



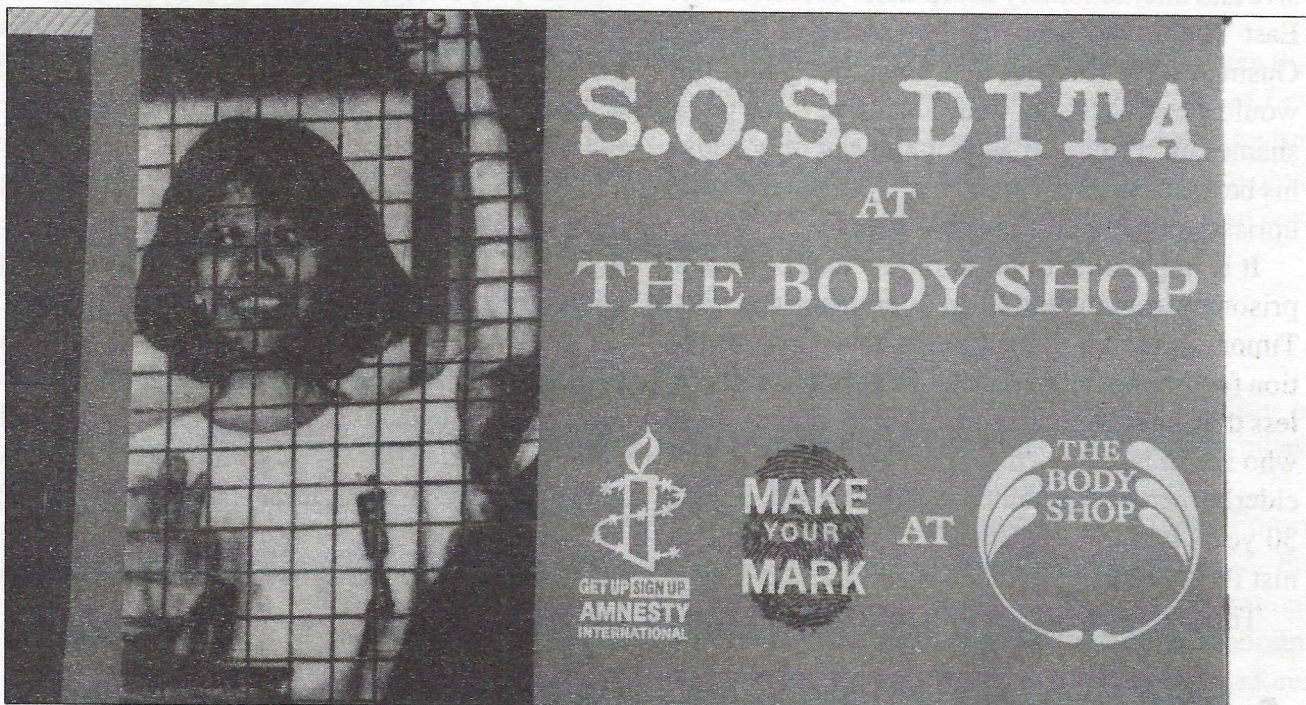
Nettalk

Free East Timor Coalition

UPDATE (12) - July 1998

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Release Xanana Gusmao — No conditions!



"Free Dita" billboard produced by the Body Shop and Amnesty International — Photo Murray Addison

President Habibie's June 20 offer to release East Timor's revered leader Xanana Gusmao, if the international community accepts Indonesia's sovereignty, is an affront to Xanana, the East Timorese and to international justice.

Habibie has been under huge international pressure to release political prisoners in order to maintain the credibility of his 'reform' image. After the release of seven Indonesian prisoners, fifteen East Timorese prisoners were released — they delayed their own release by a day to show solidarity with an ongoing protest by the other prisoners against the conditions and a serious outbreak

of food poisoning in the Becora Jail.

The campaign for the release of Xanana Gusmao has tremendous international backing — from Portugal, the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Nations Secretary General, Britain, Ireland and South Africa. There are widespread calls for his release from within the pro-democracy movement and from Muslim leader Amien Rais as well as from his fellow detainees and those newly released. Even East Timor's Governor Abilio Soares has appealed for Xanana's release.

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Political Prisoners

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ETIC Auckland has appealed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs several times to support the release of Xanana and other political prisoners. He expresses support for the United Nations Secretary General's work to find a "just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable" settlement for East Timor, and says "If the release of Xanana Gusmao were to bring that objective closer that would be a welcome and constructive step". It shames us all that Mr McKinnon can only hedge his bets, and is blind to the reality of the dramatic uprising of the East Timorese people.

It is impossible to be sure how many political prisoners remain jailed in Indonesia and East Timor — human rights groups have documentation for around 200 but that probably accounts for less than half the total which should include those who are in jail after 'disappearing'. There are 13 elderly men still detained for their alleged links 30 years ago to the banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

There is no move yet to release the young ac-

tivists of the banned People's Democratic Party (PRD). Although underground the PRD continues to grow and many of its key demands are being taken up by the wider movement. As well as the 12 jailed in 1996 for the crime of political organising, three other activists were arrested this March accused of having "communist literature" in their possession. Andi Arief was abducted from his sister's home on March 28 and later made a detailed statement describing his detention, interrogation and torture.

'The Body Shop' and Amnesty International have mounted a high profile campaign for the release of Dita Sari, PRD and trade union activist jailed in 1996 after she led a 20,000 strong workers' demonstration in Surabaya. The campaign features large "Free Dita" billboards, and a thumbprint petition in the Body Shops. Dita, in her mid-twenties, was seriously ill with typhoid last year and has recently been transferred to Tangerang Womens Prison. An Australian activist who visited Dita recently described her undimmed spirit and smile.✻

A 'Special status' for East Timor

President Habibie's June 9 offer to grant a 'special status' to East Timor was swiftly dismissed by resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta as 'ambiguous and arrogant' after 23 years of annexation and human rights abuses. Indonesia's concept is that East Timor would remain within Indonesia and have no political autonomy. Other special status regions are Yogyakarta, Jakarta and Aceh which differ little in style of governance from other provinces. In Aceh 'special status' has meant more military, more repression, more massacres, more "disappearances", more arrests, more human rights violations.

ETIC Auckland called on the government to take this opportunity to call on Indonesia's new President to support the rights of the people of East Timor: "it is crystal clear what the people want — a chance to determine their political fu-

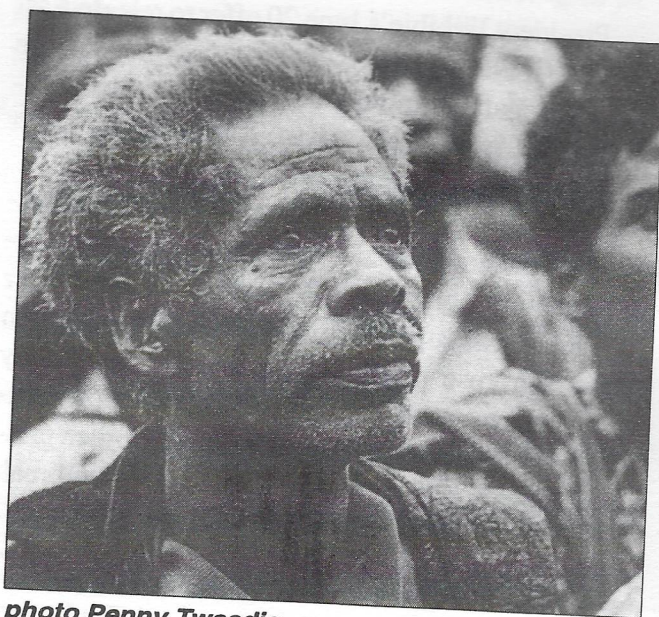


photo Penny Tweedie

ture in a referendum, an end to a terrifying military presence and the release of their jailed leader Xanana Gusmao."✻

Atrocities continue in East Timor

While the world's attention focused on Indonesia and the deaths of six student activists at Trisakti University, the killings went on in East Timor.

Four young men — some reports state five — were killed by Indonesian soldiers in Maubara on April 28.

On June 16, Indonesian soldiers shot and killed a young man, Herman Dasdores Soares, as he and a friend were gathering firewood at the roadside, near Manatuto, 60 kms east of Dili.

East Timor's military Commander, Colonel Mujiono, apologised to the family, Bishop Belo and the public for the unjustified shooting, but he

could not assuage the outpouring of grief and rage that followed this first post-Suharto martyrdom.

At the time of the visit of the European Union Ambassadors at the end of June, two young men were gunned down during pro-independence demonstrations.

Famine

Fr Francisco Barreto of Caritas estimates that about 90,000 people along the north coast of East Timor do not have enough to eat, as well as a further 20,000 in the Suai region. Children are obviously malnourished as families eke out what corn remains.✻

Ferment in Dili

Since Suharto stepped down East Timorese activists have set a breathtaking pace of non-stop demonstrations. A Free Speech Forum on 1 June attracted 1,500 to the University of East Timor, where the students discussed the impact of the reform movement in Indonesia on the situation in East Timor.

On June 6 a dialogue coordinated by Mario Carrascalao, former East Timor Governor, went beyond its initial brief. Young people unfurled banners calling for the release of Xanana Gusmao and called for Suharto and his lackeys to go on trial. When the question of 'autonomy' within Indonesia was raised only one person supported that goal — the present Governor.

The majority of the up to 7000 strong gathering supported independence, a troop reduction, an end to human rights abuses and the release of all political prisoners. It was the first opportunity in 23 years for open political dialogue. On 10 June, 3000 students and others rallied at the East Timor University calling for a full and free referendum on the future of East Timor.

In Jakarta on June 12, 1,500 East Timorese rallied in the grounds of the Foreign Ministry. In a disturbing reversion to former practice the Security forces broke up the peaceful demonstration. Indonesian troops beat the demonstrators with rattan sticks causing many injuries and herded them away to temporary detention in military

buses. ETIC Auckland called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to call in the Indonesian Ambassador to register an unambiguous protest.

After a further demonstration or Open Forum at the University of East Timor on June 15, the students intended to suspend their demonstrations waiting the outcome of talks with regional administrators. However, the death of Herman Dasdores Soares led to further large demonstrations; on June 18 in a day long protest up to 10,000 (10% of Dili's population) marched on the Governor's office and the Provincial Chambers before attending a ceremony at the young man's home and making a final journey to the Santa Cruz cemetery for the burial. Hundreds also demonstrated in Manatuto and Baucau.

On June 20, Xanana Gusmao's birthday, the situation was described as very tense, as 2,000 students continued their protests with a delegation to the Parliament calling for a referendum. On the same day prisoners staged a demonstration which was eventually quelled by Indonesian troops. They displayed Fretilin and Falantil banners, and called for the release of Xanana and all political prisoners.

The EU envoys to East Timor, in late June, were initially confronted by orchestrated pro-Indonesian demonstrators, but as the visit continued they were overwhelmed, in Dili and Baucau, by massive pro-independence demonstrations.✻

New Zealand trains Indonesia's 'eminently responsible' military

On the eve of Suharto's departure from office, minister of defence, Max Bradford, boldly defended the Indonesian military as 'eminently responsible'.

On June 3, at the Auckland demonstration against military ties with Indonesia, Abigael Vogt told the 60 strong gathering of some of the crimes that the Indonesian military has been eminently responsible for, including genocide and torture in East Timor, the abduction of pro-democracy activists and the deaths in cold blood of six student activists at Trisakti University in Jakarta on May 14.

Nettalk, April 1998, detailed the revelations of US journalist Alan Nairn about the US JCET military training programme of Indonesia's special forces which has included training in a broad array of military repressive tactics.

The JCET training programme was suspended in early May, but the New Zealand government continues its training. New information obtained from Parliamentary questions reveals that our training programme has shocking parallels to the US training.

The Mutual Assistance Programme under which New Zealand hosts 25 to 30 Indonesian personnel each year aims to 'contribute to the effectiveness and self-reliance of the forces of cooperating countries.' Officers trained here are expected to pass on their 'helpful' New Zealand learnt skills to their colleagues.

When challenged to respond to photographs showing the horrendous torture of young East Timorese women, Winston Peters last November in Parliament said '...our engagement ... is the training of dentists and other things of a humane quality'.

In the 1997/98 training year which ends in June, New Zealand trained military dentists — two of them. At the same time, 24 officers trained in skills with direct relevance to the role of suppressing internal dissent.

Our training has no strings attached — the Minister Max Bradford was unequivocal in reply to questions about human rights. Neither he nor his Ministry inquire whether the military coming here have served in East Timor, nor do they seek information about any officer's past military history or that of his or her unit. In the years since the 1991 Dili massacre it is quite possible that one of the Indonesian officers

who gunned down the young demonstrators has been here for training — Max Bradford would not know because he would not have asked.

During the four-week Infantry Major course at the Army's school of infantry, Waiouru, from July to August 1997 an Indonesian officer learnt about, 'the theory and framework of manoeuvre warfare', 'convoy security operations' and 'planning night infiltration attacks'.

In East Timor the nights are feared because 'pre-dawn' is the time when the military carries out raids and abductions. In Indonesia, an estimated 50 young people were abducted after the student protests began earlier this year.

In the Regimental Intelligence Officer's course in August and September, 1997 an Indonesian officer learnt 'intelligence in operations other than war', 'dissemination of intelligence', 'NZSAS reconnaissance', 'electronic warfare', and 'threat assessments'.

An Indonesian officer attended the Grade 2 Staff and Tactics 11 — week course held at Waiouru from January to April in 1997. He learnt 'manoeuvre warfare and directive control', 'surveillance and intelligence, mobility, counter-mobility and survivability'. More ominously, the course also featured 'psychological operations', 'deep operations', 'aid to the civil power joint-force operations' and 'military operations in urban terrain'.

How would these skills be useful to Indonesian officers — only one answer is plausible — they would help the military deal to an organised clandestine resistance and with mass urban demonstrations.

An Indonesian officer began his studies of strategic operational and command skills at a six month long course at the RNZAF base in Auckland on June 3. The minister of defence stressed that the course is a management studies course and that the course would cover a wide range of subjects including the 'process of democratic government, the Geneva Convention and laws of armed conflict'.

Credulity is stretched if we are asked to believe that our training of the Indonesian military has helped inculcate law abiding restraint.*

Auckland ETIC

Formation of new structure — National Council of Timorese Resistance



East Timor refugees, 1975 — photo Penny Tweedie

Between April 23-27, 218 East Timorese delegates met to approve a new Magna Carta for the rights of the East Timorese people. They came from many countries, from all generations, from political parties and from youth, student and women's groups.

A letter from imprisoned resistance leader Xanana Gusmao to the convention stressed the need for the gathering to unify and strengthen the efforts of the resistance. "It has taken us too long to realise the just principles of our struggle... It has taken us far too long to realise that we were riding in different compartments of a single train, running along the same track, harbouring the same desires, the same determination to win."

"We shall make it crystal clear and as forcefully as possible, to the regime and to the world that the East Timorese people demand the right to self-determination and independence."

The delegates unanimously adopted a Magna Carta Concerning the Rights, Duties and Guarantees for the People of East Timor. The Magna Carta

endorses the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other conventions on human rights, civil liberties and labour laws. It upholds a 'democratic multiparty, law-abiding state', the rights of the elderly, the disabled, rights to health care and total rejection of any form of discrimination. An independent East Timor aims to protect the environment, promote peace and disarmament and 'shall adopt a foreign policy aimed at fostering mutually advantageous co-operation and active neutrality with a view to finding solutions to inter-state conflicts.'

A congress of East Timorese to be held within the next year will formally ratify the Magna Carta. The document will provide the basis for the constitution of an independent East Timor. Falantil armed resistance leader Taur Matan Ruak voiced his full support for the Magna Carta in a recorded message sent from East Timor.

The CNRT now replaces the CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance) the former resistance umbrella body, and unlike CNRM it has the full support of UDT (Timorese Democratic Union) as well as Fretilin and other East Timorese independence organisations.

Carmel Budiardjo of Tapol who observed the Convention describes how she found the hall 'full of people hugging each other, tears in their eyes, young and old, men and women. They had unanimously adopted the Articles of Association of the CNRT. Now the East Timorese at home and abroad had an organisation solidly backed by all groups, parties and generations...'

Xanana Gusmao was sworn in as leader and head of the political committee, the two vice-presidents are José Ramos Horta and an unnamed person inside East Timor. Other members of the political committee include UDT President Joao Carrascalao, ETRA's Agio Pereira and Mari Alkatiri, exiled Fretilin leader who drafted the Magna Carta.*

Nettalk asked Edwin to clarify what genuine reforms his movement demands from the new regime:

Genuine reforms must include the repeal of the five repressive political laws.* President Habibie says he will revise the electoral law and composition of parliament law — but he will not repeal. In the 1000 seat Peoples Consultation Assembly, 575 of them were appointed by Suharto — 75 are active military. He might reduce the number of appointed military in parliament from 75 to 50, but we want no Presidential appointments — they should be elected.

The second point should be the abolition of the military dual function (*dwi fungsi*) whereby the military has intervened in civilian affairs for the last 30 years. Today, from the lowest level of society to the highest level in government there is military control. In the state ideology course in university you must spend one semester being supervised by a military officer.

The third point: reform should involve the right of self-determination for East Timor and opposition to the colonial attitude towards the West Papua and Acehnese nations. If you want democratic reforms and at the same time you still oppress and colonise another nation it means nothing.

The fourth point concerns this economic crisis, and the regime's commitment to democracy. The people should have the right to decide what they want for their life. The future of Indonesian people is on the table of IMF and in the hands of the small Indonesian ruling class and business community in Indonesia. Habibie, Suharto and his cronies and big tycoons in Indonesia decide that they want to call for the IMF — they never ask the Indonesian people or even the puppet Parliament. For us in PRD we have voiced that we don't want the IMF to intervene in Indonesia's economy, but we demand communication with the people.

These are the preconditions for the real reform in Indonesia — only a small part of the whole process of rebuilding Indonesia's economy and political system for genuine democracy. In the last 30 years we have not had any experience of a democratic system.

Nettalk asked what attitude will PRD take if Habibie takes steps towards reform — will they be welcomed or seen as just a smoke screen?

We can welcome his initiatives but we also have a clear understanding of what should be done for real reform. In a symbolic way he promises early elections — but what does it mean if elections are held under an undemocratic law and the military is still there?

Nettalk asked about the impact on the democratic movement of the release of political prisoners.

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PRD — Demandin

Nettalk conducted an interview with Edwin Gozal for the People's Democratic Party who discussed the current situation in Indonesia and the situation in Timor.



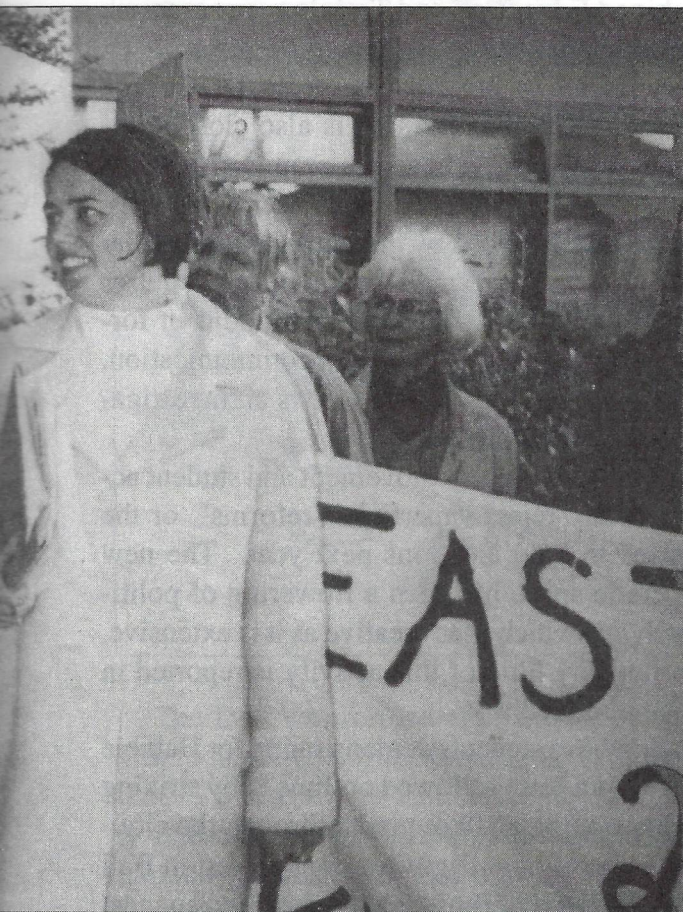
Edwin Gozal, Maire Leadbeater and Abigael Vogt outside the

For the first two political prisoners — Mochtar Pakpahan and Sri Bintang Pamungkas — it is good development because they are prominent opposition leaders. They were already well known among the international community. So Habibie can make himself better in the international arena. But how about the other political dissidents who are not well known in the international arena — like the political prisoners from spontaneous movements that are suspected of Muslim fundamentalism in Indonesia — they are being neglected.

Nettalk asked Edwin about the number of political prisoners in Indonesian jails?

The estimate is around 500 but we don't exactly know how many Indonesian political prisoners — there are probably about 200 in Jakarta, but we need to take into account East Timor, West Papua and Aceh and the people like Jose Antonio Belo who is being de-

Gozal, International Representative s recently in New Zealand, about the ibilities of independence for East



ence Offices in Auckland — photo Helen Yensen

ained in Dili, and the freedom fighters from West
Papua.

It is good to put pressure on for the release of politi-
cal prisoners. It should not matter about the ideologi-
cal differences or their attitudes towards Indonesia or
unity — it is a question of human rights. They are
being granted amnesty — if they sign does this mean
that they admit that they committed a crime? Political
prisoners should not be asked to sign an amnesty docu-
ment that could be seen as an admission of guilt.

**Nettalk raised the issue of our role campaigning for
the independence of East Timor. We face some criti-
cism for following the pro-democracy movement in
Indonesia and getting too far away from our basic
purpose?**

It should not be a problem that you spend a lot of
time on Indonesian issue. The struggle for East Timor
independence cannot be separated from the struggle for

democracy in Indonesia. It is true that it is a different
struggle — East Timorese people have their own goal
for independence and we have our own goal for de-
mocracy. But it does not mean that we could not com-
bine that struggle — we have a common enemy in the
military-backed regime. Democratisation in Indonesia
will facilitate the independence process in East Timor.
I don't want to undermine the struggles of East Timorese
people - I salute their struggle and respect their leader-
ship. I know that democratisation will not suddenly
give independence for East Timor, but the process of
open dialogue and sitting at the table with the East
Timorese people will make the process faster.

In the last few weeks, Governments and people all
around the world are saying - 'what about East Timor?',
so I guess that proves the point.

**What do you think we should be doing now to keep
up the momentum for change?**

What you are doing today about the issue of mili-
tary ties to Indonesia is an important point. There are
other important issues around the release of political
prisoners and freezing the assets of the Suharto family.
**Would you like to see us for example focus on
Lilybank?**

Lilybank is one — an obvious one — but not the
only Indonesian investment. Is the New Zealand Gov-
ernment profiting from the sale of milk products to In-
donesia at a time when the families in Indonesia can-
not afford to purchase milk for their babies?

The pro-democracy movement struggles for funds
and it is, for example, extremely expensive to buy such
things as cell-phones, computers and pagers, and any
help would be appreciated.

It may be more successful and practical to focus on
broader campaigns against the assets of the Suharto
family than to try to mount boycotts of a number of
products. In Australia there has been a strong cam-
paign against Nike and its abuse of labour rights even
if some may have gone to the demonstration wearing
Nike shoes.*

** The 5 repressive political laws were passed in 1985.
They allow only three recognised political parties, ban
party activity from villages and small towns, allow for
the government appointment of 575 members to the
1000 member Peoples Consultative Assembly (MPR)
which appoints the president and vice-president, pre-
vent people changing the constitution while imposing
a single state defined ideology on all social, political
and cultural organisations and giving the state the
right to intervene in the internal affairs of organisa-
tions.*

An opening of democratic space in Indonesia

Suharto was forced to step down after a four months student-led uprising and a wave of riots between May 14-15.

The Indonesian Armed Forces did their best to protect their police state — the ABRI commander General Wiranto, threatened the students with a “Tiananmen” and persuaded Suharto to resign quietly. Many commentators believe that the army was frightened — if millions had taken to the streets the pro-democracy forces may have gained the upper hand.

Since then the armed forces (ABRI) and the incoming regime have been working hard to keep tight control over the so-called process of reformation, and to keep the initiative out of the hands of pro-democracy and student activists.

The new cabinet is a line-up not too different from the old — with only those most obviously linked to cronyism and nepotism removed — such as Suharto’s daughter Tutut and timber baron Bob Hasan. Newly appointed to the cabinet is someone who should be on trial for war crimes — Yusuf Yosfiah who commanded a unit in East Timor in 1976-1977 when an estimated 60,000 East Timorese died at the hands of invading forces. He also led the campaign at Balibo in 1975 before the invasion when five Australian and New Zealand journalists were executed.

Journalist Alan Nairn who has been researching the links between the US and Indonesian armed forces, says that Commander Wiranto has consulted non-stop with the US Embassy. The demotion of Suharto son-in-law Lieut. General Prabowo gave the US a useful scapegoat on which to blame the disappearance of up to 50 activists.

Nairn exposes the hypocrisy of this cover-up, relating information from US officials and the US military and intelligence hierarchy that establishes the very close rapport between the parallel Indonesian and US agencies. Prabowo’s Kopassus units were in close contact with US intelligence from the start of the disappearances. The Pentagon built up Kopassus with more than 24 training exercises, and continues to back

General Wiranto even though the JCET, Joint Combined Education and Training programme remains suspended.

According to information from Dr George Aditjondro, General Wiranto is also closely implicated in Suharto’s business empire. He is the patron of several army fundraising foundations. Companies controlled by the multi-million dollar Kartika Eka Paksi Foundation have joint ventures with Suharto son Bambang Trihatmodjo in forestry, property and satellite telecommunication. Not surprising that Wiranto resists an investigation into Suharto’s wealth.

The pro-democracy movement and student activists firmly reject superficial ‘reforms’ or the promises to hold elections next year. The new democratic space has seen a flowering of political activism which is as creative as it is extensive. Unfortunately little of this activity is reported in mainstream media.

In Surabaya students demonstrating for Habibie to step down were followed on June 8 by striking workers staging a 10km march through the city.

Seven days of anti-government protest in Bali led 46 members of the local legislature to suggest that they were ready to resign. The protestors wanted the representatives to refuse to recognise president Habibie, and sought the resignation from his position as Population Minister of their former Governor, Mr Ida Bagus Oka. Similar calls for the resignation of government officials and mayors have brought people on to the streets across the archipelago.

In early June tens of thousands of workers at the Java factories of PT Maspion, a household appliance producer, went on strike, and about 25,000 clashed with police as they attempted to march on Parliament.

The new New Order regime has cause to be very worried.*

Maire Leadbeater

See the interview with Edwin Gozal for a perspective on the People’s Democratic Party’s demands for genuine reform on pages 6 and 7.

The International Monetary Fund



The IMF was formed after the Second World War to underwrite the international currency system — ostensibly to ease temporary imbalances in international payments. Although it has 182 member countries, it is dominated by the rich western nations who provide most of the money and control the voting rights. G7 countries together hold 45% of the vote and the US has 18% of the total. Major changes must have 85% support which effectively gives the US a veto.

In the Third World international payments are determined mainly by trade and trade income is insufficient to cover imports because of the dependence of Third World economies on First World markets. The IMF does not take into account this structural dependence. IMF 'prescriptions' are to do with increased globalisation of the world economy, an open and liberal flow of capital, transparency in financial management and 'good governance' — a licence to intervene in Third World political affairs.

In its attempt to deal with Third World financial crises the IMF has created extended loan facilities, such as the structural adjustment facility and the highly indebted poor countries facility.

The new loans impose harsh conditions and market liberalisation measures such as removal of food subsidies, breakdown of marketing boards, deregulation and cutting of government expenditure.

The loans do nothing to address the distortion in the Indonesian economy which has led to a need to import the food staple — rice.

Aryati (a pseudonym) an Indonesian human rights activist who testified in the United States House of Representatives on May 7 said:

"[W]hat do we have to show for thirty years of development? A few timber contractors and palm oil companies have accumulated fortunes while chopping and burning down most of the rain forest."

"Much of the money [from the IMF] will be simply transferred to foreign banks that made risky loans to the Indonesian government and Indonesian enterprises. The money will enter Indonesia for a moment and then get sent back out as debt payments. It is astonishing that the foreign banks that made risky loans to a corrupt and unstable economic system want to be repaid in full. It is even more astonishing that they want the Indonesian people to pay for their bad decisions."

On June 17, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced that the US would restore to Indonesia the 'the full complement of our diplomatic, USAID and other personnel'. She expressed her confidence in the regime's ability to build a 'consensus' for peaceful political reform, and endorsed the plan to release additional IMF funds.

The US confidence is surely misplaced — the Indonesian economy remains in the hands of transnationals and corrupt crony businesses. For 33 years practically no business was established without Suharto patronage. IMF 'medicine' led the country into chaos with spiralling inflation, escalating poverty and unemployment. Predictions are for a poor rice harvest which will compound the current shortage and for rising unemployment — up to 15 million or 1 in 5 of the work force. Under the current weak and unsupported Habibie government, more of the same old IMF belt-tightening formula can only lead to ongoing rebellion.*

Maire Leadbeater

International Solidarity



Around the world and in Wellington and Auckland, activists held demonstrations in solidarity with Indonesian students as they mobilised to bring down the Suharto regime. A common theme was for the end of military training and weapons sales to the regime.

United States

East Timor Alert Network, IndonesiaAlert!, and Global Exchange co-sponsored demonstrations in several US cities. ETAN combined with the Canadian Federation of Students to hold a Press Conference on May 14 to protest at Canadian silence over Indonesian military killings.

An ETAN statement on May 20 called on the US government not to provide any weapons, ammunition, spare parts or military training to Indonesia for so long as repression of political freedoms and human rights continues and until arrangements have been made for a UN-supervised self-determination referendum in East Timor.

The Philippines

100 demonstrators picketed the Indonesian embassy in Manila on May 20, demanding democracy in Indonesia. The action was coordinated by PHILSETI, (Philippines Solidarity with East Timor and Indonesia), and supported by progressive Filipino organisations, including the Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor.

Japan

In Hiroshima, Japanese protesters also held an action on May 20.

United Kingdom

Tapol, the Indonesian Human Rights Cam-

paign, held a rally outside the Foreign Office in London to demand an immediate end to arms sales to Indonesia and to condemn the British government's support for the Suharto dictatorship.

Pressure is mounting on the Blair Labour government to suspend the delivery of 16 Hawk jet fighters to Indonesia, due to take place in June. In April, 12 people — Timorese and British — were arrested when they tried to enter British Aerospace's production site of jet fighter Hawks in Walton. Since the Blair government came to office, only six of the 51 licences requested for the export of arms have been denied. Of the outstanding £1.8 billion of export credit guarantees provided to Indonesia, £855 million is for military equipment.

Tapol, the Campaign Against Arms Trade, and students from Hull University are also planning a campaign against the presence of Indonesian army officers at Hull University. Ten Indonesian officers, including seven from the infamous Kopassus special forces, are enrolled in the "studies in security and strategy for defence professionals" course.

Australia

Over 50 people from Canberra and Sydney gathered on June 13 to launch an ongoing vigil until resistance leader Xanana Gusmao is released. The East Timor Freedom Vigil is leading up to a mass action on July 17. Canberra activist and East Timor stalwart Gareth Smith began a hunger strike at the end of May in solidarity with Indonesian hunger strikers calling for the freedom of Xanana and all political prisoners.

United Nations

Instead of following last year's precedent by approving a resolution strongly critical of Indonesia, the UN Human Rights Commission this year opted for a weaker consensus Chairman's statement. The wording was negotiated with Indonesia and includes a commitment from Indonesia to allow the visit of the UN experts on arbitrary detentions.

There is also a call for Indonesia to accept a UN human rights office in Jakarta. It is widely rumoured that behind scenes lobbying by Britain and Australia persuaded the Commission to drop the resolution which was initially proposed by the European Union.*

Panjaitan

General Panjaitan who oversaw the 1991 Dili massacre and the deaths of at least 271 young activists, has recently been appointed as defence and security aide to President Habibie.

The New York based Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) has called on the State Department to help seek the \$US14 million damages awarded to New Zealander, Helen Todd, mother of Kamahl Bamadhaj, by a US federal court judge in 1994.

Panjaitan who was in the US at the time of the judgement left the country reportedly dismissing the judgment as a joke.

CCR has called on the State Department to let the Indonesian Government know it is unacceptable to have a mass murderer as a high government official. ETIC Auckland has called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to protest also and to call on Panjaitan to pay his dues to Helen Todd — who has undertaken that the compensation will be shared with all the families whose children died in the massacre.*

PRD Visit

In his brief schedule in Auckland and Wellington from June 1 to 5, Edwin Gozal, PRD International Representative met Foreign Affairs officials, opposition politicians, human rights activists and trade union leaders. He was interviewed on Breakfast TV, the Kim Hill programme, Radio Network and by the NZ Herald. He addressed well-attended public meetings in both cities and was the key speaker at the demonstration outside Auckland Defence Headquarters against NZ military training of Indonesian troops on June 3.*

July 17 demos

On the anniversary of East Timor's 'integration' into Indonesia call for self-determination.

ETA Wellington will demonstrate outside Parliament.

ETIC Auckland outside Garuda Airlines, 120 Albert Street, 12 noon.

For activities in other areas, contact your local group.*

Christchurch Demonstration

On June 4, Otautahi East Timor Independence Campaign and students from the Education Action Group demonstrated against military links with Indonesia outside the Navy Recruiting Centre in central Christchurch. The action made a

strong impact with several large banners featuring Hawk jets.

On June 21, Otautahi ETIC celebrated Xanana Gusmao's birthday with a solidarity dinner.*

Being interested won't change anything — get involved

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Mail to: Free East Timor Coalition, PO Box 68 419, Newton, Auckland.

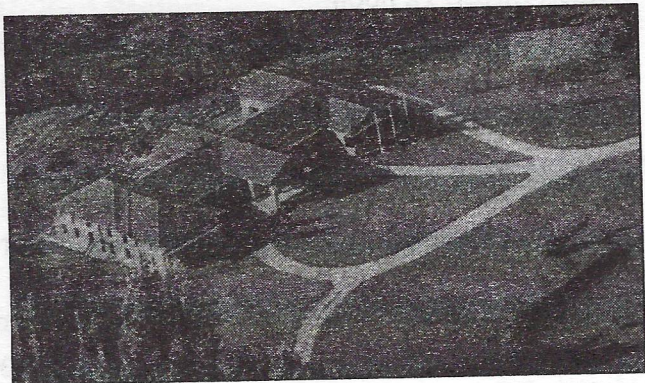
Some Suharto Assets in NZ

Lilybank

Tommy Suharto's luxury resort in the McKenzie country, near Tekapo has once again been the focus of protest — the Campaign against Foreign Control's spokesperson Murray Horton has urged that the resort be seized. Alliance MP Matt Robson said the Government could put a caveat on Lilybank "as well as set in train the appropriate legal steps to ensure that neither Tommy nor other Suharto family members use the property as a bolt-hole".

Christchurch *Press* reporter John Keast found a less than warm welcome when he attempted to visit Lilybank. Managing director Gerard Olde-Olthof invited the *Press* to see first-hand what life was like at the \$1100-a-night retreat across the McAuley River.

But, instead of the promised inspection Mr Keast received a 30 minute tirade after which Olde-Olthof departed in a swish Land Rover, back to 'fortress Lilybank'.



Sender: East Timor Independence Committee, PO Box 68 418, Newton, Auckland

Indonesian and 'first family' investment in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Garuda airlines

In Jakarta, Garuda staff held a June demonstration demanding that the airline end contracts linked with the Suharto family. The demonstrators feared mass layoffs in the wake of reports of the company's fragile financial status.

Dr George Aditjondro, leading Indonesian activist and dissident, has detailed how Garuda has a tainted history. In 1975 it flew in troops to invade and occupy East Timor. It has financed the giant (27 metres for 27 provinces) statue of Christ in Dili.

Brierleys:

The Salim group headed by Liem Sioe Liong, a close Suharto crony, is a major shareholder in the Camerlin grouping which holds 20% of Brierleys and now largely controls it in conjunction with Singapore Government interests, which also own part of Camerlin.

The grouping is said to be the major force behind the recent coup which put Roger Douglas in control.

Hospitality industry:

Indonesian investors have major interests in the hotel industry in Auckland and in the ownership of central Auckland land. There is also Indonesian investment in Queenstown including in an ice rink.✻

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