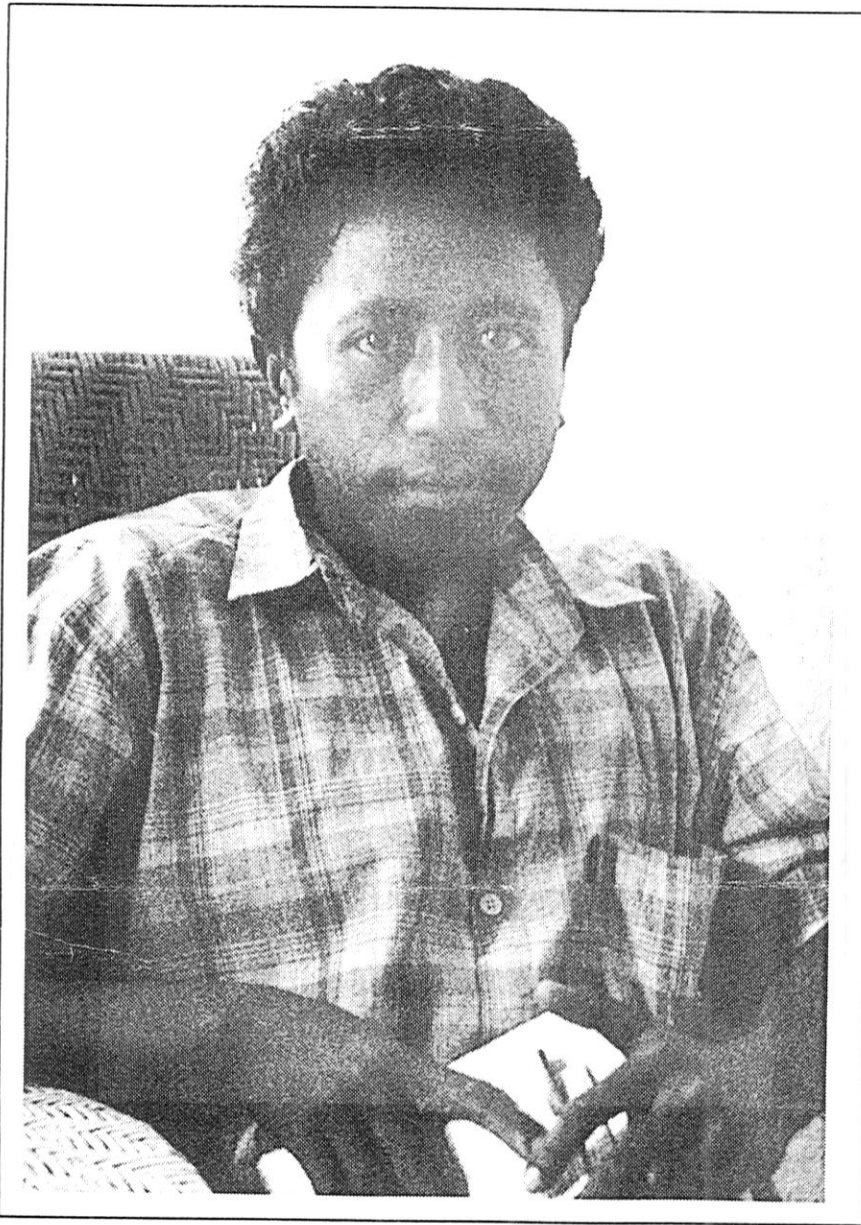


EAST TIMOR

The Inside Story

Nº 16 Mar/Apr 1995

A Cry for Help



José Belo

still alive

still kicking

but facing years in gaol

**A smuggled letter
from prison**

their lives, but has not
resulted in their freedom.

FOET members will remember the case of José Antonio Belo and fifteen others, detained by the Indonesian military for holding a peaceful demonstration at the university in Dili, East Timor on January 9.

Friends of East Timor (WA) has just received a letter from José, smuggled out from Dili's notorious Becora prison.

On hearing the news of the arrests and severe beatings, human rights and East Timor solidarity activists around the world, including many FOET members, moved into action.

It is a cry for international attention and action on their case. The relevant parts of the letter are reproduced in *The Inside Story*, but first some details received since our last mailout on just what happened on January 9 and since.

Using the Urgent Action released by Amnesty International from London, Dili police and military headquarters, Embassies, and other officials were swamped with faxes and letters demanding to know the whereabouts of José and his fellow detainees. This action probably saved

The demonstration was hastily organised to coincide with the commencement of a new round of talks between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, convened by the United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who has been instructed by the UN General Assembly to facilitate a just,

Continued page 2

The 'Crime'

A peaceful demonstration in support of the United Nations, freedom and self-determination.

The Punishment

Torture and imprisonment for José and fifteen other young East Timorese.

Newsletter of Friends of East Timor (WA)

PO Box 693, Cannington, 6107, Western Australia

Telephone 361 4678 or 450 5111 or 381 2474

Urgent action

Continued from page 1

comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the problem of East Timor. The purpose of the demonstration was to remind the parties in Geneva that the East Timorese themselves must not be left out of any settlement, and to support the position put forward by Portugal and the East Timorese Resistance that a referendum must be held among the East Timorese people.

An Australian tourist, Tony Jefferies from Darwin, witnessed the incident:

"The demonstration started at 9.15 and by Australian standards would have been considered completely innocuous. Banners and flags were unfurled and slogans yelled out. The whole thing was over in less than five minutes.

"The Indonesian response was as though the students were ducks and someone had declared open season. They swarmed out from everywhere. Two lines of riot police with shields, five-foot long metal poles, helmets and vests, sealed off both ends of

the street. Four trucks of soldiers armed with automatic rifles were stationed in the streets behind the university. There were numbers of plain clothes men, some with cameras, one with a video camera. The students were surrounded and trapped in the university grounds. We were forced back inside our hotel but could still witness some of the events from inside.

"I saw José Antonio Belo being dragged from the university grounds and judging from his bloody and distressed state, he had already been beaten. They took him to a four-wheel drive and threw him inside it. Three military thugs jumped in after him.

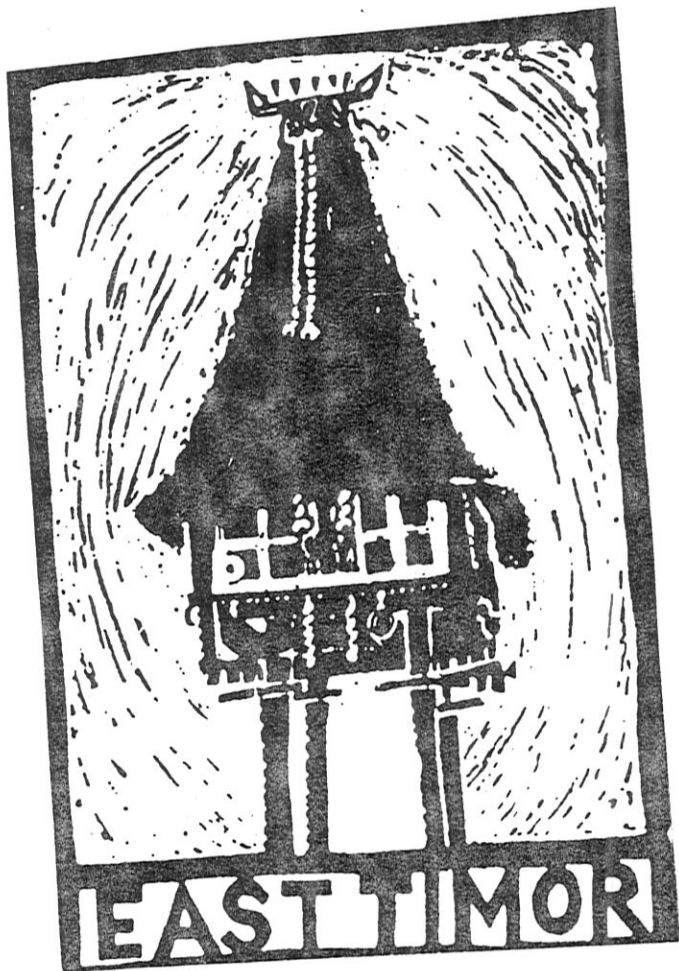
"From the awful noises and the motion of the vehicle, which was rocking back and forth like a cement mixer, I could tell José was being savagely beaten inside. We were also able to see the driver, who turned around to throw a few punches himself. I felt physically sick to have seen this."

On Tuesday, April 25, the District Court in Dili found five of the sixteen guilty of publicly expressing hatred and hostility, and insulting the government. (It is ironic that the Indonesian military regime uses old Dutch colonial laws to imprison those who oppose Indonesia's own brutal colonial yoke in East Timor.) Carlos

Barreto and José Amaral were each sentenced to two and a half years in prison and José Pinto, Pedro Costa and Alex Costa were sentenced to two years two months. These are absurd sentences for people who merely spoke out in support of international law. The remaining eleven are yet to be tried - it is possible that the court is handing down the lighter sentences first, to wait until international attention on these cases diminishes. It is likely that José Belo's sentence will be particularly severe, as it appears the military regard him as the 'leader'.

José was arrested after the Santa Cruz Massacre in 1991, where 271 men, women and children were gunned down by Indonesian troops. After his initial detention, he was required to report weekly to Dili military headquarters for interrogation. The Indonesian regime know they cannot kill José and his friends now, but they want to throw away the key.

In his letter to the world, José has made specific requests, some of which we can all help to fulfil. Because the demonstration was directly related to the United Nations talks process, the detainees want pressure put on the United Nations to directly intervene in their case. Also, they request more general appeals to Indonesian authorities on their behalf.



What you can do

The FOET committee has written to a number of authorities, and forwarded copies of the letter to the Resistance and others. But members need to write as well. If possible, please raise José's concerns with at least the following people:

Please write/fax to:

Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Fax: 0015 1 212 963 1395

Mr Singgih
Jaksa Agung (Attorney General)
Department of Justice
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said 6
Jakarta Indonesia
Fax: 0015 62 21 314 1625

Let us know if you want to become more involved in the campaign to free the 'UNTIM 16' - call (09) 361 4678.

FOET are currently planning a picket of the Indonesian consulate on a date yet to be fixed.

José's letter

In his letter, José has asked for a number of points to be raised internationally. The excerpts reproduced are quoted directly in the original English.

**Urgent
action**

"... After the Indonesian army captured me and my others friends of young nationalist in UNTIM they tortured us in SGI (commando office in Colmera Dili East Timor) until 13 of January 1995 they removed me to polril or police station in Comoro Dili East Timor until they took me to the jail of Becora at 28.2.95.

"... I would like to tell you about our judgement because Indonesia will take us to trial in Dili from this point I would like to inform several point to you as Timorese friends in Australia and in other countries.

- in the judgement we will never recognise Indonesia on East Timor
- we can not accept the judgement on us because we are not Indonesian citizen
- Problem 9th January 1995 is the international problem because East Timor problems is still as the international issue in the United Nations
- We ask you for insist Indonesia to liberty us for the jail because Indonesia have no rights to put us in the Indonesian jail because we

are as the oposition of Indonesia

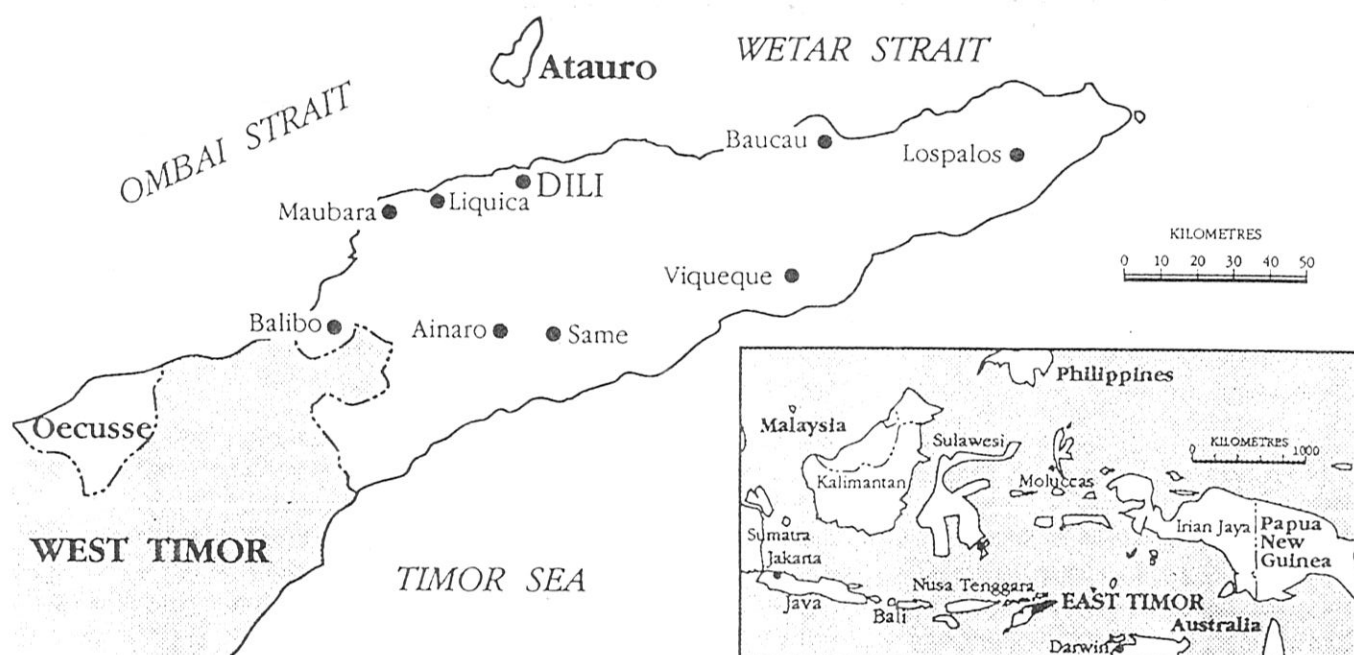
- One point Indonesia has no right to judge us because the demonstration that I lead was a very PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION we as the demonstrators didn't do any crime or hits, stroke but when the Indonesian army captured us they tortured us.
- We as the political prisoners in Becora Dili East Timor request to you and your organisation to insist and ask to United Nation to resolve the problem of 9th January 1995 in the meeting between united nation secretary general Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the foreign ministers of Portugal and Indonesia in New York at 19th May 1995 or in coming talking on East Timor problem because our problem is related to the talking between United Nation at 9th January 1995
- We request to the international Human Rights organisations to visit and see us in the jail and also we ask to your organisations to pay more attention on our situation because our situation is very bad right now

- We request to have a testify from international organisation in our judgement

"Before I close my letter I would like to tell you our names (the demonstrators of 9th January 1995) in front of East Timor university as follow:

1. José Antonio Belo
2. José G. Pinto
3. Paulo Jorge Amaral
4. Carlos B. Bareto
5. Lemos Bareto
6. Bendito Salon
7. Inasio de Jesus Santos
8. Alexandrino da Costa
9. Luis Lavara
10. Filomeno do Santos
11. José Henriques
12. Pedro da Costa/Apin
13. Mario Pinto da Costa x
14. Alfredo Lopes
15. Joao Manuel
16. Ipveito da Silva

"Only like that our problem and requirement as for a moment thank you for your help and your attention on our problems. We will never recognise integration in our life."



Germany's protests shame President Suharto

This April, Indonesia's President Suharto faced the most powerful demonstrations to have occurred against a visiting head of state in Germany.

As usual unable to face up to the truth about growing world outrage to his regime's brutal record of aggression in East Timor and at home, it seems he is looking for 'the enemy within'. Indonesian democracy figures in Germany at the time look likely to face arrest on their return home. The following article has been condensed from a number of articles from international solidarity groups and media. We dare him to come to Australia! (FOET)

ON his arrival in Dresden on 5 April, the last day of his visit to Germany, President Suharto was given a rowdy welcome by a crowd of some one hundred and fifty people waving posters, beating drums and blowing whistles. The Indonesian dictator was escorted by a large number of German police and several dozen men in civilian clothing, wearing dark glasses, obviously from the Indonesian intelligence.

Demonstrators called for the withdrawal of the Indonesian military from East Timor and for the people of East Timor to exercise their right to self-determination. Among the demonstrators were three East Timorese, Luciano Valentim da Conceicao, Vitor Tavares and Jose Manuel, who were among the twenty nine who entered the US embassy in Jakarta last November. They shouted slogans calling for the release of resistance leader Xanana Gusmão and a stop to German arms sales to Indonesia.

Large protesting crowds followed him when he visited the Zwinger portrait gallery in the city. He remained for only half an hour, and left, apparently irritated by the noisy demonstration that continued outside. A demonstrator got close enough to hit the President with a rolled-up newspaper although this has been denied by the foreign ministry in Jakarta. The demonstrators even learnt Indonesian words like 'babi' (pig) and 'pembunuh' (murderer) from the East Timorese who joined them, and understand the alternative version of SDSB (name of the national lottery), renamed by PIJAR as 'Suharto, the cause of all the killings'.

The orchestra refused to perform for the Indonesian president.

evening dinner appointment. On the way, the bus was held up in the street for fifteen minutes by a large crowd of young Germans and East Timorese. As they drew closer to the bus, it was forced to turn round and take another route. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who was still smiling during the earlier demonstration at the Zwinger Museum, was clearly infuriated.

A plan for Suharto to attend a performance at the Dresden Opera House was abandoned, apparently because the orchestra refused to perform for the Indonesian president.

Leaders from four of the six parliamentary groups in the Dresden parliament including the Greens, the

Social Democrats (SPD) and the PDS (former communists) signed a joint statement declaring Suharto unwelcome in Dresden. They cited among others the killing of at least half a million people when Suharto came to power in 1965 and the invasion of East Timor in 1975. A similar declaration had been made earlier by authorities in the historic city of Weimar.

All state politicians who met Suharto, including the German president, Roman Herzog, and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, raised human rights issues with him; the only one to avoid the issue was Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Kohl has described Rudy Habibie, one of Suharto's closest associates and a likely successor, as "Indonesia's greatest investment in Germany". Suharto is looking for more German investment. This week, Germany won three milliard marks worth of orders to build a number of industries, including a coal energy supplier and ships.

But Suharto says firm action will be taken against Indonesian nationals found to have been involved in protests during his visit to Germany. Indonesian military authorities are investigating a number of activists in connection with the protests, including Indonesian parliamentarian (PPP) Sri Bintang Pamungkas, and Yenni Rosa Damayanti, a student activist recently released from prison.

Also threatened is Gunawan Muhammad, former editor-in-chief of TEMPO, who had absolutely nothing to do with the demonstrations in Germany against the Suharto visit. So who was behind the demonstrations? The one in Hanover was organised by Amnesty International's German Section while the demonstrations in Dresden were organised by the Evangelical Church and sympathisers of East Timor. This Church played a historic role in the movement against the communist regime in East Germany which finally led to the destruction of the Berlin Wall.

The Church has taken up many issues regarding Indonesia, including East Timor, the workers and the journalists, as well as the problems of the Batak Church, the HKBP in Medan. Neither Sri Bintang nor Yenni was in Dresden; they only visited Hanover and Berlin and returned to Amsterdam on Tuesday. During the demonstration in Hanover, the two Indonesians were standing among the public on the street but neither gave speeches to the demonstrators.

Resistance meeting creates diplomatic unity

Diplomacy

From *Publico* (Portuguese newspaper), 1 April 1995.

"LACK of time" - this was how Joao Carrascalao, Chairman of UDT and the first to take on the rotating leadership of the recently formalised CCFD, Coordinating Committee of the Diplomatic Front, explained the absence during the I Conference of the Timorese Resistance (which ended yesterday in Lisbon) of any debate about a single peace plan for East Timor.

The main issues unresolved during the meeting, at which significant progress was made towards unity within the resistance in terms of structure, were UDT's reservations about the CNRM's peace plan, and the differences of opinion on the political status of Xanana Gusmao.

In addition to formal approval being given to the CCFD, a structure in unofficial existence since April 1994 and composed of the leaders of the CNRM, Fretilin and UDT, the Lisbon Conference decided that the representatives of the different Timorese political forces in each of the strategic capitals (Lisbon, Canberra, Brussels, Washington, New York) should, as of now, cease their activities and make way for a "unified diplomatic representation".

In Lisbon, the head of this new kind of East Timor "embassy" will be Roque Rodrigues, a Resistance veteran, who will transfer from Luanda. Jose Luis Guterres will be going to New York to co-ordinate diplomatic activity in the US. Since Rodrigues and Guterres are two Fretilin leaders, it is likely that the representations in Australia and the EU will be allotted to the UDT.

Another measure approved in Lisbon was the creation of a Studies Commission to prepare the I Timorese Convention, and to study "ways of setting up a single body to capable of expressing and representing the administration of the Territory". This stems from the recognition of "a *de facto* resistance administration within the territory", which should be reflected outside the territory.

The Lisbon meeting's final communique ended with a long list of greetings: Konis Santana, Falintil, "anonymous combatants", Ximenes Belo, Mario Soares, Cavaco Silva, Durao Barroso, Portuguese Assembly, PALOPs (Portuguese-speaking African countries), solidarity groups, foreign parliamentarians, intellectuals, artists, students and "friends of the Timorese cause" in general. The list was headed by a special reference to Xanana Gusmao, one of the sensitive issues along the way to Resistance unity.

In the document, Xanana is described as the "Supreme Leader of the CNRM and Living Symbol of the Resistance". In addition to the profusion of capital letters, what is clearly in evidence is the UDT's curb on the imprisoned leader being hailed as the supreme and effective leader of the entire resistance, the position supported by the CNRM and Fretilin, but not UDT. This problem, which Carrascalao says has to do with "practical matters", stems from the fact that, unlike Fretilin, the UDT is still not integrated within the CNRM.

The result is a bit like complicated geometry (the CCFD is made up of the CNRM, Fretilin and UDT, but only Fretilin is part of the CNRM) which impairs the clarity of a single voice of the Resistance, and allows Xanana Gusmao, undisputed leader of the CNRM, to reap recognition from all political forces only as the "symbol" and not leader of the fight for Timor's liberation.

More pressing issues show that, in spite of the extent of the structural changes approved in Lisbon, unity is not something to be taken for granted.



Xanana Gusmao

Salzburg - two voices

When answering a question yesterday about the postponement of the inter-Timorese talks scheduled to take place in Salzburg, Joao Carrascalao did not seem very put out about the UN's decision. The postponement, he said, "is going to give us more time in which to explain our positions".

This was a very different reaction to that of Ramos Horta. The CNRM special representative and "colleague" of Carrascalao in the CCFD, reacted very negatively to the postponement, which he said was a result of the UN giving in to pressure from Indonesia and Timorese pro-integration sectors.

A CNRM press release issued yesterday echoed this attitude: "The CNRM deeply deplores the postponement of the inter-Timorese talks and considers Jakarta entirely responsible for this step backwards".

Dili Massacre survivor finally escapes to Western Australia

'Joao' (not his real name) recently escaped to Perth after more than three years in hiding inside East Timor and Indonesia, following the Dili massacre of 12 November 1991.

The following article is an excerpt from a long interview with Joao, conducted by Rob South of FOET, with a family member as translator. Only that part of the transcript which deals with Joao's experience of the Dili massacre is reproduced here; other parts which relate his years in hiding, his involvement in the APEC demonstrations, and his tense, dangerous escape to Australia have not been reproduced for security reasons.

Only minor details that might be used to identify Joao have been changed, but these do not alter his narration of events. FOET obtained Joao's full permission to use this part of his story.

"My friend Sebastiao Gomez was murdered by Indonesian troops on 28 October 1991 and buried the following day. It is customary in East Timor that when someone dies, the family mourns during the first week, but then in the second week, a Mass is held in which everyone who knew the deceased attends. It is normal for everyone to leave the church and march to the place of burial. This is what we did for Sebastiao on the 12th November 1991.

"During the march to the Santa Cruz cemetery, we unfurled all the banners we had prepared for the Portuguese parliamentary delegation [*the visit, scheduled for November was cancelled at the last minute*]. We were determined that our protest would be peaceful, but some of the bufos (Timorese who work as informers for the Indonesian security forces) tried to make trouble, by throwing some stones at Indonesian police buildings during the march. Myself and others who were 'marshalls' for the march tried to stop them. I think they were acting on orders to make trouble, to try and justify what would happen later.

"At one stage on our way to the cemetery, an Indonesian soldier stabbed a young East Timorese student in the leg. A fight broke out and the soldier was eventually stabbed as well. When I arrived at the front gate of the cemetery, there were many people assembled with banners, some standing on

the top of the walls. By this time, us marshalls had been able to get the bufos to stop making trouble, so there was no more stone-throwing or trouble-making.

"I was about to join my friends in a group at the front of the cemetery, when I saw soldiers scuffling with someone further down the road. I recognised this person as a close relative of mine and ran over to see what was happening. He had been returning home from his work, and because of work had not been able to take part in the funeral march.

"I don't know why they were pushing him around, but I later found out that when he 'resisted', they broke his leg with a rifle butt. I was lucky that I was standing further up the road watching this, because when I turned around, I saw Indonesian soldiers,

bare-chested with M16s, running out from the gate of the military cemetery (across the road from the Santa Cruz cemetery) and from the road on the other side.

"Military trucks were pulling up everywhere. The soldiers started shooting into the air, over the heads of those standing by the gate. At first I thought these were warning shots. Panic struck all of us, and I ran into the cemetery through one of the two smaller entrances that are either

side of the main gate. Some people like me were trying to get in, seeking sanctuary in the cemetery, while others were trying to get out, afraid of being trapped inside.

"Once I was inside, I realised that what I thought were warning shots had in fact cut down those who were standing high up on the wall. People were rushing through the gate, and one young woman ran into me. She had blood pouring from just above her left breast - she had been shot in the back. I was now very afraid. I ran with some others towards the rear of the cemetery, as bodies piled up in the main gateway.

"Soldiers and police entered the cemetery through the two smaller entrances, and began to savagely beat the wounded with rifle-butts or police batons, with no discrimination as to whether their bleeding victims were men or women. Some of us were just children. I ran with others to the back wall, which we scaled. But on the road on the other side there were soldiers with guns. They yelled at us 'you dogs, get back inside, don't think you can escape here'.

"We sat on top of the wall for maybe three minutes, not knowing what to do. I was afraid for two female cousins of mine who were inside the small cemetery chapel, praying and tending to the dying. Those of us on the wall helped others to climb up; I tried to help one particular woman up, but she was too badly wounded and couldn't make it.

They yelled at us "you dogs, get back inside, don't think you can escape here"

"It became clear to us that it was certain death to remain inside the cemetery, and that maybe some of us could make it past the soldiers on the road beneath us. We jumped down and ran. The soldiers caught some of us, but I and many others evaded them.

"We ran as fast as we could to the Bishop's house. A military truck chased us, but we broke into groups, ran down alleys, anything to get away. That truck intercepted my group three times, and they were shooting at us. I know at least one young man who was shot dead from that truck behind me.

"When we got to the Bishop's house, it was surrounded by soldiers. They tried to grab us, perhaps afraid to just shoot us so near to the Bishop, but by this time there were many of us outside. In the confusion, a group of us managed to scale the side fence of the Bishop's house: thirty-five men, including myself, and one woman who was badly lacerated by the barbed wire. Many others were captured trying to get in. There were some soldiers inside the grounds, so our group hid behind a group of nuns at the back of the garden. Bishop Belo emerged from inside his house and went to the front gate. We quickly ran to him. When he saw us covered in blood and crying, and looked out the gate to see others being arrested and dragged away, he wept and said 'What

have you done, now they will surely kill us all'.

"We were able to stay at the Bishop's house for around eight hours, but the Bishop was worried that soldiers would break in during the night and seize us. He arranged a car driven by another priest and they both took each of us to various houses. I was dropped at the house of a relative. For the next six months I was in hiding in various places in Dili.

those who had been present at the massacre. Friends of mine were being rounded up and 'disappearing'. I realised that it was only a matter of time before I too would be killed. With one other colleague, I escaped across the border into Indonesia ..."

When he saw us covered in blood and crying, and looked out the gate to see others being arrested and dragged away, he wept and said "What have you done, now they will surely kill us all"

Joao hopes to be able to stay in Australia as a political refugee, as it is certain that he would be imprisoned, or worse, for his political beliefs and activities if he

was made to return to Indonesia or East Timor.

Friends of East Timor, and the East Timorese Community in Western Australia are horrified by recent announcements that the Federal Government may refuse refugee status to a large number of East Timorese seeking asylum in Australia. At the time this went to press, concrete details of exactly what such a decision will mean were unavailable.

If deportations of East Timorese become likely, FOET will organise a prompt public response through lobbying and demonstrations: we'll keep you posted. •



Truth or Consequences

Commission treads softly on Timor killings

By Margot Cohen in Jakarta

The clock was ticking towards midnight, and the members of Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights were still cloistered behind closed doors, debating what public position they would take on the killings in Liquica, East Timor. They knew their findings would represent a major test of their credibility and independence. Yet the commission, created less than two years ago, also wished to adhere to its professed belief "in the power of persuasion and education without confrontation."

Finally, they hammered out a statement, saying they regretted that Indonesian soldiers had carried out "unlawful killings" of civilians. They disclosed few details, however, of the January 12 incident. Both the content and omissions of the statement speak volumes about the dynamics of human-rights advocacy in Indonesia.

Here's what the commissioners didn't reveal at their March 1 press conference: According to witnesses interviewed by the commission, soldiers lined up five unarmed Timorese civilians in a ditch and executed them. A sixth unarmed civilian was tortured and killed separately, his body left sprawled nearby. After untying the ropes that bound the victims' hands behind their backs, the soldiers marched back to headquarters. The corpses were found with bullet holes in the head and the neck.

These findings, obtained by the REVIEW from commission members, starkly contradict the story told by the platoon leader, First Lieut. Jeremias Kase. He reported to his superiors that two of the Timorese were Fretilin rebels killed in an armed clash with soldiers, while the four others were clandestine organizers killed by soldiers when they attempted to flee the scene of conflict. Critical elements of Kase's version were refuted by witnesses from his own platoon, according to commission sources.

However, in the course of their marathon debate, some commissioners argued that it would be counter-productive to immediately release such graphic details

to the public. After all, the military had provided commissioners ample cooperation during their two fact-finding missions to East Timor. Top brass had already admitted to a "violation of procedures." And the new army chief of staff, Gen. Hartono, had just announced the formation of a high-level, 36-member military board to determine the extent of wrongdoing. So, ultimately, the human-rights commission opted for a more general statement — one that would affirm its independence, yet avoid the impression of boxing the military into a corner.

In a soft, rasping voice, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Ali Said announced on March 1 that the commission "deeply regrets the incident that

parliamentarian from East Timor. "Don't assume that they are GPK [Fretilin rebels], just because they provided food to someone who may have pointed a gun at them."

The compromise statement went a long way towards dispelling the public scepticism that surrounded the 25-member commission when it was first established by presidential decree in June 1993. For a variety of observers — from human-rights activists, politicians and diplomats to ordinary Indonesians and Timorese — the commission demonstrated its bravery by deviating from the military line.

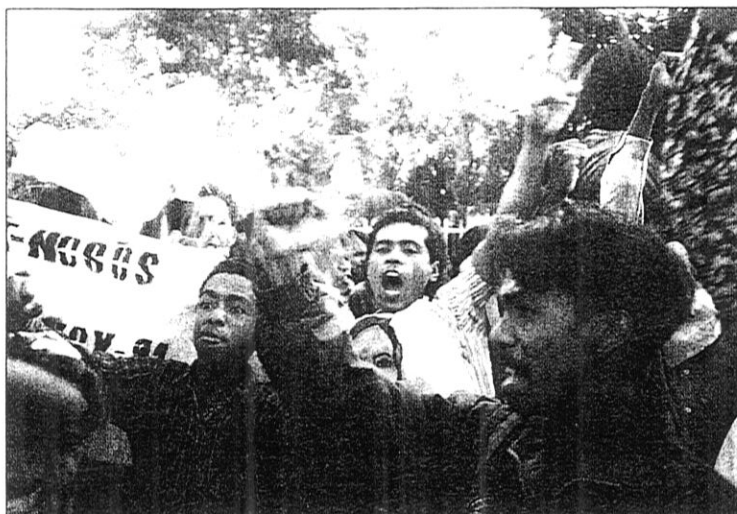
However, the commission's statement was carefully crafted to stop short of entirely alienating the army. The planned raid on a suspected rebel lair was termed a "legitimate military operation." (By all accounts, the platoon set off under written orders, acting on a tip alleging rebel activity in the area.) The statement also acknowledged the "complex situation and conditions" facing the army in carrying out its duties in East Timor, which was

annexed by Indonesia in 1976. And it concluded with the commission's "appreciation" for the military leadership's swift action in trying to resolve the problem.

For all the commission's delicate manoeuvring, it never answered the question of what happened in Liquica. The statement's vague reference to "armed conflict that resulted in death" threw reporters for a loop. Vice-Chairman Marzuki responded by promising public release of the full details of the commission's final report, which will be relayed to government and military officials.

However, some commissioners privately question how detailed that final report will be, given continuing differences of opinion over the political risks involved. The commission has a track record of working mostly behind the scenes to improve the human-rights climate, rather than issuing transparent chronologies or employing other measures that could force confrontation with authorities. And in this case, commissioners express strong concern for the safety of witnesses.

The army has not hesitated to destroy physical evidence. Military officials acknowledge that shortly after Kase's platoon marched back to headquarters, soldiers returned to the hamlet of Pavo in the village of Letolah in Liquica regency and burned down the shack that was the scene of armed conflict during the raid. During the commission's two fact-finding



East Timor protesters: Human-rights panel offers a little satisfaction.

occurred on January 12, 1995, which in its essence is a grave violation of human rights." More explicitly, the commission held that the platoon engaged in intimidation and torture in order to extract confessions of rebel activity, and subsequently carried out "unlawful killings."

The commission deliberately refrained from making any judgment on whether the victims were sympathetic to the rebel cause. The bottom line, as stated at the press conference by the visibly weary commission vice-chairman, Marzuki Darusman, was that the six victims were clearly unarmed civilians. This point was particularly significant for those familiar with the insurgency in East Timor.

"This should be a lesson," says Salvador Ximenes Soares, a ruling Golkar party

A colonized nation

20 years under Indonesian occupation have turned East Timor into a country with all the worst attributes of a colonized territory. Indonesia claims that *Integrasi* of East Timor as its '27th province' rescued it from Portuguese colonialism. But Indonesian colonialism has wrought far greater havoc than the Portuguese ever did in nearly 500 years of colonial rule.

missions, a key discrepancy emerged over the number of doors in this shack.

On the afternoon of January 12, just one soldier on the raiding team was dispatched to check the shack. According to Kase, after the soldier entered the shack, three Fretilin rebels ran out through three different doors. Kase says that two of these running rebels were shot by the platoon. However, according to other witnesses, there was only one door in the house, and only one Fretilin rebel ran out — escaping the area after shooting and stabbing the soldier, who did not have the chance to shoot back.

Failing to kill or capture any armed rebels during this operation, the soldiers then executed the six civilians, witnesses told the commission. Four had been dragged along by the platoon from a neighbouring hamlet, and two came on the scene in Pavo. Two other Timorese who accompanied the troops — probably as scouts — survived unscathed.

Aside from the matter of issuing a detailed chronology, commission members disagreed over the key question of forensic evidence. Some commissioners believed that their investigation would be considerably strengthened by exhuming the bodies. Others felt that the commission did not have the legal mandate to request autopsies. (A Foreign Ministry spokesman told the REVIEW on February 21 that the six bodies had been exhumed, but in fact, the forensic expert on call in Jakarta was never dispatched.)

Is the evidence sufficient? In light of a coming visit by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lassio, President Suharto's government

may very well decide to proceed with a forensic examination in Liquica. In his critical November 1994 report on the 1991 massacre in Dili, East Timor, UN Special Rapporteur Waly Ndiaye said that the Indonesian authorities "should have carried out full exhumations of known graves, performed proper autopsies and examined ballistic evidence."

Hartono forms an inquiry panel.

Back in November, Ndiaye also slammed Indonesia's human-rights commission for failing to investigate reported violations in East Timor. That, at least, is no longer the case. Ironically, increasing public confidence in the commission could prove a burden in disguise. Commissioners already face a backlog of more than 1,000 cases, with two or three delegations arriving on their doorstep daily with new complaints.



Pretence on parade: Timorese must turn out with Indonesian troops to show a false face of harmony to the world.

Alatas honour appals East Timor group

CANBERRA

EAST TIMOR activists are furious that Australia has given Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas one of the country's top honorary awards.

Mr Alatas was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his role in strengthening bilateral relations between the two neighbours.

The award, announced by Governor-General Bill Hayden yesterday, is the second highest in the Australian honours system.

Friends of East Timor (WA) spokesman Rob South said that, although outraged and disappointed, he was not surprised that Mr Alatas had got the award.

"It's just a continuation of the policies Canberra are pursuing," Mr South said.

"Only weeks ago, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry rejected out of hand a damning United Nations report on the use of torture and execution in Indonesian-occupied East Timor.

"For Australia to present a prestigious

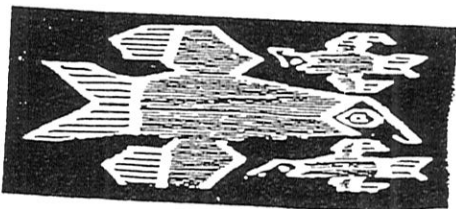
award to Alatas at this time is outrageously irresponsible from an international viewpoint and sadly out of touch with the feelings of the Australian people about Indonesia's brutal and illegal occupation of the East Timorese nation."

The 1975 Order of Australia recipient David Scott, a one-time Brotherhood of St Laurence and Community Aid Abroad worker, said Mr Alatas's award was unbelievable in the light of Indonesia's human rights record.

"It is no more than a month since the International Human Rights Commission made a scathing criticism of Indonesia over the 1991 Dili massacre and Indonesia's response to the massacre," he said.

"As well as accepting responsibility for the areas of good relations such as trade and education, the Indonesian Foreign Minister must accept responsibility for his country's human rights record."

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said he was delighted with the award to his counterpart and friend.



"We do not want to tell the Indonesian army how they should behave in East Timor, we just want them to leave..."

Gordon McIntosh on East Timor

ONE of the founding members of Friends of East Timor (WA), Gordon McIntosh was an ALP Senator in the Federal Parliament from 1974 to 1987. He is renowned as one of the only Australian politicians who has never wavered in his uncompromising support for the inalienable right of the East Timorese to self-determination. Gordon was one of the key speakers at the November 12 1994 rally organised by Friends of East Timor and the East Timorese community. Here we reproduce his speech.

Forrest Place, Western Australia
12th November 1994

I wish to make the position of Friends of East Timor quite clear; we are not anti-Indonesian, in the sense that we are opposed to the Indonesian people as such. We are opposed to the Indonesian government policies on East Timor and the presence of the armed forces in East Timor, so, any reference we make to Indonesia is strictly in that context. We do believe in friendly relations with our neighbours, but friendship is a two way thing, and must be based on honesty.

This rally, commemorating the Dili Massacre, is the focal point highlighting the tragedy of East Timor. There has been many other atrocities in East Timor, which are well documented, including the deaths of the five Australian journalists, which took place prior to the full scale invasion of East Timor.

I believe it is important to note that the United Nations does not recognise Indonesia as the administrative authority in East Timor, and, that Australia stands quite alone in the developed world as the only country that has openly given recognition to Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor. The resolution of the United Nations, determining that the East Timorese should exercise their right to self-determination, still remains on the United Nations agenda. It is that inalienable right to self-determination the people of East Timor have been prevented from exercising through the actions of the Indonesian government.

As we sit safely in our homes, bearing witness to the well documented atrocities that are being committed by the Indonesian forces in East Timor, and are not prepared to do anything about it, we lose something:

we lose some of our self-respect, and we lose some of our humanity in the process.

To quote the East Timorese leader of the resistance, Xanana Gusmao: *"We have nowhere to go, we have no option but to fight on to the last partisan, we have nothing to lose except our dignity and our spirit and no one can take that"*.

Surely by now, it is obvious to the most politically unaware that the Indonesian method of trying to absorb East Timor does not, and cannot work. History shows that democracy never has been, and never will be obtained through the barrel of a gun.

As far back as 1960, the United Nations considered East Timor as a non-autonomous nation under Portuguese rule, and the United Nations passed successive resolutions up until 1973, calling on their

organizations.

I was one of five parliamentarians who visited East Timor in March 1975. Our main purpose in going there was to witness for ourselves the decolonization process which was taking place, and also to check on the alleged interference in that process by Indonesia.

The East Timorese had three choices open to them:

1. They could remain with Portugal;
2. Integrate with Indonesia;
3. Opt for independence.

It was patently clear, in the many places we visited, that the third choice for independence was by far the most popular, and, this was supported by the main political parties, UDT and FRETILIN, between those two parties, they enjoyed in the region ninety percent support from the people in East Timor. So there was little doubt as to the third choice being the most popular.

The atmosphere in East Timor was such, that one could feel the excitement and enthusiasm that was being generated and displayed by the vast majority of the people of East Timor. They were looking forward to the following three years, when it was expected that the decolonization programme would be completed, and they could express their inalienable right to self-determination.

We all know how the people of South Africa felt after one hundred and fifty years without the right to self determination. So

We are not anti-Indonesian. We are opposed to the Indonesian government policies on East Timor and the presence of the armed forces.

right to self-determination.

In 1974 a change of government took place in Portugal and the new democratic government passed a law affirming that right, with all of its consequences. Including the acceptance of independence of overseas territories; the Portuguese government delivered a memorandum to the United Nations, declaring its willingness to co-operate fully with the United Nations declaration on the concession of independence to colonial people's territories. This action brought Portugal into the legal framework of the United Nations which is recognised and affirmed by most international

one can imagine the excitement in East Timor after four hundred years of Portuguese rule. Our delegation split into three groups, utilizing the helicopters which were made available, and we visited as many centres as possible.

On our return to Dili our reports were fairly similar and full of praise for the manner in which the decolonization was taking place, in the handing over of administration, education, health and so on.

We heard broadcasts whilst in Dili coming from Radio Kupang on the Indonesian side of the border, broadcasting propaganda which was part of the destabilizing process orchestrated by the Indonesian 'think tank', the brainchild of Ali

Murtopo. It was called Operasi Komodo, and was designed specifically to divide and conquer East Timor.

It is very sad to say the Indonesian tactics eventually had the desired affect, and the transitional period was sabotaged and frustrated. The might of the Indonesian armed forces, brutally invaded East Timor and both directly, and indirectly, are responsible for the deaths of two hundred thousand men, women and children, and that number of people is out of a population of six hundred and fifty thousand. If equated to the Australian population, percentage wise, it would be in the region of six million... In fact, percentage wise, the deaths in East Timor ranks second only to that of Pol Pot's excesses in Cambodia.

So, let's be quite clear on this question of human rights. Indonesia illegally invaded East Timor, and as the occupying force their behaviour is unacceptable. We should, by all means, continue to raise the question on any violations of human rights that take place, but, our emphasis must remain on a complete withdrawal of all the occupying forces, and allow the East Timorese to exercise their right to self-determination under the auspices of the United Nations. We do not want to tell the Indonesian army how they should behave

in East Timor, we just want them to leave...

We have been told by the major political parties in Canberra that the question of Indonesian's sovereignty over East Timor is irreversible. I am sure this must give comfort and encouragement to the Indonesian Government, but it does nothing for the East Timorese.

To say the situation is irreversible is to ignore the fact that the Australian Government, on three occasions, has changed our position when dealing with the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, we refused to recognize China with its thousand

We should be in the forefront of trying to bring about a just and lasting solution to the problem; after all, it was our accommodating attitude in 1975 that encouraged Indonesia into believing that it could absorb East Timor in the first place. No one expects us to do any more than stop our hypocrisy and convenient neglect of the human rights principles which we so vigorously promote elsewhere when the circumstances suits government policy.

One could feel the excitement and enthusiasm... They were looking forward to the following three years, when the decolonization programme would be completed.

million people and now we recognize China. One could go on and on about reversing attitudes to many countries.

So, let's have no more of this nonsense about Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor being irreversible. Of course, it can be reversed, not only can our Australian Government reverse its recognition of Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor, we can re-negotiate the oil in the Timor gap, with the United Nations recognized legal authority in that region, namely Portugal, on behalf of East Timor.

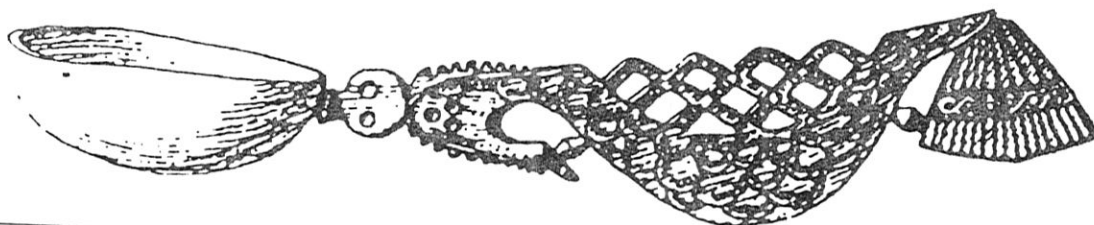
It is wrong to claim on the one hand that a large nation can not take over a smaller nation and get away with it as we did when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and on the other hand ignore Indonesian's invasion of East Timor, especially so when there is no ethnic, cultural or historical connection, like Iraq had with Kuwait.

Despite Australia's vacillating attitude on the subject of East Timor, Australia remains one of the main hopes for the future of the East Timorese. We are their closest neighbour, and therefore in a position to give a lead to other nations, who, in many ways look to Australia, because of our close geographical proximity.

Congress, who are calling on their President to take some action on the violation of human rights by Indonesia. We should identify ourselves with the strong resolutions condemning the Indonesian atrocities in East Timor by the European Parliament, we should take note of the increasing number of members of the Japanese, Canadian, New Zealand and other Parliaments around the world ... who are prepared to stand up and be counted on the East Timor issue.

In fact, the more people in general who are prepared to stand up and be counted on this issue, the greater the effect on the Indonesian Government. For nineteen years the people of East Timor have suffered humiliation, arbitrary arrest, rape, torture and mass murders, and, still they have refused to be crushed. Surely it is time to speak up on behalf of the people of East Timor and support them in their right to self-determination.

Join Friends of East Timor, contact your local Member of Parliament, write to your Minister and support the people of East Timor in their call for an act of self-determination under the auspices of the United Nations. After all, what has the Indonesian Government got to fear from an act of self-determination?



UN report hammers Indonesia on human rights in East Timor

IN late February, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Summary and Arbitrary Executions, Mr Bacre Waly Ndiaye, released his damning report on human rights in East Timor. The article reproduced below, from the Portuguese newspaper *Publico*, outlines Indonesia's outright rejection of the report. In addition to the details given below, it is important to note that the Rapporteur also concluded that "the same conditions that allowed the 1991 Santa Cruz Massacre to happen still persist in East Timor", meaning basically that nothing has changed, and that it could happen again tomorrow.

Having rejected the UN findings, Indonesia puts forward its acceptance of an upcoming visit to East Timor by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as if it were some sort of philanthropic gesture,

rather than a grudgingly extracted commitment made by Indonesia in desperation to avoid a far harsher statement than the one that was eventually made by the UN Human Rights Commission in March.

Indonesia's recalcitrance in regard to the international community was further demonstrated by the postponement, forced by Jakarta, of the inter-Timorese meeting agreed to in January. Suharto is no doubt afraid that his handful of collaborators will be shown up for the pathetic quislings they are when pitted against the experienced diplomatic representatives of the Resistance. The news that East Timor's Bishop Belo will also be attending has horrified the regime. We look forward to it!

Rob South, FOET

Indonesia contests UN report on Timor

From Publico (Portuguese newspaper), 7 March 1995.

YESTERDAY, Indonesia publicly rejected all recommendations made by the UN Special Rapporteur, Bacre Waly Ndiaye, which highlighted the need for a new investigation into the Santa Cruz massacre. The UN expert on extra-judicial, summary and arbitrary executions, Ndiaye, from Senegal, visited East Timor last July. His main conclusion, that the massacre in the cemetery was "a planned

military operation to deal with political dissidence", has irritated Indonesia.

In a speech read yesterday during the UN Human Rights Commission session, the Indonesian representative, Eddy Pratomo, complained that the report was "distorted" and got straight to the point: "Indonesia expresses serious disagreement with the analysis and conclusions of the Special Rapporteur and feels obliged to reject his recommendations."

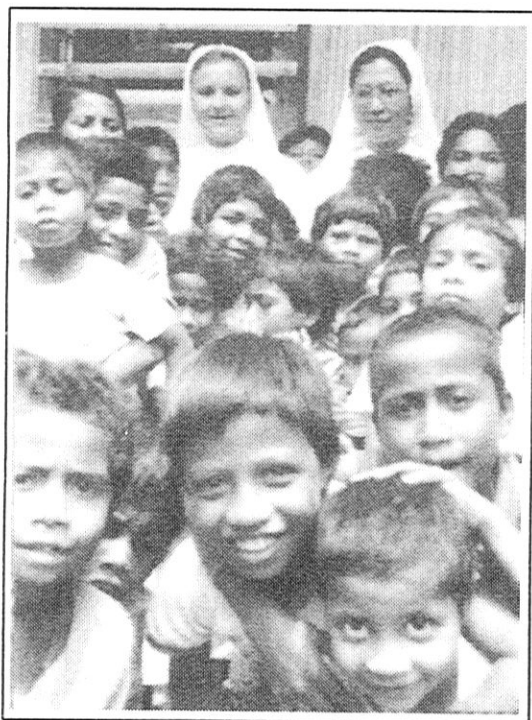
Among the Rapporteur's

recommendations "rejected" by Indonesia are the urgent creation of a civil police force in Timor, new investigations involving not only the armed forces but also the victims' relatives, civil authorities, the local church and NGOs, and the recommendation that the judicial system be reformed so that the investigations are independent and impartial.

The Indonesian diplomat said that his government noted the Rapporteur's wish to continue talks with Indonesia, but he gave Ndiaye a clear warning: "We would like to remind Mr. Ndiaye that talks must be two-way. The fact that he did not even bother to consider Indonesia's views in his report leads us to seriously question the usefulness of this kind of dialogue".

The Indonesian spokesman went on to give assurances that in spite of his government's disagreement with the Rapporteur, "that would in no way diminish our readiness to collaborate with the UN, or weaken our determination to improve promotion and protection of human rights in Indonesia, including East Timor". As proof of this he referred to the "invitation" to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala-Lasso, to visit the territory this year.

Jose Ramos Horta, one of the exiled Timorese resistance leaders, was not intimidated by the speech. According to Horta, Indonesia gave "a political speech" as had been expected, because it did not want to admit that responsibility for the massacre does, in fact, lie with the Jakarta Government.



Orphans and their sisters
Venilale, East Timor

Action at Stations of the Cross

Good
Friday

EVERY year the Sundowners, a progressive Christian group, organises a Stations of the Cross liturgy. This Good Friday a number of FOET members and East Timorese played a role in the event held in Russell Square, Northbridge, on a drizzly morning.

Organised by the Christian Centre for Social Action, the seventh and last Station, which symbolised the crucifixion, was a powerful re-enactment of the Santa Cruz massacre. As the sound of automatic rifle fire burst across the square 'Indonesian soldiers' charged from their hiding places and a number of East Timorese ran screaming through the crowd.

When the shooting stopped the action froze: The Timorese spread-eagled upon the ground, white crosses skyward, with the soldiers standing above, weapons pointing towards them, and standing to one side, caricatures of Suharto and Gareth Evans locked in a handshake... Then a slow, resonate prayer followed, excellently delivered by Peter Stewart, coordinator of the Christian Centre for Social Action and stalwart member of FOET.

Irrespective of one's spirituality the prayer is moving and vivid:

"On the twelfth November after a mass for a pro-independence activist, a crowd like ours today marched through the streets of Dili to the Santa Cruz cemetery. Indonesian troops deliberately fired into the group and murdered two hundred and seventy three innocent people.

*"Loving God,
Today we remember the Crucifixion of your son.
Today we recall the Indonesian invasion;
the twenty years of death and destruction, tears and persecution.*

We tremble at the thought of over two hundred thousand dead.

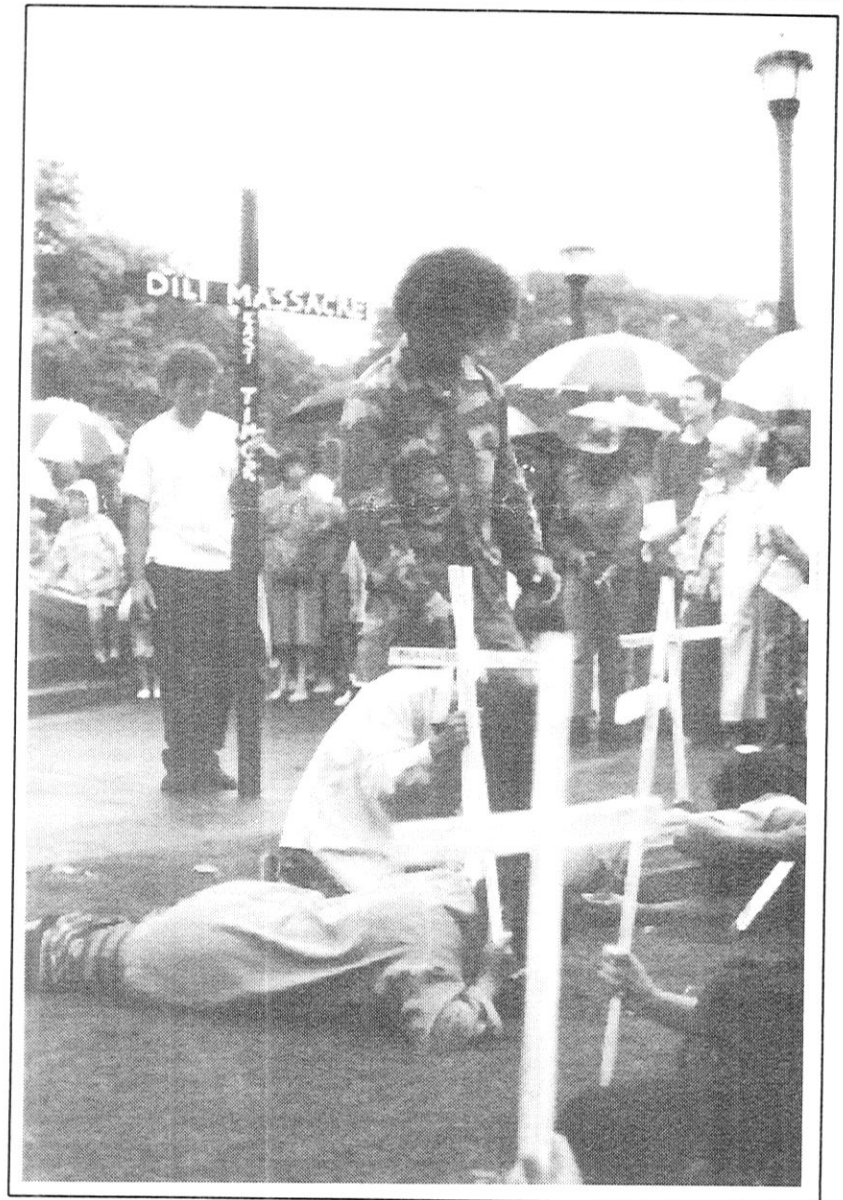
We remember the two hundred and seventy three at Dili.

*We remember the Crucifixion of East Timor.
Your people. Your land.*

*"Loving God,
We confess our Australian silence and apathy;
the ability to sleep while our neighbour cries at the door.*

*We confess how quickly we have made loud noises
about invasions in far away places
but how silent we have been
while our neighbours have been slaughtered.
We confess that our government has shrugged its
shoulders*

*and greedily staked out territorial waters.
We have been more interested in oil fields and trade
relations*



*that in the gifts of life and culture
and the promise of peace and justice
We remember East Timor.
Your people. Your land.*

*"Loving God,
We pray for East Timor
that the genocide will end
that the right to self-determination will be upheld,
that funeral processions will be replaced by freedom
celebrations.*

*Turn us away from bureaucratic niceties and
diplomatic silence
so that we might stand with those who mourn
and work with those who struggle for peace.
We remember East Timor.
Your people. Your land."*

(Adapted by Peter Stewart from a prayer written by Jonathan Nicholls, on the anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor, 7 December 1991.)

The crosses bore
names of people
killed in the Santa
Cruz massacre

The Seed Keepers

by Fawzi Turki

Burn our land
burn our dream
pour acid onto our songs
cover with sawdust
the blood of our massacred people
muffle with your technology
the screams of our imprisoned patriots
destroy,
destroy
our grass and soil
raze to the ground
every farm and every village
our ancestors had built,
destroy every city and every town
every tree and every home
every book and every law,
flatten with your bombs
every valley
erase with your edicts
our past,
our literature
our metaphor,
denude the forrests
and the earth
till no insect
no word
can find a place to hide.
Do that and more,
I do not fear your tyranny.
I guard one seed
of a tree
my forefathers have saved
that I shall plant again
in my homeland.

Fawzi Turki is a Palestinian poet whose words must also have special poignancy for the people of East Timor.

East Timor

by Ron Hart

The Maubere people will one day be free,
to rule their own land, in the Timor Sea.
A tropical Island once filled with love,
the gun-fire will give-way to the coo of the dove.

The struggle goes on, it will not cease,
until our East Timor is once more at peace.
So many have died, it would be to our shame,
if our *amigos* and families had all died in vain.

We stand almost deserted, it seems nobody cares,
to fight our oppressors, it seems nobody dares.
Yet we do have our allies, all over the world,
the Friends of East Timor, with banners unfurled.

Those friends will not desert us, this new breed,
who come to us in friendship, and not in greed.
Not like some nations, who turn a blind eye,
when the smoke from our battles, rose in the sky.

We will never surrender, it is not in our creed,
and the time will soon come, when East Timor is freed.

The yoke of oppression becomes lighter each day,
and our invaders will one day, be driven away.

Our hearts grow even stronger as the battle goes on,
and we will soon see the path, where the sun has not shone.

It is the path to heaven, but not that of above,
no, it is East Timor, the land that I love.

Dedicated to the brave people of East Timor.
Ron Hart, 15 March 1995. A Friend of East Timor.

Ron Hart is one of Friends of East Timor's most prolific letter writers, deluging governments and policy makers in Australia and abroad with questions and condemnation for those who have put expediency before morality. His experiences have inspired him to write the above piece.



Mothers of Santa Cruz appeal to the world

Released by "The Mothers of Santa Cruz", Dili, 12 November 1994, the anniversary of the massacre of our children by the Indonesian army at Santa Cruz on 12 November 1991 and the days that followed.

THE Mothers of Santa Cruz are still waiting for the Indonesian army to tell them *where the bodies of their children are...*

In the meantime, the Mothers of Santa Cruz are afraid to go out in public. They are afraid of being recognised as the mothers or relatives of the Santa Cruz victims.

The Mothers of those who were slaughtered at Santa Cruz know that they and their relatives will be hunted down if they ever go and publicly claim the corpses of their dear ones who were murdered by the Indonesian army of occupation.

The Mothers of Santa Cruz know that there were hundreds martyred at Santa Cruz.

The Mothers of Santa Cruz demand that, given that the perpetrators of the Santa

Cruz Massacre have admitted they killed 50 people - at least tell us where the bodies of those 50 victims are!

The silence of the Mothers of Santa Cruz is symbolic of the terror that has oppressed the Timorese people for 19 years, the terror that has domesticated everything and everyone, in the most cruel and ridiculous ways. Everything and everyone is to be feared. No one trusts anyone. The human environment, society, is decaying.

The Indonesian invader rejects any gesture of good will from anyone who speaks the truth, especially the Timorese Mothers. The Indonesians want the mothers to put the blame on their own children and the noble patriotism for which they gave their lives - the independence and liberation of East Timor.

These attempts to make us forget our martyred children and eventually to blame them for having rebelled against the invader and occupier of their native land can be felt throughout Timor.

The Mothers of Santa Cruz appeal to

mothers and women all over the world to join them in their grief, and to support them in their fight to defend their rights and the rights of their children.

Come to the aid of an innocent people, unjustly invaded, unjustly subjected to a war, whose sole aim is to exterminate those who oppose an unjust integration.

Come to the aid of an innocent people, that is being subjected to massive colonisation that is crushing the native population in all aspects of life.

Come to the aid of an innocent people on whom, as a nation and independent people, the Indonesian Government has, in effect, passed the death sentence.

Come to the aid of an innocent people that is technically on its way to silent extinction because of the real objectives underlying the actions of the BAIS, ABRI and the Indonesian Government.

This is the appeal from many Mothers of Santa Cruz. •

Shock to East Timorese Community

THE sudden death on the 21st April of Antonio de Oliveira, community leader and East Timorese patriot, has left those of us fortunate to have known him with a heavy heart.

Antonio was a man who cared about people, forever working with his particular vision of peace and harmony for the people of East Timor in their common cause. His quiet and caring manner endeared him to everyone. In company he delighted in

conversation. On occasions contributing willingly of his vast and impressive knowledge of the culture and history of East Timor and Portugal. He was constant and untiring in the struggle for self-determination for the people of East Timor, cooperating in the endeavours of others giving support to the cause.

I speak for the Friends of East Timor in expressing sympathy to Fernanda de Oliveira and family in the tragic loss of

husband and father. We feel deeply for them in the grief they bear. Our thoughts and prayers go out to comfort them at this difficult time.

Antonio de Oliveira will continue to be remembered for the richness he brought to the lives he touched; we will for ever be conscious of the privilege of having shared in his life.

Gordon D. McIntosh

In memory of Michele Turner

It is my sad duty to tell you that the wonderful, generous and gifted Michele Turner died in Tasmania on Thursday 2nd March 1995. Author of *'Telling' Personal Testimonies 1942-1992*, a meticulously researched and moving account of Indonesian brutality in East Timor, Michele was greatly loved and admired by all who work for justice in East Timor.

A woman of courage, Michele Turner attempted to pay a debt of gratitude to the Timorese for the life saving assistance they gave her grandfather during World War

Two when he fought there with the 2nd/2nd Independent Company; she was admired for standing up to Gough Whitlam and berating him publicly not for his terrible mistake in under-estimating Indonesian medacity over the 'problem of East Timor', but for his subsequent uninvited appearance at the United Nations to demand that East Timor be dropped from the UN agenda and his attempts to deny the devastation of the Indonesian invasion and colonisation of East Timor.

Always able to offer help and

understanding to anyone suffering deep pain, Michele was unable to surmount her own.

She will be deeply missed by her family, her admirers and friends in the Timorese community, and by all of us who were lucky enough to know her as an honest and compassionate friend.

Shirley Shackleton, activist and widow of Australian journalist, Greg Shackleton, murdered by Indonesian troops at Balibo, East Timor, 1975.

Diary & local news

FOET General Meeting

Sunday, 21st May, 2:00 pm

Venue: Christian Centre for Social Action, 44 Denis Street, Subiaco.

All members welcome

May Day events

Thursday, 4th May: Trade Union Expo and Rally in Forrest Place. Stall for Friends of East Timor and possibly Timorese song group performance at 12:30 pm.

Sunday, 7th May: March in Fremantle. 12:00 noon sharp. FOET members - please come along to march. Stall from 11:00 am.

National Day of Action

Saturday, May 13th, 11:00 am.

Murray Street Mall, Perth.

A rally on East Timor will be held by Resistance / Democratic Socialist Party. For more information, call 227 7367. Theme on ending military ties with Indonesia.

East Timor Benefit Gig

Saturday, 24th June, 8:00 pm to midnight. Planet Nightclub in North Perth, with local bands. Likely line-up includes *Cinema Prague*, *Fondula*, *Yummy Fur*, *Lamia*, and East Timorese merengue band *Riddem Salad*. Please spread the word and help raise funds for both Friends of East Timor and direct aid.

Public Speaking workshop

FOET wants to organise more public talks, so we'll hold a workshop for people to build up their skills in this area. Exact date to be announced, sometime in June.

Upcoming actions

17th August: Indonesia's independence day.

12 November: Anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre.

7 December: Anniversary of Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor.

Invitation for everyone to attend the

International Conference Indonesia and Regional Conflict Resolution Darwin, 26-28 July 1995

Followed by a meeting of Australian solidarity groups that make up the *Australian Coalition for a Free East Timor (ACET)*.

DARWIN'S solidarity group, Australians for a Free East Timor, is part of an organising committee which will be hosting this conference in late July. The conference will deal with a whole range of issues which come under the general categories of political and rights issues, ecological issues and militarism.

This conference has been planned to coincide with the regional military 'war games' which Australia is hosting, known as Kangaroo '95. K95 begins its field activities on 1 August, when Indonesian Red Beret soldiers will 'invade' the north coast of Australia, improving their hunt and slaughter techniques to use on the citizens of East Timor. Please join us in Darwin and help strengthen their actions against Indonesia's participation in K95.

AFFET has organised an associate programme to commence after the conference which will include a meeting of Australian solidarity groups and cross-cultural activities with the large and active East Timorese community in Darwin.

Items to be discussed at the meeting of Australian solidarity groups (under the auspices of the Australian Coalition for a Free East Timor, ACET) will include future national and local strategies for action on East Timor.

Billeting is available, just call us (FOET on 350 5549) if you would like this organised for you, plus a copy of the full programme for the conferences (please note though, programmes are still in the preliminary stage).

Trade Union East Timor support group

THE first meeting of this group was held on April 18th. It will aim to develop support among unionists in WA for the right to self determination for the people of East Timor.

Unions represented at the meeting were The Miscellaneous Workers; Teachers; Metal Workers; Electrical and

Engineering; Meat Workers; Maritime Workers; Construction; Mining and Energy; and the Public Sector Union.

If you know any trade unionists who may be interested in the group's work, they can contact their own union or John and Pat Gandini on 361 4678.

Education Kit available

THE East Timor Education Kit produced by *Christians in Solidarity with East Timor (CISSET)* is now available from Friends of East Timor at a cost of \$15.00.

The kit is an excellent resource for secondary, tertiary and adult studies. Please phone Dona Mannolini on 339 4108 if you are interested in purchasing a kit.

About Friends of East Timor (Western Australia)

Friends of East Timor support -

- an immediate end to the human rights abuses in Indonesian-occupied East Timor;
- the implementation of the numerous United Nations resolutions on East Timor which affirm the right of the East Timorese to determine their own future through the formal process of decolonisation, and a free and fair referendum for all East Timorese.

Friends of East Timor's activities include

- campaigns to inform Australians about the situation in East Timor;
- lobbying the Australian Government and the United Nations to fulfil their obligations to the people of East Timor;
- monitoring current developments and media coverage of the issue.

FOET can be contacted at: PO Box 693, Cannington, 6107, Western Australia; telephone: 361 4678 or 450 5111 or 381 2474.