

Archbishop Hickey speaks out for the East Timorese.



This peaceful land of Australia, bathed in beautiful sunshine like today; many people find it almost impossible to grasp the enormity of what is happening on our very doorstep in East Timor. You know, and I know the extent of the killing there, at least some of it, and it is because we want to stop that killing and work for a just peace, that I am here and you are here today.

Just when the people of East Timor begin to sense that a solution to the problem might just be possible, the killing mounts again. Any hint of self-determination, or independence, is immediately attacked with great ferocity by militia bands that seek to undermine the hope of a just peace and the hope of a United Nations referendum in August.

I wish to stand here today in solidarity with the East Timorese people but with a particular gentleman who has shown great leadership, Bishop Belo. He's made many attempts, in very dangerous situations to his own life, to stop the bloodshed and negotiate a just peace. To his great sorrow he knows the conflict even invades his churches, and people in the churches and in the church yards have been killed in those very places where they might reasonably expect to find some sanctuary, and we encourage him as much as we can to stand firm, to show that leadership, to show the strength that obviously he does, so well, and continue his appeal to achieve peace, not through violence, but through peaceful means.

Violence only breeds violence. Any peace that comes through violence always leaves behind a residue of deep resentment and anger that flares-up again when the opportunity arises. So just peace must go beyond violence.

Domination is no solution. The demands of justice can only be addressed in a spirit of honest negotiation and a willingness to listen. Only when the legitimate demands of oppressed peoples are heard, will

true peace be possible. Not the peace that comes from the sword, the gun or the machete.

Today I pray for the success of the peace mission of our own Australian delegation; our Prime Minister and his party who are flying to Indonesia today. Whatever the record of Australia's past, regarding East Timor, I think that the gravity of the present situation has been grasped by our political leaders, and therefore I want to encourage and pray for the success of the Australian mission.

The United Nations must be given a chance; the people of East Timor must be protected from further violence and from bloody attacks, in order to allow the processes of self determination to produce a lasting and just outcome.

The hopes of the people of East Timor must not be dashed.

Thank you.

Archbishop Hickey spoke at the Anzac Day Weekend rally for East Timor at the Perth Cultural Centre.

RECENT ACTIONS

The protests across Australia calling for United Nation action to protect the people of East Timor continued with the months of April and May being the busiest on record for the Friends of East Timor.

After the protest and rally held at the end of April we have continued to lobby politicians and have asked our members and supporters to do so as well.

FOET has supported other organizations in their rallies for East Timor, which have been successfully held during May. The Perth rally for the Trade Union movement's national day of action held at lunchtime on Thursday 27th May outside the *Garuda* office was well attended, even though the skies threaten to open with a deluge. Miraculously the rain held off and a list of speakers, which included Sir Ronald Wilson, addressed the 150 strong crowd.

FOET (WA) Membership for 1999

Membership	\$10 Waged	\$5 Unwaged	(Please circle)
Last Name Given Name		
Address		
Phone (h)	Phone (w)
Fax	Email
Would you be interested in taking an active role in the Talk Back Radio Action ?		YES	NO (Please circle)
Would you be interested in being involved in other activities?		YES	NO (Please circle)
Please specify types of activities(Office/Lobbying/Mailouts/Rallies/Letter writing)			

Return to the *Friends of East Timor*, PO Box 570, Victoria Park 6979 Phone: 9361 0373 or Phone/Fax: 9361 4678

FOET (WA) News Sheet

June 1999

A Word from the New Co-ordinator



Cathy Taylor

To members and supporters,

I have been a member of FOET for many years, and feel, like many Australians, that now is the time to push other issues back a bit, and make our biggest effort yet to free East Timor.

Some of the possible scenarios now facing East Timor hardly bear thinking about. The greatest hope seems to be that an adequate United Nations presence will transfer virtual control of the territory to the U. N. It seems that only under the aegis of the U. N. will moves towards independence have any chance of success.

To enlist ordinary Australians to bring pressure to bear to get the independence process on track, FOET has 4 current projects:

1. We are asking everyone who can, to ring the federal politician for their own electorate. We are asking FOET members, in particular, to visit their federal M. P., preferably with two or three other local people, mainly to point out that not enough is being done yet. Most politicians and their staff appreciate the offer of regular (brief) updates on important issues like East Timor. Let us know what sort of response you get.
2. Please tune in to your favourite radio talk back programme to hear what is coming through on East Timor. If there is a silence on the subject or you hear misinformation, please call in yourself or let us know.
3. We have a standard letter (with space for personal comments) to distribute. We need people to make up the packages containing the letter and support material, and contacts to distribute them. The reason for this initiative is that many people find the issue too painful to linger over and want a quick, simple way to express their concern. We have already had many requests for the letters.

4. Groups in solidarity with East Timor round Australia have agreed to run a nationwide petition. A petition form is enclosed, and more are available by ringing Cathy on 9361 0373. There are some points to observe in collecting signatures. The whole sheet can be invalidated by signatures from people who are not Australian citizens, the use of ditto marks (by people who live at the same address or in the same suburb), or writing outside the ruled spaces, including on the back. Because of this, we ask you to watch carefully while people sign, and pass on the information to anyone else you are leaving the forms with. Please send the completed forms to FOET(WA), PO Box 570, Victoria Park, 6979, with your name and address on the back of the envelope, by July 16th.

Please contact me on 9361 0373 if you need any help.

I look forward to meeting you all,

Cathy Taylor

What you can do

Please take part in all four projects if you can. Top priority would be to ring the office of your federal M. P. and have a friendly chat to whoever is free to talk to you. Those people confident enough to go on talk back radio or those who would like to be part of the coordination effort to make sure we have a consistent voice on talk back radio, to contact us on 9361 0373. For those people who haven't yet renewed their membership for 1999 please fill out the form on the reverse and send it to the address indicated. We appreciate your continued support.

Standard Letter

The letters are very easy to distribute. We are offering people a package containing all they need to complete the letters although they need to supply stamps and envelopes. Included is a sheet of informative "thought starters", snippets on the situation in East Timor and what the Australian Government should do or press for. The covering letter, which explains how to use the package, also asks people to contact their federal M. P., using the contacts in our leaflet "How you can help free East Timor". We will not know how many people actually ring or send letters, but hopefully we will achieve some good results for relatively little effort on our part.

A FOND FAREWELL TO GRAHAM JAMES AND DEE MARGETTS

FOET's stalwart coordinator for 3 years has left Perth for Darwin. Graham will be at the sharp end of activity over the coming weeks leading up to the referendum. We are grateful for the tireless, effective and often thankless work Graham has put in over the years. A Luta Continua!

Dee Margetts will finish her time as a senator shortly and her Victoria Park office will close. Her generosity to FOET(WA) has been enormous. We have had constant access to her staff, and all the facilities in her office. On top of this she financed our mailouts. Sadly this news sheet will be the last from Dee's office. Many, many thanks Dee! Thanks also to Carole, Alan and Kirsten and everyone in Dee's office who have helped us over the years.