

MONTHLY MEMO No. 1/89

(Information received during January 1989)

1. EAST TIMORa. Human rights violations in East Timor

A document from East Timor's interior, dated 25 September 1988 and received in Lisbon on 22 January 1989, lists human rights violations in the territory.

Imprisonment, harassment, amputation of hands, interrogation of parents whose sons are or were studying in Portugal, intimidation of the mother of Malai-Laka, a recently killed guerrilla chief, are some of the cases indicated in the document.

There are reports that the political police (Intel) is "trying to identify all those (catechists, nurses, drivers, servants, teachers, etc.) who speak to the Bishop and priests, especially the priests in Lospalos, Baucau, Fatumaca, Viqueque, Same, Ainaro and Bobonaro because, according to Intel, they are the most active links with the armed resistance".

Freedom of expression is equally disregarded. The Dili Kopskan Intel "ordered the Sunday sermon, in Portuguese, to be collected from Father Domingos da Cunha. The theme of the sermon was "Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which is God's".

ET 167/89

b. Military Situation

The abovementioned document reports on military movements in the territory during September 1988.

The situation in Bivaque continued tense: "on 17, 18 and 23 September 1988 two hunter planes bombed the Ponta Leste areas, south of Viqueque". On 21, 22 and 23 of the same month "there was intense exchange of fire in Galata (Venilale), Uaibobo (Ossu area), Keli-cai and at the foot of the mountain". The outcome of this fighting is not known. In this region "the Indonesian forces have been trying to poison all the natural sources of water".

"Five kms. from the town of Venilale, on the Ossoala mountain, the Unit III forces entered into combat with Indonesian forces". As a result, one comrade was killed, another with her baby was captured as well as a guerrilla and his weapon. On the Indonesian side there were no casualties.

At the end of September all the Indonesian forces concentrated "in the eastern zone of the country, due to

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the euphoria following the death of comrade Malai-Laka, military adviser and one of the four CCF members in the interior".

ET 167/89

c. The possible removal of Mário Carrascalão

The reports of the possible removal of Mário Carrascalão (see MM 19, seem to be linked with an Indonesian disinformation campaign.

According to statements by José Ramos Horta in Lisbon, "Carrascalão has in fact gone abroad, just as he has done every year. His departure is not significant, even if it has coincided with the eve of the opening up of East Timor to the outside world, and any speculation about this just plays into the hands of the Timorese people's enemies".

Furthermore, João Carrascalão, UDT leader in Australia and brother of Mário Carrascalão, stated to the newspaper Europeu that: "Mário's visit is related to a family reunion (...) The power struggle in Indonesia in general, and in Timor in particular, creates situations in which the forces involved use any available means which may benefit them in some way. I know that some factions in power would like to see him removed from the office of Governor of Timor, in order to pursue their economic interests, but I do not think this is the moment for it."

Europeu, 2 January 1989

d. East Timor's isolation continues

In spite of the Indonesian government's announcement that on 1st January 1989 East Timor's borders would be opened up, this in fact did not happen.

According to the Indonesian daily Kompas, quoted by the DPA news agency (W. Germany), a military commander in Kupang, capital of the western part of the island, said that anyone wishing to enter East Timor would still have to obtain prior authorisation and other documents passed by the Indonesian authorities.

It is known that at least three foreigners (whose identities are not known) were prevented from entering the territory occupied by Indonesia on January 1 1989.

Diário Popular, 3 January 1989  
Expresso, 3 January 1989

e. Resistance forces attack on Dili

According to sources linked to the Timorese resistance, Fretilin units attacked Dili's Lahane and Taibessi neighbourhoods on 31 December 1988.

The attack resulted in the explosion of an ammunitions store and the consequent death of 84 Indonesian soldiers and wounding of 27 others. The same sources reported that there "have been desertions from Indonesian battalions operating with mixed personnel, thus enabling the recuperation of many weapons". Battalion 744 was specified.

The member of the Maubere resistance that reported these incidents stressed that the attack on East Timor's capital "contributed towards Indonesia cancelling the opening up of the territory to foreigners".

Diário de Notícias, 10 January 1989  
Europeu, 12 January 1989

f. Indonesia denies attack on Dili

The Commander-in-Chief of Indonesia's Armed Forces, Try Sutrisno, denied that any Fretilin guerrilla attacks had occurred in East Timor, specifying that the situation in the territory was "becoming safer all the time".

Diário de Notícias, 17 January 1989

g. Fretilin cause of casualties in Indonesian army

The Fretilin Information Office (GIF) announced in Lisbon that, as a result of fighting on 21 January 1989 in Laline, mid-south East Timor, 37 Indonesian soldiers were killed. The same source stated that the dead soldiers belonged to the Indonesian army's 328 Battalion, commanded by President Suharto's son-in-law. This Battalion had previously been posted at mount Matebian, in the eastern zone.

The same day, "violent confrontations" occurred between Fretilin guerrillas and Indonesian soldiers in the Ainaro region, in central East Timor. Casualty figures were not known. The Information Office reported that "at least 36 seriously wounded Indonesian soldiers were transported in three Puma helicopters to Jakarta on 25 January."

ET 171/89  
Diário de Notícias, 31 January 1989  
Diário, 31 January 1989

h. List of documents received in the period

- (1) Information various. Interior, 25 Sept. 88, 8 p. (Portuguese)  
ET 167/89
- (2) Open letter. Beate Weber, E.P., Brussels, 11 Jan. 89, 2 p.  
(English) ET 168/89
- (3) Prisoner list. Interior, s.d., 6 p. (Portuguese) ET 169/89

Note: Document ET 169/89 contains an extensive list of members of the Timorese population who have been captured, killed or 'disappeared'. Some of those listed were imprisoned at the time of President Suharto's visit.

- (4) Press release. José Guterres, Fretilin, Lisbon, 23 Jan. 89,  
3 p. (Portuguese) ET 170/89
- (5) Press Release. GIF, Lisbon, 28 Jan. 89, 1 p. (Portuguese)  
ET 171/89

- (6) Information. GATIMOR, UDT, No. 15, Jan. 89, 14 p. (Portuguese)  
ET 172/89

The information bulletin GATIMOR (UDT) is once again being published, after a long lapse. It contains information on issues already referred to in previous Monthly Memos.

## 2. ADMINISTRATING POWER: PORTUGAL

### a. Soares emphasises 'growing support' for Timor cause

During the diplomatic corps' New Year's welcome ceremony, President of the Republic Mário Soares underlined "the growing support which East Timor's just cause has been receiving from all quarters, namely from among our European Community partners", adding that "Portugal profoundly hopes that the East Timorese people (...) will, in the end, see their legitimate rights to self-determination and independence recognised".

Diário de Notícias, 10 January 89

### b. Portuguese parliament prepares "Black Book" on Timor

On 9 January in Portugal's parliament, the Parliamentary Commission on East Timor passed, in principle, a proposed "programme of activities", which included the elaboration of a 'Black Book' containing all the testimonies gathered on the situation in East Timor.

This proposal also covered various other projects such as preparing a new report on the territory and its evolution up to the present, as well as activities aimed at bringing about greater awareness of the issue, both in Portugal and abroad and on various levels (political, youth, etc.), and the possibility of making a documentary film for TV.

The programme of activities also includes consultations with the Government and President of the Republic vis-a-vis the political expediency of the Assembly of the Republic holding an international conference on East Timor".

Europeu, 10 and 12 January 1989  
Jornal de Notícias, 14 January 1989

### c. Law Faculty Association debate on East Timor

On 18 January Lisbon's Law Faculty's Academic Association (AAFDL) held a talk at its premises on East Timor. It is noteworthy that, for the first time, an official representative (Mr. Quartin Santos) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended this kind of meeting. Also present were: the President of the Parliamentary Commission on East Timor, Mr. Dias Loureiro; a Fretilin leader, Mr. Ramos Horta; a UDT leader, Mr. Moisés Amaral; Mnsgr. Martinho da Costa Lopes; two members of solidarity groups, and a Portuguese jurist.

Diário de Notícias, 15 January 1989

d. Meeting of Fretilin abroad

From 19 to 22 January the third meeting of Fretilin abroad was held in Lisbon.

Various objectives were defined at the meeting: on an internal level, the unity of all Timorese within the Nationalist Convergence; on an external level, the strengthening links of friendship and solidarity with the African Portuguese-speaking countries, and intensification of cooperation with Portugal's high-level authorities.

The results of the meeting were given out on 23 January at a press conference, as was the news of missives from Xanana Gusmão to the President of the Assembly of the Republic, Mr. Victor Crespo. The messages were delivered by the head of Fretilin Abroad (DFSE) Mr. Abílio Araújo, and international relations officer, Mr. Ramos Horta. Although the content of the messages was not divulged, solidarity leaders revealed that Xanana Gusmão had expressed interest in meeting the Portuguese MPs on Timorese territory should their visit to Indonesia materialise.

At the same time it was announced that the Nationalist Convergence was going to ask for a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. João de Deus Pinheiro, to request from Portugal 'material support' for the East Timorese people's fight on an international level.

ET 170/89

Europeu, 24 January 1989

3. INDONESIA

No news was received in the period covered.

4. INTERNATIONAL ISSUESa. Open letter from Euro MP Beate Weber

The Euro MP Beate Weber, who visited the Republic of Indonesia from 4 to 20 August 1988 together with her European Parliament colleagues James Janssen van Raay, Guy Guermeur and Bryan Cassidy, sent an open letter, dated 11 January 1989, to the Indonesian ambassador in Brussels.

In the letter Beate Weber refers to the visit, the contacts established, and the conclusions drawn by the four MPs, which were made public in their subsequent report.

She then goes on to raise three issues:

- the question of at which point the opening of East Timor currently stands (it was announced to take place at end of 1988)
- the reports of the arrest of some 3,000 people around the time of Pres. Suharto's visit to Dili. This occurred just months after their own stay in East Timor, when they had been told that "the population totally accepts the presence of the Indonesian State on this part of the island of Timor". This affirmation would appear

a clear contradiction of the reality.

- the question of the current chances of a referendum being held in East Timor. This had been raised at the time of their visit, and figured as a main interest in their report and in the European Parliament's decision in 1988.

b. East Timor the subject of a BBC programme

A 40-minute programme on East Timor, entitled 'Forgotten war of East Timor' was broadcast by the BBC TV. The aims of the programme were not only to reveal the drama of war and brutality caused by the Indonesians, but also to show something of the country's natural beauty and the desire of the Timorese people to be independent. Several people were interviewed on the programme, including Bishop Ximenes Belo, demonstrating the determination of the Timorese not to give up in the face of the Indonesian occupying forces' might.

According to the Jornal de Noticias, the British public, which had little knowledge of the subject prior to the showing, was deeply shocked by the programme's presentation of the reality. Several views indicated incomprehension regarding the lack of coverage given to a war such as that revealed by the programme, while other, less cruel, wars were publicised and discussed worldwide.

Jornal de Noticias, 26 January 1989

c. CPA/EEC Assembly condemns Indonesian occupation of East Timor

The CPA/EEC Assembly, meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados, ended on 27 January 1989. It had passed a resolution (no abstentions; Nigeria and UK voted against) condemning Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

This resolution had been proposed by Portuguese Euro MP Fernando Condesso (EP Liberal Group) who defended a referendum on self-determination in East Timor being carried out without delay.

Fernando Condesso emphasised that "until now, nothing has been done to respect the wish of the Timorese people, or to organise a referendum, as has been asked for by the European Parliament and by this Assembly." He also referred to the fact that, since the previous resolution on East Timor passed in Madrid in September of last year, the Maubere people "continue to be victims of aggression", and that, meanwhile, Indonesia was putting pressure on EEC countries.

Euro MP Medeiros Ferreira (PS), in support of his Portuguese colleagues' then draft resolution, said "The systematic violation by Indonesia of the most fundamental human rights in the territory is not just a private and special problem between Timorese, Indonesians and Portuguese. It is a matter concerning all those who fought for peoples' self-determination and independence."

In this respect, he regretted that it had to be a Portuguese delegate who, once again, raised the matter.

Diário de Notícias, 29 January 1989  
Jornal de Notícias, 29 January 1989  
Europeu, 29 January 1989

NOTE : UNHCR Meeting

From 30 January to 10 March 1989 another annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission takes place in Geneva.

News of the outcome of this year's meeting will be given in due course.

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