



TROOPS OUT NOW!

Murder, Mayhem Must Stop



The situation in East Timor is even worse than the most pessimistic pre-ballot predictions.

According to reports, Dili is a city in name only. Houses and shops have been looted and burned to the ground. A thick pall of smoke hangs above the deserted streets and gangs of thugs bent on murder roam the streets, doing the violent bidding of the Indonesian military and police.

The rare reports that filter in from outside Dili paint a picture of even worse destruction and atrocity. Thousands of refugees, forced to flee their homes at gunpoint, are held hostage in concentration camps in West Timor, under the watchful eyes of Indonesian soldiers. Thousands more huddle fearfully in churches and compounds all over East Timor, waiting for the attack that will finally wipe them out. Yet more thousands hide in the mountains, miles from food and fresh water and lacking even the most basic shelter.

No-one knows how many people have already been killed, but estimates range from conservative hundreds right up to a possible 200,000. One thing is certain: if help does not arrive in hours, rather than days, thousands more will die, either by gunfire or from starvation, thirst and exposure.

The news that an armed international intervention force will be dispatched to East Timor is heartening, but it

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ACTION ALERT:
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East Timor Actions Around NZ

TROOPS OUT NOW!

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does not solve East Timor's problem.

That problem can be summed up in three letters: TNI, the Bahasa acronym of the Indonesian military.

There is a growing mountain of evidence that the TNI is not only allowing the so-called "militia" to run amok, but is actually organizing, coordinating and directing an orgy of mayhem and violent destruction aimed at exacting revenge on the East Timorese. The cause of this vengeful slaughter? The people of East Timor dared to reject Indonesian rule in a UN-supervised ballot on August 30.

The TNI are sending a powerful message to "separatists" in West Papua, Aceh and other parts of Indonesia whose peoples also want their independence.

In the meantime, it is applying a stupefyingly brutal scorched-earth policy in East Timor.

There is little doubt that this cam-

paign has been directed from the highest levels of the TNI. When General Wiranto claims that he is in complete control of the situation, there seems little reason to doubt him.

Make no mistake. There is no civil war in East Timor. It is not a battle between rival factions of armed Timorese. What we are seeing there is an orchestrated campaign of violence and intimidation directed at the unarmed population of East Timor by the Indonesian military.

It is heartening to see that the international community has been able to extract an invitation from Habibie to send in international troops. But in reality, the international intervention force will be of little practical use. 7,000 troops cannot keep control of 20,000 Indonesian soldiers, 8,000 police and at least 2,000 militia, all bent on mayhem and murder.

This situation is nothing short of a recipe for more Timorese deaths, this time with the fig leaf of international

"protection". How long will it take for the Indonesians to claim that the UN, too, cannot control the situation in East Timor and withdraw its "invitation"?

International pressure on Indonesia to withdraw from East Timor needs to be intensified. Almost 80% of voters rejected Indonesian rule in the August ballot. That clear demand must be respected. Indonesia must recognize that it has lost East Timor and withdraw its military, completely and immediately. The TNI must bow out so that an international force can come in to restore order.

Once the TNI is gone, UN troops can begin to deliver humanitarian aid to the population. Refugees can start to be repatriated and the massive job of cleaning up and rebuilding East Timor can get under way.

Until the troops are withdrawn, the deaths and the destruction of an entire nation will continue.

Want to Help? We Need Money!

The Free East Timor Coalition desperately needs your support during this critical period for the people of East Timor.

We have included a reply paid envelope (thanks to CORSO for supplying these at short notice) with this Action Alert. Please, if you can spare some money for the campaign to free East Timor, send it to us right away.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your donation to us.
Mark cheques for "Free East Timor Coalition".

Please Bill my Visa/Bankcard

No. _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature _____

Is NZ Doing Enough?

NZ's response to the East Timor crisis seems to have more to do with saving our trading relationship with Indonesia than saving lives in East Timor. What should the Government be doing?

A few days into the APEC meetings, when the East Timor crisis was threatening to overshadow trade talks, Jenny Shipley announced the NZ Government was "reviewing" its relationship with the Indonesian military.

The next day, she announced that our military ties with Indonesia would be cut.

Minister of Defence Max Bradford threw a little light on what this meant when he announced that "practically" all our links with Indonesia's discredited military would be "suspended".

In practice, this means that some soldiers will be sent home. But there are four Indonesian officers currently studying at Massey University. Their studies have been "suspended" at this

time, but they are not being sent home.

There are two Indonesian Skyhawk fighter-bombers currently being repaired in Blenheim - ostensibly by the private company Safeair. In reality, the Royal NZ Air Force has also been working on these planes, since they are the only ones with the required expertise.

These aircraft are ideal for dropping bombs on guerrilla positions in mountainous Timor. It would be simple for the Government to freeze any authorization for their return to Indonesia right now.

Also training at Massey are several pilots, being trained for Indonesia's national airline, Garuda.

Other things the Government could consider if its serious about

sending a message to Indonesia:

The Suharto family own extensive property interests in Aotearoa. Lilybank Lodge in South Canterbury, and two mountain chalets near Queenstown. These assets could be sold and the proceeds donated to the people of East Timor as part (even if only very minute part) compensation for atrocities and destruction in East Timor.

The Government could also throw its weight behind Jose Ramos-Horta's call for New Zealanders to avoid Indonesian destinations when they holiday overseas. A Government-sponsored "Boycott Bali" campaign would certainly send a message to Jakarta.

Any other ideas? Promote them at your local events (see below).

ACTION STATIONS ...

Events you can get involved in

Auckland

* Candlelight Vigil/Rally
Queen Elizabeth Square
6pm Friday 17 September

Contact:

Helen Yensen (09) 5200179

Wellington

* March
on Indonesian Embassy
70 Glen Rd, Kelburn
Wear black and/or white and
bring flowers
Meet 6pm, Civic Square

Contact:

Joe Buchanan (04) 3857545

Hamilton

* Information Stall/Vigil
Garden Place 11am - 7pm
Sign coupons to Jenny Shipley,
contribute to CORSO's East
Timor Appeal, get information
Visit anytime

Contact:

Jeanette Wright (07) 8391246

Christchurch

* Concert
A Capelligo Choir and others
Aldersgate, Durham St
3pm Sunday 26 September

Contact:

Joe Davies (03) 3662803

Dunedin

* East Timor Embassy
Open all day, every day this
week. Visit for solidarity,
support, information

* Rally

in the Octagon
6pm Friday 17 September

Contact:

Marie Laufiso (03) 4773395

Whangarei

To be arranged.

Contact:

Tim Howard (09) 4346633

Sender: Free East Timor Coalition Box 68-419 Tamaki Makau Rau (Auckland)

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