

**TIMOR-LESTE**  
**EAST TIMOR**

news

31 December 1988  
Ref.: MM 18MONTHLY MEMO No. 11/88

(Information received during November 1988)

1. EAST TIMOR

No information received during this period.

2. ADMINISTRATING POWER: PORTUGALa. Distribution of houses to Timorese refugees

Some of the Timorese refugee families, which for the past 13 years have been living in the Vale do Jamor, are to be allocated a house in the Laveira (Caxias) neighbourhood. These houses are distributed by the Oeiras local authority with the assistance of welfare workers.

Diário Popular, 17 Nov 1988  
Século, 18 Nov 1988

3. INDONESIAa. Indonesian MPs protest against US Congress Members' letter

According to an article published in the Jakarta Post, 375 members of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) signed a petition, refuting the allegations made by US Congress members concerning East Timor.

The petition was delivered to Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas for him to forward to the US Congress.

As well as rejecting all the accusations, they also denied the US Catholic Conference's statement which appealed to the Indonesian government to halt the intimidation of the mainly Catholic Timorese population.

According to statements made by the Vice-president of the DPR Commission, Mr L. Subadfi, the petition would be submitted to Ali Alatas for him to take the measures necessary to end further accusations of this kind on the situation in East Timor. A halt to contacts with Portugal was also suggested.

Jakarta Post, Nov 1988  
Diário de Notícias, 19 Nov 1988

4. INTERNATIONAL ISSUESa. Exhibition on Timor

An exhibition of paintings on East Timor by Australian artist Margaret King Boyes is on public show in

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Adelaide. The exhibition, entitled "From Eden to Paradise", was opened by the Timor Nationalist Convergence representative João Carrascalão, and had the support of the Portuguese Embassy in Australia.

Jornal de Notícias, 2 Nov 1988

b. Australian Northern Territory's Minister visits East Timor

Mr. Marshal Peron, Australian Northern Territory's Minister Plenipotenciary, visited East Timor for four days. The delegation included Senator Rick Setter, 12 members of the Timorese community settled in Darwin, and 12 Australian journalists (one of the largest groups of journalists to visit East Timor since the 1975 invasion).

Dia, 8 Nov 1988

Diário de Notícias, 16 Nov 1988

Europeu, 16 Nov 1988

Note: We hope we will have news from the Timorese community itself, as well as from East Timor.

c. Council of Europe takes stand on East Timor

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, meeting in Strasbourg in mid-November, referred for the first time in its final communiqué to East Timor. Under point 13 of the communiqué the Ministers express their support for the contacts between Portugal and Indonesian under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. They also express hope that a fair, global and internationally acceptable solution is soon reached, entirely respecting the interests of the people of East Timor".

Jornal de Notícias, 16 Nov 1988

Semanário, Nov 1988

d. Australian ABC TV report shocks Timorese community

A mini documentary on the visit to East Timor by 12 Australian journalists, the Minister of the Northern Territory, and a group of 12 people from Timor (see point 4 b. above) was shown on the national TV network, ABC. It pointed out the carelessness and negligence of the Portuguese for 450 years and inflated the "progress" achieved by the Indonesians over the past 13 years. In agreement with the figures given by the Indonesians, the documentary cited the number of guerrillas to be not in excess of 300 desperate and hungry men who just carried out attacks to get food. It emphasised the future opening up of East Timor to the outside world, and the average per capita income which, however, is still below the average income of the majority of islands in the Indonesian Republic.

In the documentary an Indonesian platoon could be seen marching through the centre of Dili, leading an Australian journalist to comment that this was now "a rare sight in Dili today".

The pro-Indonesia tone of the documentary caused consternation in the Timorese community in general. João Carrascalão said that the

Indonesian propaganda game was evident and repeated the tone of previous allegations regarding Indonesian progress. Mr. Carras-calão also said he would be asking the national ABC network to see the film obtained during the visit to East Timor in full and, together with other members of the Nationalist Convergence, would take any steps necessary.

Indonesians, with non-Timorese features, appeared in the program being interviewed as if they were in fact Timorese.

Europeu, 16 Nov 1988

e. Further dispatch of Troops to East Timor

During an interview given to a Darwin commercial radio station, Fretilin leader Alfredo Borges Ferreira said: "If Timor is free of guerrillas, and the latter number no more than 300 hungry men who only go out at night to steal food and operate in just a restricted area in 3 regions south-west of Dili, what is the explanation for Indonesia being on the point of sending a battalion to add to the 10,000 men it already has there, to try once again to annihilate these groups of hungry bandits?" He also stated that this new battalion is commanded by President Suharto's son, which is an indication of "the high-level status of the next military operation".

He pointed out the investment effort Indonesia is making in East Timor, which is greater than that being made in the majority of the other islands - exceeded only in Java, Sumatra and Borneo-Kelimantan.

These Indonesian initiatives have deserved widest possible coverage in the Australian press.

Europeu, 16 Nov 1988

f. Indonesia & Australia in secret military manoeuvres

1. On the first day of the official visit of General Peter Gration (Commander in Chief of the Australian Armed Forces) the Commander in Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, General Try Sutrisno, revealed that the two countries have carried out joint military exercises. During an interview on the Australian state network ABC, the Indonesian general said Australia would resume the military exchange program with Indonesia. General Peter Gration announced that Australia would subsidise various Indonesian military programs and confirmed the joint manoeuvres.

2. The generals' statements led Timor Nationalist Convergence leaders to call upon Portugal for decisive action to counter what they described as "Austalian servility" before Indonesia". They said Portugal should already have resumed its radio broadcasts to East Timor and intensified its political lobbying work at the EEC, UN and European Parliament.

Europeu, 16 Nov 1988

g. EC again in favour of the Timorese people

During the meeting of the UN General Assembly's Third Commission the European Community came out in defence of the Timorese people's rights.

The Greek ambassador to the UN stated that "The 12 countries of the European Community are concerned with the continuous reports that the Indonesians are violating human rights in East Timor. We hope that such violations cease and that the fundamental freedoms of the Timorese people are quickly restored."

Expresso, 26 Nov. 1988

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