alone, Inco, has investments worth \$1 billion).

ETAN is calling for a push to get the new Liberal government to end its support for the Indonesian occupation of East Timor by (1) announcing a ban on weapons sales to Indonesia, (2) slashing aid until East Timor is given its right to self-determination, and (3) supporting peace talks under United Nations auspices that would include representatives of the East Timorese people.

The new minister of External Affairs will be announced in early November. Letters can then be sent, postage free, c/o House of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6. Please also send a copy to Parliamentarians for East Timor, c/o David Kilgour MP, at the same address.

Thanks, Ray!

The recent Liberal sweep resulted in defeat for Ray Funk MP (Prince Albert-Churchill River), who has been a leading member of Canadian Parliamentarians for East Timor for several years. Ray's office



mailed out the ETAN newsletter and provided extensive office support, without which ETAN's work would have been that much harder to carry out. The support of Ray Funk, and other PET members who are not back in the new parliament will be missed.

Parliamentarians for East Timor will carry on with its lobbying work, however. Fourteen PET MPs from the Liberal and New Democratic parties are back in this session, and we hope to sign up many more.

Security tightened for massacre anniversary

Indonesian armed forces in East Timor have once again tightened security to prepare for November 12, the second anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre in Dili, the capital of East Timor. In that massacre, the first to be filmed by Western journalists, Indonesian soldiers opened fire on an unarmed crowd, killing 273 women, children and men.

Regional military commander Brig.-Gen. Theo Syafei said his soldiers had found posters calling for a demonstration to mark the

massacre's anniversary, and vowed troops would be prepared to halt peaceful protests or guerrilla attacks.

Indonesian authorities announced last summer that all combat troops would be withdrawn from East Timor by the end of October, leaving only ten "territorial battalions." These 5,000 soldiers — who can and do fight if necessary — are in fact engaged in low-intensity conflict and control of the people on a village level, with a military administration that parallels civilian authority.

Meanwhile, rapid-deployment combat troops can be deployed overnight from bases in Indonesia to anywhere in East Timor, according to Tapol (the Indonesian Human Rights Campaign). This was done during October in the Baucau region of eastern East Timor, where guerrillas have been particularly active lately.

Flag dissent

An East Timorese student has been charged with "public display of hostility towards the government" for ripping the Indonesian flag on the eve of Indonesian independence

day celebrations in August. Alberto Rodrigues Pereira, 21, faces up to seven years in prison, plus an additional two years and eight months if convicted of property damage.

Many East Timorese refer to the Indonesian flag, which is divided horizontally into red and white stripes, as the "blood-and-bones" flag.

Red Cross returns

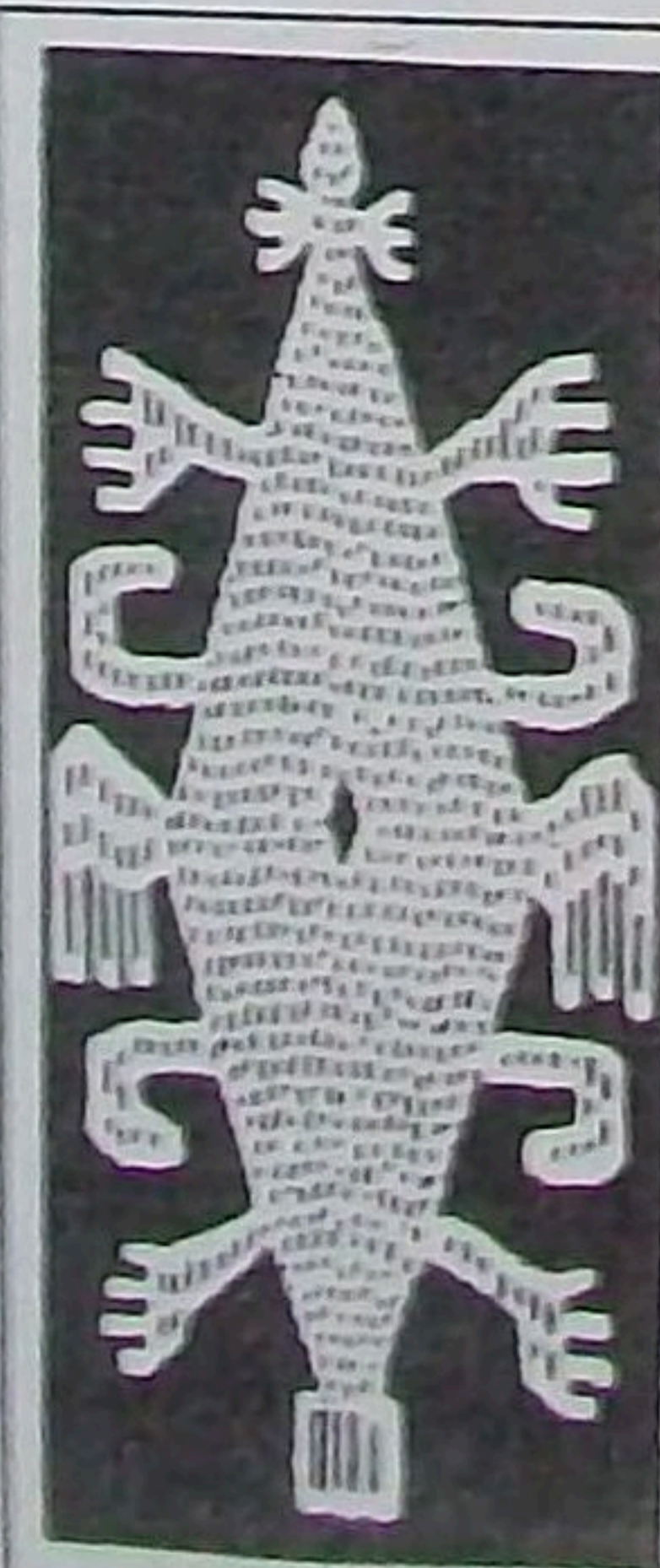
The International Committee of the Red Cross has resumed its visits to East Timorese political prisoners, but is still having "difficulties" in obtaining free access. "We have resumed our activities but have not been able to do it regularly and completely as we did want," said Red Cross president Cornelio Sommaruga. He blamed the Indonesian military for continuing to obstruct access.

Sommaruga said Red Cross officials were having particular difficulty moving freely among the civilian population of East Timor, a violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, which guarantees free movement among populations of occupied territories.

Postcards to Xanana

Solidarity activists in Portugal are asking people from around the world to send a message of support to jailed East Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmão on November 20, one year after he was arrested by Indonesian soldiers.

The "Freedom for Xanana, Freedom for East Timor" commission is asking for post cards, letters of support, or other appropriate messages, to be sent to Xanana at his Indonesian prison. For the address, please call ETAN/Toronto at (416) 531-5850.



Remember East Timor Massacre

Vigil for Peace in East Timor November 11, 2 p.m.

Vigil continues until 9 a.m. on Nov. 12 at the
Toronto Indonesian Consulate (425 University Ave., S. of Dundas)

East Timor Alert Network • (416) 531-5850

Other events in Vancouver, Calgary, Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal and other cities across Canada and the world