

NETWORK NEWS

EAST TIMOR ACTION NETWORK/US
PO Box 1182, White Plains, New York 10602 USA
914/428-7299 fax: 914/428-7383 cscheiner@igc.apc.org
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April 17-19 in Washington, DC

Send Congress a Message – Lobby for East Timor

This spring, ETAN activists will converge on Congress to urge action on East Timor. Your participation is crucial to the success of the **April 17-19 Lobby for East Timor**. In Washington, DC, we will raise Capitol Hill consciousness and press for increased congressional action in support of East Timor. Your participation is essential to the success of this major lobbying effort. The more people who participate, the more representatives and senators we can reach.

During the **Lobby for East Timor**, we will meet with legislators and their aides to inform them about East Timor and their constituents' concerns. At the meetings, we will press for a cutoff of all arms sales to Indonesia and urge legislators to support human rights and self-determination for the East Timorese through concrete legislative action. During the **Lobby for East Timor**, we want strengthen the resolve of those who are already taking leadership on East Timor, move those who only sign letters to supporting legislation; and increase the number of letter-signers.

When we meet legislators and their aides, we will talk to them about the basic issues of East Timor

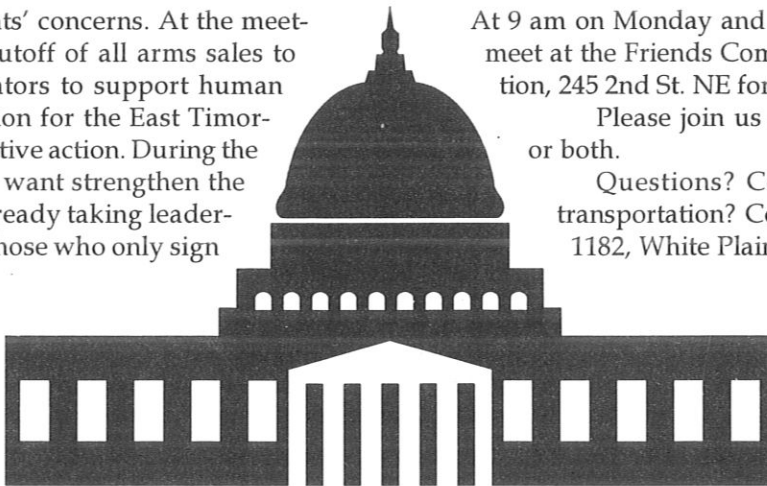
and U.S. policy toward Indonesia and provide them with written and visual material. If you cannot come to Washington, you can arrange a meeting in your home district. We can provide organizing guidelines and a packet of materials to give to your legislator.

Don't worry if you feel you are not an expert. Several briefings are planned to update and coordinate our citizen lobbyists before they start walking the corridors of Capitol Hill. A 2-hour briefing will be held 6-8 pm, Sunday, April 17 at IPS, 1601 Connecticut Ave. NW 4th flr. (near DuPont Circle).

At 9 am on Monday and Tuesday mornings, we will meet at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 2nd St. NE for briefings.

Please join us in Washington for one day or both.

Questions? Concerns? Need Help with transportation? Contact: ETAN/U.S., PO Box 1182, White Plains, NY 10602; (914)428-7299, fax: (914)428-7383; e-mail: cscheiner@igc.apc.org. For housing and other logistical information, contact: Sally Levison, ETAN/DC; (301)593-4305.



Documentary Reveals New Details of Dili Massacre

by Matthew Jardine and John M. Miller

Australian filmmaker John Pilger's long-awaited "Death of a Nation: The Timor Conspiracy" documents the continuing assault on East Timor. In his feature-length documentary on the former Portuguese colony, Pilger brings forth a number of important revelations about what transpired in East Timor following the November 12, 1991 Santa Cruz Massacre. The 90-minute film will no doubt prove to be an important educational and organizing tool for those wishing to end the suffering of the East Timorese.

Land of Crosses

Pilger — well-known for his films exposing the genocide of Pol Pot in Cambodia and Western complicity, such as "Cambodia Year Zero" — calls East Timor "a land of crosses, crosses etched against the sky, crosses on peaks, crosses on hillsides." The film movingly documents the great suffering of the East Timorese and condemns the governments of Britain, the United States and Australia who "supplied the means by which the government of Jakarta has bled East Timor."

"Perhaps 'genocide' is too often used these days, but by

any standards that is what happened here... with the connivance and complicity of western governments" says Pilger speaking on camera from a field in East Timor.

In late 1993, Pilger along with a crew of three others, clandestinely visited East Timor. The crew included Max Stahl whose video images of the Santa Cruz Massacre shocked the world, resulting in considerable pressure on Western governments to end their complicity with the brutal Indonesian occupation. Video footage acquired during Pilger and company's stay in East Timor, along with archival footage, and revealing interviews with Western government officials and East Timorese refugees constitute the film.

A Second Massacre

Max Stahl, who entered East Timor on motorcycle from its western border, was able to take advantage of his credibility with the East Timorese resistance and contacts from his previous visits to the territory to conduct a number of important interviews (some of which are included in the film) during his stay. Stahl's revelations were particularly damaging to Jakarta.

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Much Activity, Limited Progress, in Washington

by Charles Scheiner

After a run of successes for the past two years, including the cutoff of all U.S. military aid to Indonesia, Congressional efforts to further restrict U.S. involvement in Indonesia's occupation of East Timor slowed at the end of 1993.

Senator Russell Feingold's (D-WI) amendment to link arms sales to Indonesia with human rights in East Timor was approved unanimously by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last October, but it never made it to the Senate floor. Congress finished for the year without acting on the Foreign Assistance Authorization Bill. In January, the Clinton administration submitted a bill to reform the entire foreign aid structure, which makes last year's bill irrelevant.

The Feingold Amendment would have been the first time human rights had been linked to U.S. weapons sales for any country, and its committee passage had worldwide impact. Fearing for the worst, arms makers and Indonesia supporters mounted a major campaign, with Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA) threatening a filibuster if Feingold brought it directly to the floor. Unsure he could win, Feingold decided to wait until 1994, when conditions might be more favorable. It remains unclear what form legislative efforts will take this year.

The administration's comprehensive foreign aid bill is weak on human rights — one analyst called its military aid provisions "like a wish list from the Reagan and Bush administrations." The bill also does not address weapons sales (see Code of Conduct below).

Awareness Builds

Last November 19, 101 members of the House of Representatives wrote President Clinton: "On the occasion of your meeting with Indonesian President Suharto and other high-level Indonesian officials at the economic summit in Seattle on November 19 and 20, we urge you to make clear American concern over this state of affairs and stress the need for immediate relief of the appalling human rights situation, as well as a long-term solution to the status of East Timor, where at least 100,000 people already had perished from war-related causes well before the Santa Cruz massacre drew world attention."

At the same time, 37 Senators urged Clinton "to take the opportunity to underscore the need for serious action to resolve the conflict in the former Portu-

guese colony of East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975, and has been the scene of widespread and severe human rights abuses ever since."

Country Reports

However, concern was much higher about human rights in China and Tibet, with 270 Representatives signing a similar letter, and President Clinton did not raise East Timor with Suharto in Seattle (as he had in Tokyo last July). The next Asia-Pacific economic summit is planned for this November in Jakarta, and President Clinton is already committed to going. It will take a strong, concerted effort to get him to raise East Timor while he is "Suharto's guest," but we have eight months to organize it.

The U.S. State Department's annual country reports on human rights re-

leased in February criticized Indonesia record on East Timor:

"Although progress was made in a number of human rights areas, serious abuses continued. In East Timor, where largely cosmetic changes in the force structure resulted in minimal reductions in troop presence, no significant progress was noted in the search for the about 60 persons still missing from the November 12, 1991, shooting incident in Dili. Extrajudicial arrests and detention, torture of those in custody, and excessively violent techniques for dealing with suspected criminals or perceived troublemakers continued in many areas of Indonesia. Legal safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention are frequently ignored. The armed forces continued to be responsible for the most serious human rights abuses...." The extensive re-

Code of Conduct on Arms Sales

On November 18, Georgia Representative Cynthia McKinney introduced a "Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers." The bill would "prohibit United States military assistance and arms transfers to foreign governments that are undemocratic, do not adequately protect human rights, are engaged in acts of armed aggression, or are not fully participating in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms."

In order for the U.S. to sell or give weapons to a country which does meet the bill's standards, the President would have to certify that the transfer was necessary for U.S. interests and Congress would have to vote to approve the sale.

The bill, H.R.3538 promises to inject an element of reality and morality into the efforts to compensate weapons makers for the decline of the Cold War. As of publication, 56 Representatives have co-sponsored the bill. Senator Mark Hatfield (D-OR) has introduced an identical bill, S.1677 with four co-sponsors.

ETAN/US is not officially endorsing the Code because it is not East Timor-specific, but it is clear that Indonesia's invasion and occupation of East Timor violates the conditions in the legislation. We thought readers of this newsletter would be interested in following its progress. The following is excerpted from the statement of Rep. McKinney when she introduced the bill:

"As a member of the Georgia State Legislature I gave a controversial speech on

the involvement of the United States in the Gulf War. I believed then, as I believe now, that American soldiers should not be victims of a short-sighted foreign policy that provides American support for corrupt and anti-democratic regimes.

"That was Cold War thinking — the support of dictators, so long as they were friendly to the U.S. and unfriendly to the Soviet Union. Well, the Soviet Union no longer exists. It is time to end the Cold War thinking that has influenced so much of our policy on arms transfers....

"For the third year in a row, the U.S. retains the world championship in the arms dealing competition. Not only are we the number one arms dealer in the world, but our sales exceed all other competitors combined....

"The arms race talking place in the Third World drains badly needed funds from infrastructure development, social spending, and business investment. Regional competitors strive to keep parity with one another. Sadly, the weapons are as likely to be turned on domestic populations as historic regional enemies....

"At the very least, American arms should not be sold and U.S. military training should not be provided to governments that oppose American principles...."

A wide range of human rights, arms control and peace groups are supporting the Code of Conduct. Contact: PeaceAction, 1819 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006; (202)862-9749; fax: (202)862-9762; e-mail: sfnatl@igc.apc.org.

port details many specific instances of human rights violations.

Military Training Continues

In 1992, Congress terminated the IMET military aid program for Indonesia in protest over the Dili massacre. Dozens of Indonesia soldiers had been invited to the U.S. for training each year, and it became clear that Americans didn't want to be training forces of genocide and occupation.

Last December, however, it was revealed that Indonesian soldiers are still being trained at United States military bases, including the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning in Georgia. Although military aid has been banned, the Indonesian army now purchases the training. Although technically legal (since the Feingold Amendment hasn't been enacted), these sales clearly violate the wishes of Congress.

The continuing military training shows that we cannot take anything for granted. Congress clearly voted to prohibit military aid, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair Claiborne Pell (D-RI) and Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) wrote the State Department last July that allowing Indonesia to purchase U.S. military training "would be directly contrary to the intent of Congress." Since the training became known, a few Senators and Representatives have questioned the Administration, but no coherent explanation has emerged. Concerted public, grassroots action is needed to embarrass Washington and Jakarta away from business as usual.

Although the East Timor situation presents a very clear case for ending arms sales to Indonesia, many Senate and House members, and their aides, are not familiar with our arguments. Although we have been able to prevail in committees, when a few legislators with specialized focus can be educated and pressured, we have not yet developed the breadth and depth of awareness to win a floor vote.

As we begin to confront the arms industry and Indonesia's increasingly active economic and diplomatic advocates, we will encounter increasing opposition. It is a tribute to the effectiveness of our work for East Timor that the "other side" is organizing against us. It is also a challenge.

ETAN's Lobby for East Timor, this April 17-19, are an ideal opportunity to educate our Congressional representatives on the issues and to press them for further action (see page 1 for details). Please join us in Washington, DC and

send a strong message in support of self-determination and human rights for East Timor.

GSP Update

In mid-February, the Clinton administration gave Indonesia another six months to improve its labor practices before making a decision regarding special trading benefits Jakarta receives under the General System of Preferences (GSP). Under the program, Indonesia is currently exempt from tariff exemptions for about US\$650 million worth of goods exported to the United States. These exemptions have been especially helpful for Indonesia's shoe and textile industries.

In June 1993, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor announced that Jakarta faced possible suspension of the GSP trade benefits for Indonesia's repression of labor rights. While the issues around the threatened GSP suspension were much larger than East Timor, Congressional outrage over the issue of East Timor reportedly play an important role in influencing the Clinton administration.

Since June, Jakarta has taken a few steps to give a better face to the ugly reality of labor conditions in the country. Beginning January 1, for example, the Indonesian minimum wage jumped from US\$1.23 to US\$1.80 a day. (Many employers, however, have stated that they will not pay the increase.)

Few believed that the Suharto regime would significantly improve the climate for workers' rights in Indonesia in the aftermath of Kantor's threat to suspend GSP benefits. Indonesia's repressive working conditions and low wage scale provides obvious advantages to Indonesian elites as well as to foreign capital (much of it from the U.S.) — a fact not lost on the Clinton administration.

Last August Melbourne (Australia) Age columnist Mark Baker foreshadowed the Clinton Administration's recent announcement: "A U.S. official said the extent to which the Administration was prepared to press Indonesia on human rights was tempered by the continuing economic and strategic importance of Jakarta." Such realpolitik has long been the hallmark of U.S. foreign policy with Indonesia and the rest of the world. It will, therefore, require significant pressure on our part to make sure that Bill Clinton lives up to his campaign promise to put human rights at the center of U.S. foreign policy and thus end GSP benefits (among other things) for Jakarta.

News Briefs

In early March, Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH) published in the *Congressional Record* excerpts of a letter he received from Bishop Belo, head of the Catholic Church in East Timor. The letter outlines recent instances of torture and brutality, as well as problems of missionary priests who are seeking extension of their residency visas. Hall says the letter "believe[s] the contention that the situation in East Timor is improving. The consistent nature of the repression in East Timor makes it clear that until and unless there is an unmistakable policy decision on the part of the Indonesian military, systematic abuse of East Timor's people will continue."

Earlier in the year, Hall nominated Bishop Belo for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In his letter, Belo describes the problem of 400 Timorese young people taken to Java with the promise of work. "When they arrived there, they were distributed amongst a number of factories without keeping the initial agreement, there were changes of factory and the young people did not receive a sufficient salary. Many of the young East Timorese in Jakarta suffer like slaves. Two of them have died already. Others are being persecuted and beaten," writes Belo.

Xanana Gusmão, the jailed leader of East Timor's resistance movement CNRM, wrote to the International Commission of Jurists outlining the abuses of justice in his 1993 trial before an Indonesian court. His letter, one of several smuggled out of prison, documented numerous abuses of international and Indonesian law during the trial and asked that it be nullified.

Xanana accused his court-appointed lawyer of collaborating with the authorities and reiterated his request, first made soon after his arrest, that the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation represent him.

In a separate letter to supporters in Portugal, Xanana accused the Indonesians of depriving him of sleep soon after his arrest. "There were orders not to let me concentrate. There were orders not to let me think."

The letter writing prompted Indonesian authorities to suspend visits to Xanana by family members and human rights supporters (both Indonesian and international). The director general of Cipinang prison, told the official news agency Antara that "the decision was taken because Gusmão has tarnished the good image of Indonesia abroad."

Parliamentarians Meet with UN Secretary-General

ETAN/US provided logistical, media and other assistance to parliamentarians from four countries who met with United Nations Secretary General Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali in early February.

Members of the Parliamentarian for East Timor (PET) called on Boutros-Ghali to open an office in East Timor to oversee its demilitarization, provide humanitarian aid, and monitor human rights. In a memo, PET asked the Secretary General to urge Indonesia to comply with the terms of the 1993 resolution of the UN Human Rights Commission. Compliance with the resolution would be "the most important confidence-building measure needed."

The delegation consisted of Lord Avebury of Britain, founder and Chair of Parliamentarian for East Timor; Senator John Dardis of Ireland; Ingela Martensson, Swedish MP who visited East Timor in September 1993 and John Langmore of Australia.

The parliamentarians called for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops and the

holding of a referendum on self-determination for East Timor under strict international supervision. They also asked the Secretary General to set up a UN commission to study of the events leading to Indonesia's invasion and annex-

ation of the territory.

During the meeting, the Secretary General told the MPs that the Portuguese and Indonesians had agreed to avoid discussion on the substantive issue of self-determination. There was also no likeli-



Parliamentarians for East Timor delegation with UN Secretary-General. From left to right: Lord Avebury (UK), Ingela Martensson (Sweden); Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali; John Dardis (Ireland) and John Langmore (Australia). Photo from United Nations.

UN Urges Indonesia to Improve Human Rights

For the third year in a row, the U.N. Human Rights Commission spoke on the issue of East Timor. A consensus statement read by the commission chair urged Indonesia to treat East Timor detainees humanely and to investigate fully a November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre.

The statement also encourages Indonesia and Portugal to reach a "comprehensive settlement" to their dispute over East Timor.

But the Commission welcomed recent cooperation from Indonesia, including its invitation to a U.N. special investigator on summary executions to visit the territory. The three main parties to the conflict issued statements supporting the resolution. Indonesia's Foreign Minister called the statement "balanced and soft." The Portuguese government said the declaration "contains measures capable of allowing an effective improvement in the present human rights situation in East Timor."

José Ramos-Horta, Co-Chair of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM) said the UNCHR adopted "far more than we had aimed for. We would have been happy if Indonesia had been compelled to invite one thematic rapporteur.... Instead, by this consensus statement, Indonesia is now bound to invite all existing seven thematic rapporteurs

and working groups of the CHR."

The UN's Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions is scheduled to visit East Timor in June, and will for the first time investigate the exact circumstances of the November 1991 massacre, as well as the reports of a second massacre in an Indonesian military hospital in Dili. The Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances are also to visit East Timor in 1994.

This year's consensus declaration follows last year's UNHCR resolution on East Timor adopted by a vote of 23 to 12 and the August 1993 resolution by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Both resolutions were highly critical of the Indonesian government.

A report, prepared by the UN to the Commission, said that Indonesian troops or police murdered at least 40 East Timorese in 1992. Many others may have been killed and buried or thrown into the sea after the Santa Cruz Massacre in November 1991. "The whereabouts of more than 200 persons who allegedly disappeared after the killing[s]... at Santa Cruz (in Dili) were reportedly not known at the end of 1992" the report said.

hood that East Timorese representatives could be involved in the discussions now being held under between the two countries. He said that for the foreseeable future, the concentration had to be on confidence-building measures such as the release of political prisoners and the reduction of Indonesian troops in the territory.

This was the second meeting between PET and a UN Secretary General. In March 1991, delegation of six members of parliament from Australia, Britain, the Netherlands, Japan and Portugal met with Boutros-Ghali's predecessor, Javier Perez de Celler.

The 1994 meeting with the Secretary General came at the end of visits by his two special envoys on East Timor to Portugal, Indonesia, East Timor and Australia. The envoys met with representatives from the governments of Indonesia and Portugal, and East Timorese leaders, including Xanana Gusmão, the imprisoned leader of the East Timorese resistance. The special envoys' mission will help the Secretary General prepare for the next meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal scheduled for May.

Constâncio Pinto in the U.S.

Constâncio Pinto is the representative of the Timorese resistance movement to the United States. After escaping from East Timor and Indonesia in 1992, he went on North American and worldwide speaking tours, and is currently studying at Brown University.

Since arriving there last fall, Constâncio has made several trips to Washington and New York, meeting with political leaders at Congress and the United Nations. He has spoken at a number of universities, including Brown, Yale, MIT and Wellesley, and he has conducted numerous press interviews. This semester, Constâncio has arranged his class schedule so that he is free on Mondays and Fridays, and he is ready to speak about East Timor wherever it can be arranged (expenses should be covered, and honoraria are encouraged but not mandatory).

Constâncio's tuition and room at Brown are paid, but he has no funding for his vital East Timor work. ETAN/US is raising money for Constâncio's work

— separate from ETAN's budget for its own activities. We hope to be able to support him with a minimum of \$250/month, which would cover his frugal phone bill and a trip to New York or Washington. When Constâncio is invited to speak, his expenses are covered, but lobbying at the UN or Congress is equally important, and unpaid.

A number of people, including Portuguese students in the U.S., have already committed to contribute \$5 or \$10 each month. Can you?

In addition to ongoing expenses, Constâncio needs some "capital" in order to operate effectively, such as a computer and a fax machine. Can you help him either with the equipment or the money to buy it?

ETAN/US can receive donations for Constâncio (please earmark them) and pass them on, or you can send them to him directly at Box 3675, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. If you do the latter, please let us know. To correspond with Constâncio by e-mail, write st004812@brownvum.brown.edu (an incorrect e-mail address was listed in the last newsletter).

Documentary continued from page 1

According to a lab technician at the Dili hospital and a survivor of the massacre interviewed by Stahl, Indonesian soldiers killed survivors of the Santa Cruz Massacre at the hospital. The soldiers "crushed the skulls of the wounded with large rocks, ran over them with trucks, stabbed them and administered — with doctors present — poisonous disinfecting

chemicals as medicines to 'finish off' scores of wounded demonstrators in the wake of the massacre." Stahl thinks that anywhere from 50-200 wounded died in this manner.

Stahl was also able to interview Nino Konis Santana, the Commander-in-Chief of FALINTIL, the guerilla army of the East Timorese resistance since April 1993. As head of FALINTIL, Santana is one-third of the tripartite leadership of the CNRM (the National Council of Maubere

has begun to change.

The East Timor Action Network/US supports genuine self-determination and human rights for the people of East Timor in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December, 1960 (on decolonization), and specific UN Security Council (384 and 389) and General Assembly resolutions on East Timor. ETAN's primary focuses are to change US policy and raise public awareness in support of self-determination for East Timor.

Network News is published approximately every two months and sent to members and supporters of ETAN/US.

Your financial contribution is crucial to ETAN's effectiveness and success. Please make a contribution today. Tax-deductible contributions over \$50 for ETAN's educational work can be made payable to WESPAC Foundation/ETAN.

Resistance), the coordinating body of all diplomatic, political, and military aspects of the East Timorese resistance.

Under the noses of the Indonesian army, Stahl penetrated Jakarta's formidable military presence on the half-island and visited Santana in a mountain encampment, conducting the first filmed interview of a resistance leader in the mountains. (The full interview was recently shown in Portugal). According to Santana, FALINTIL now consists of 800 fighters, but only has 450 weapons. Despite their small numbers, FALINTIL claims to control much of East Timor's mountainous interior.

U.S. Role

C. Philip Liechty, the senior CIA officer in Indonesia in 1975 expresses his disgust with what has happened to East Timor. "I saw my own government very much involved in what was going on in East Timor," he tells Pilger. "And what was going on was not good. You can be 100% certain that Suharto was explicitly given the green light" to invade by President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger, who left Jakarta shortly before the invasion. As East Timor was turned into a free fire zone, "we were providing most of the weaponry, helicopters, logistical support... all of the expendables the Indonesians needed to conduct this war."

"Why not simply leave the East Timorese alone?" he asks.

"Death of a Nation" was first shown in Geneva during the recent meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Showings on national television in Britain and in Australian cinemas have caused an uproar. In Britain, the government has had to respond to revelations that British warplanes have been used in East Timor, despite public assurances by the British government that they would not be.

The Australian government is on the defensive in the face of disclosures that it knew well in advance that Indonesia was preparing to invade and had in fact infiltrated troops into the territory months before the full invasion began. The film also includes footage from Foreign Minister Gareth Evans' 1989 propaganda video in which he and his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas toast the theft of East Timor's resource wealth with the signing of the Timor Gap Oil Treaty as their jet flies above the graveyard that is East Timor.

Arrangements for showings in the U.S. are still being made. Contact ETAN/US for details.

ETAN Protests in Seattle

by ETAN/Seattle

Indonesian President Suharto was confronted in Seattle last November with a scene he would never witness in his own country: a line of 70 protesters of his genocidal policy in East Timor. Suharto may have personally missed the protesters as his limo sped past on his way to President Clinton's gala reception for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit heads of state, but many other leaders were seen craning their necks in curiosity as the motorcade whizzed by the protesters who carried colorful signs, Timorese flags, and candles lit in memory of the 200,000 East Timorese victims of the Indonesian invasion. Noticeably, President Clinton waved seemingly sympathetically at the protesters as his car passed.

The protest, one of dozens held during the APEC gala reception, may have been the only one that was directly witnessed by the presidents and prime min-



ETAN vigil during APEC Summit.
Photo © Jim Levitt.

isters. Other demonstrations, held by various human rights, environmental, and labor organizations, were kept away from the eyes of the Asian leaders: the actual motorcade route differed from the one originally announced and for which demonstration permits had been issued. East Timor supporters realized just in time that the route had been altered, and decided to change plans accordingly.

The ETAN group arrived on 12th Avenue just before the motorcade, and dozens of nervous police reacted by flanking the curb in order to prevent anyone from stepping onto the street. At least one curious policeman took leaflets about East Timor after admitting he had no idea what East Timor was. Other bystanders who had come to watch the motorcade regalia also were clued into the violence in East Timor and the U.S. backing of the annexation when the dem-

onstrators chanted "Indonesia you can't hide we charge you with genocide" and "Indonesia kills, U.S. pays the bills." At the end of the protest, the group stood in a minute of silence to remember the Santa Cruz massacre. This protest was organized by ETAN/Seattle and the Amnesty International student group of the University of Washington.

The next day, Saturday, November 20, ETAN/Seattle joined a coalition march and rally of several thousand people representing human rights groups concerned with Tibet, China and Vietnam, environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth (FOE) and Greenpeace, and labor groups such as Jobs with Justice, in an enthusiastic capstone to a weekend of events highlighting the hidden costs of free trade. Riding on the tiger's tail of the NAFTA passage, most of these groups opposed President Clinton's implicit goal of extending a NAFTA for Asia. Reverend Jeffreys of Seattle's New Hope Baptist Church emotional and captivating speech on the subject of human rights and the importance of placing human values ahead of corporate interests made several references to East Timor.

The rally was organized by the "Citizens Host Committee," formed by several grassroots groups brought together under the remarkable initiative of the FOE to coordinate APEC protest efforts. The Citizens Host Committee also set up two media conference rooms during the APEC week, providing the opportunity for the easy access of the media to representatives of the different protest groups. Charlie Scheiner, coordinator of ETAN/U.S., spoke to media representatives during his brief visit to Seattle that week.

While several local radio stations and newspapers made notable reference to the East Timor issues, and the ETAN protests were indeed announced twice in the *Seattle Times* (including a front-page headline), the subsequent coverage of the protests in the joint Sunday edition of the *Seattle Times* and *Post-Intelligencer* disappointingly attempted to minimize and trivialize all protest. But the energy generated by the remarkable convergence and solidarity between so many local grassroots groups will not be easily dissipated. The success of the joint efforts of different groups during a week of protests has paved the avenue for hopeful future mutual support and co-operation.

Indonesian Academic Describes Ecological & Cultural Destruction

A leading Indonesian academic says that East Timor is suffering severe ecological problems because of the occupation and that a culture of violence and intimidation has been fostered in the territory. Indonesian troops are guilty of using Timorese women sexually, and encourage people to spy on one another.

Dr. George Aditjondro, a lecturer at Sataya Wacama University in Central Java is an environmentalist and anthropologist. In 1986, he was named Indonesian environmentalist of the year by President Suharto.

Among his other findings, as reported in the *West Australian* are that:

+ the worst case estimates that 60,000 men, women and children, or about 10 per cent of the population, were killed in the fighting, or died as a result of war-related deprivations in the first months after the Indonesian invasion in December 1975. He thinks that estimates that 200,000 have died as a result of the invasion may be far too low.

+ reports by foreign observers that napalm and defoliants such as Agent Orange were used East Timor are probably true.

+ a flood of official "transmigrants" and spontaneous migrants and the take over by absentee owners of large tracts of land have compounded the environmental impacts of 18 years of war. Companies set up by Indonesian military officers who mounted the invasion have monopolized almost the entire economy.

+ East Timorese regularly spy on each other and try to solve conflicts by making reports, often false, about the activities of their rivals to the security forces.

+ Roman Catholic religious symbols have been destroyed or desecrated by some Indonesians.

Dr. Aditjondro says he has the names of 271 people who were killed and more than 200 who are missing after the November 1991 massacre at the Santa Cruz cemetery.

Dr. Aditjondro, who has researched East Timor for more than 20 years, expects the Indonesian government to accuse him of being a traitor and to try to damage his credibility. But he believes it is the duty of democratic elements in Indonesia to expose what is happening in East Timor. "I don't want the rest of the world to think that everybody in Indonesia accepts what has happened there," he said.

Radio Documentary Wins Award

A radio documentary on East Timor has won the prestigious DuPont-Columbia Broadcast Journalism Awards. The documentary "Massacre: The Story of East Timor," produced by Amy Goodman and Allan Nairn for WBAI and Pacifica Radio, won the sole radio award given. Both journalists were assaulted by Indonesian troops during the 1991 massacre at the Santa Cruz cemetery in East Timor. PBS broadcast the awards ceremony nationwide in late January.

CBS's Mike Wallace, who presented the award of a silver baton, appeared noticeably uncomfortable when Allan Nairn, in his acceptance speech, said "The blood that we saw oozing out to cover that cemetery road is blood that is on the hands of the government of the United States, and also on the hands of



the US press...

"what have the US networks done during this US-sponsored genocide? During the 15 year 11 month period, starting from the announcement of the '75 invasion and running up until the massacre we survived, the ABC, NBC, and CBS evening news shows did not run a single story on East Timor.... And US radio and print, though occasionally mentioning the killings, have inaccurately omitted the US role."

Audiotapes of the award-winning documentary can be purchased for \$10.

Resources

Books

☐ **East Timor — Death of a Nation** is a just-published special issue of *New Internationalist* magazine. The issue, edited by John Pilger, includes articles by Tapol's Carmel Budiardjo, and former Australian diplomat James Dunn, along with testimonies from Timorese and fact sheets. \$3.50.

☐ **East Timor: Getting Away with Murder**, a new book written and photographed by journalist Hugh O'Shaughnessy. "A poignant and stark reminder of the continuing agony of East Timor," says Glenys Kinnock in her forward. \$10 each.

☐ **Telling: East Timor Personal Testimonies 1942-1992**, by Michele Turner, oral accounts of ordinary East Timorese, recounting what they have witnessed. \$20

☐ **Indonesia's Forgotten War: The Hidden History of East Timor**, by John Taylor. \$20

Misc.

☐ **Free East Timor** button (with a photo of a young Timorese girl) \$1

☐ **East Timor Key Chain**. All metal with relief of traditional house on one side and map of Timor on the other. \$5

☐ **Picture Postcards of Timorese Life**. Set of six cards (two each of three different photos). \$2.00

☐ **Massacre: The Story of East Timor**. Award winning radio documentary broad-

cast nationally last year on the anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre. 40 minutes. \$8

☐ **Documents on East Timor**. Regular compilation averaging 100 pages of news analysis from around the globe. Sample copy, \$8 (\$10 international air mail)

T-Shirts

☐ **Free East Timor** with the FRETILIN flag, "To Resist is to Win - Xanana Gusmão" on the back. Red, white and yellow on black. Specify size. \$13.

☐ **East Timor: To Resist Is To Win** with a photo of a young boy with his arms outstretched in a victory sign in front of a banner at the Santa Cruz demonstration. Large and Extra Large (specify size). \$13

☐ **East Timor: Indonesia's Killing Field** with a photo of a man in a cemetery with mountains in the background. Both shirts have "End US Support of Indonesian Genocide" or "End US Support of the Indonesian Occupation" on the back. Large and

ET Info on the Internet

ETAN/US is making available key documents on East Timor to users of the Internet, the global computer network. To access the East Timor information, gopher to IGC's public gopher (type gopher igc.apc.org), and look under "Peace, Human Rights and Social Justice." If you are already on IGC (PeaceNet, EcoNet) you can type "i", choose "Progressive Gophers," and then "The Institute for Global Communications".

IGC also hosts a conference called reg.easttimor which includes extensive information about the country. We can arrange to have the contents of reg.easttimor e-mailed to an Internet account or you can get your own account on IGC. For info about receiving reg.easttimor, contact fbp@igc.apc.org. For info about IGC: 18 De Boom St., S.F., CA 94107; (415)442-0220.

Extra Large (specify size). \$13

Videos (All videos 1/2" VHS)

☐ **Cold Blood: The Massacre of East Timor**. 55-minute British documentary including November 12, 1991 massacre. \$25

☐ **Aggression and Self-Determination**. ETAN's 28-minute video about US role. \$20.

☐ **Xanana**. The human side of the East Timor leader through the eyes of people who have known him. (for noncommercial use only) 30 minutes. \$25.

☐ **East Timor: Turning a Blind Eye**. Produced by Paper Tiger Television. focuses on US policy and the role of the media. Taped during the Spring 1993 New Generations of Resistance Tour sponsored by the East Timor Action Network/US. 30 min. \$20.

Send orders to ETAN/US, PO Box 1182, White Plains, NY 10602. Please add 20% for postage and handling to all orders. (15% for orders over \$50.)

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Timor Advocate to Lead NCC Churches

by Anne Treseder

The National Council of Churches (NCC) selected Bishop Melvin Talbert, spiritual leader of the United Methodist Church in Northern California and Western Nevada, President-elect at its annual meeting. Bishop Talbert, who will assume the council's presidency in 1996, is a strong advocate of human rights and self-determination for East Timor.

Talbert was installed at the historic Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 10, 1993, during a service attended by Archbishop William H. Keeler, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and other religious dignitaries.

In an August 27, 1993 pastoral letter to Methodists in California and Nevada, Bishop Talbert discussed the tragic recent history of East Timor and asked local Methodist churches to take up the issue of East Timor "as a priority." He urged Methodists to write to their Senators and Representatives and request a cut-off of U.S. arms sales to Indonesia until Indonesia complies with UN resolutions and withdraws from East Timor.

Talbert's letter called on readers to "follow through" on the strong resolution of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church which called for a cut-off of all aid and arms sales to Indonesia until it withdraws its forces from East Timor and allows a UN-supervised referendum there.

"We must reach out and help the long-suffering people of East Timor... Rarely have a people been so abused, so forgotten, and so in need of our help as the Timorese," Talbert, who is African American, wrote.

Writing this fall in *SEQUOIA, the Journal of the Northern California Ecumenical*

Council, Bishop Talbert, said: "I am hopeful that other religious bodies and leaders will also involve themselves. Together, we can save a nation and rescue a people. We in the United States have leverage with the aggressor and occupier of East Timor. We must persuade the Indonesian government to end its occupation of East Timor, just as we persuaded the South African government to end apartheid."

Speaking to NCC Board members on the morning following his election, Bishop Talbert called on the NCC to embrace the world, to bridge the many gaps between people, and to enter into the struggle of humanity and speak on behalf of those who suffer.

The National Council of Churches is composed of 32 different Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the United States. More than 48 million U.S. Christians belong to churches that hold membership in the Council.

International Conference Manila, May 31-June 4

The Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) will meet in the Philippines May 31-June 4. In addition to building support for self-determination in the region, meetings of the International Federation for East Timor (of which ETAN is a member) and the International Platform of Jurists for East Timor will also take place.

APCET provides and excellent opportunity to meet and plan with people from this key region and around the world. If you are interested in attending, please contact ETAN/U.S. or APCET Philippine Convenor's Group, #2 Matulungin cor. Malakas Sts., Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines; Fax +63-3-921-6774.

Coming Events

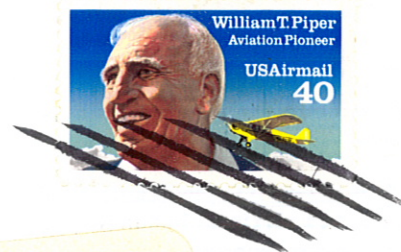
Portland: Friday, April 1, Allan Nairn will speak on East Timor at 7:00 pm at Portland State University, Cramer Bldg. Rm. 53. On Saturday, Nairn will speak on Central America in Rm. 71 of Cramer. Sponsored by East Timor Action Network, Portland: (503)231-2592

Seattle: Sunday, April 3, Nairn will speak in Seattle 8pm, Gowen Rm. 1, University of Washington campus (across from Suzzallo Library). Contact: ETAN/Seattle: (206)547-7802.

New York City: On Wednesday, April 13, ETAN New York and New Jersey chapters will hold a peaceful picket outside the Asia Society while Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas speaks at a conference on Indonesian-U.S. relations. The picketers will call for an end to Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor and for self-determination for the East Timorese. *The picket will begin at 5:30 pm at 725 Park Ave. (and 70th St.) in New York City.*

ETAN is also encouraging interested people to attend the conference, "Indonesia, The United States and the World Today," to engage in discussion with the participants on U.S. and Indonesian policy. The conference is sponsored by The Asia Society and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta in cooperation with the American Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and runs from April 13 through April 15.

To register contact: The Asia Society, 725 Park Ave., NY, NY 10021; (212)288-6400. Fees are \$25 students and \$50 Academics (NGO). For information about the protest contact: ETAN/NY: (718)780-6071.



EAST TIMOR ACTION NETWORK / US

PO Box 1182

White Plains, New York 10602 USA

David Webster
East Timor Alert Network / ACT for Disa
PO Box 562, Station P
Toronto, ON M5S 2T1
CANADA