



EAST TIMOR ALERT NETWORK NEWSLETTER

FALL 1997

calendar

War criminal on the loose!

Indonesian President Suharto bound for APEC summit

The past year has seen the governments of Canada and Indonesia draw ever closer together, despite the Indonesian regime's record of genocide in East Timor.

The "strong bilateral relationship" was expressed most recently by a state visit to

Indonesia by Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and will be consummated this November when Indonesian President Suharto arrives in Vancouver for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. ETAN is asking that Suharto be barred from Canada, or put on trial for crimes against humanity.

For how you can help, page 4.

ETAN NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 25-26
MONTRÉAL

RSVP TO NATIONAL OFFICE
OR R.A.T.O. BY OCT. 1

NATIONAL
DAYS OF
ACTION
FOR EAST
TIMOR
NOV. 12-15



NUCLEAR FREE &
INDEPENDENT PACIFIC
CONFERENCE
NOV. 15-16, VICTORIA



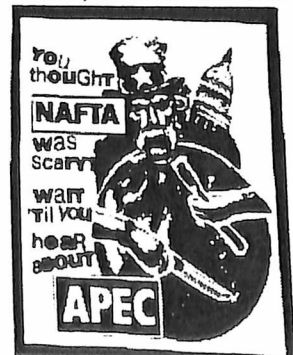
THE 1997

PEOPLE'S
SUMMIT

ON APEC

NOV. 17-24,
VANCOUVER

NO TO APEC CONFERENCE
NOV. 22-25, VANCOUVER



WANTED for crimes against humanity

Suharto

President of Indonesia

- retired general, Asia's senior dictator
- seized power in 1965 coup, at cost of up to one million dead
- ordered invasion of East Timor in 1975. One Timorese out of every three has died since
- refused ten United Nations resolutions to withdraw from East Timor
- has presided over the death of 100,000 indigenous people in West Papua and thousands of Muslims in Aceh
- refuses to allow democracy in Indonesia
- jails protesters
- has banned free trade unions, so that wages can be held to \$2 a day



Suharto will be welcomed with full state honours to the APEC summit in Vancouver this November. PROTEST!

For more information:
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(604) 688-4191 • etanvan@vcn.bc.ca

A BIG THANKS TO THE CANADIAN
AUTO WORKERS B.C. OFFICE FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER!

The ETAN Newsletter will be published four times a year. It is free to members and supporters, although donations are gratefully received. Please send all correspondence to the ETAN national office. Editorial contributions may also be sent to ETAN/Vancouver.



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News from Timor

Arrests, killings as usual

Friends of José Antonio Belo fear for his life after his arrest by Indonesian soldiers in East Timor.

Belo, 25, is a long-time organizer with the clandestine youth resistance in East Timor, who has refused several opportunities to seek refuge overseas. Earlier this year, he fled to join the armed resistance in the hills. Belo was captured on June 26 along with five others after an intensive operation involving more than 1,000 Indonesian soldiers. The operation was designed to capture David Alex, the resistance commander who has been most accessible to Western journalists. He appears in the film "In Cold Blood" and others.

David Alex himself has reportedly died in circumstances that remain unclear, although unconfirmed reports say he may still be alive and being tortured for information.

Belo is being held in the dreaded Rumah Merah prison. With David Alex dead or being tortured, Belo's friends are concerned about his fate. "This is a place where they have tortured so many people to death," said Bella Galhos, an East Timorese now living in Canada and a close friend of Belo. "Unless the international community intervenes, José and the others will be dead soon too."

A United Nations special rapporteur on torture has found that torture in East Timor is widespread and routine. A number of people have died under torture. This list may now include David Alex.

The overall situation in East Timor is becoming increasingly grim. The Indonesian armed forces recently announced that they will deploy an additional 6,000 troops to the country for stepped-up military operations. Hundreds of East Timorese civilians are reportedly being held without charge.

Following the award of the Nobel Peace Prize last year, the East

Welcome to new ETAN groups in Regina & Montréal!

**Can you start a group in your area?
ETAN has contacts across the
country that might work with you.
Or send for our new group start-up
kit. \$50 gets you all you need plus
a copy of the film "Bitter Paradise:
The Sell-out of East Timor." Show
it in your local library, community
centre or school — you'll be
surprised how many people want
to help out!**

Timorese resistance decided to engage in defensive actions only, in order to promote reconciliation and the peace plan advanced by Nobel laureate José Ramos Horta and resistance leader Xanana Gusmão. However, the prize brought only harsher conditions for the people of East Timor. Accordingly, the resistance resumed attacks on Indonesian soldiers in May.

Now, the Indonesian armed forces have struck back with the crudely-named *Operasi Tuntas* (Operation Finish Them Off).

Belo has been arrested and tortured before. On January 9, 1995, he organized a demonstration in Dili in support of a UN-mediated peace talks process on East Timor, which was meeting that day. Most of the protesters were immediately arrested and charged with insulting the government.

"The demonstration started at 9:15 a.m. and by Australian standards, would have been considered innocuous," an Australian eyewitness reported at the time. "The Indonesian response was as though the students were ducks and someone had declared open season. They swarmed out everywhere. Two lines of riot police with shields, five-foot-long metal poles, helmets and vests, sealed off both ends of the street. Four trucks of soldiers armed with automatic rifles were stationed in the streets behind the university. The students were surrounded and trapped in the university grounds. We were forced back inside our hotel but could still witness some of the events from inside. I saw José Antonio Belo being dragged from the university grounds and judging from his bloody and distressed state, he had already been beaten. They took him to a four-wheel drive and threw him inside it. Three military thugs jumped in after him. From the awful noises and the motion of the vehicle, which was rocking back and forth like a cement mixer, I could tell José was being savagely beaten inside. We were also able to see the driver, who turned around to throw a few punches himself. I felt physically sick to have seen this." In later torture sessions, Belo suffered injuries to his stomach and head.

Belo was sentenced to 18 months in prison for this "crime" by an Indonesian court whose jurisdiction he rejected. Other protesters were also jailed. Amnesty International recognized Belo as a prisoner of conscience.

"We cannot accept this judgment on us because we are not Indonesian citizen," Belo wrote in a letter smuggled out of prison to friends in Australia. "Problem 9 January is an international problem because East Timor problems is still as the international issue in the United Nations.... Indonesia has no right to judge us because the demonstration I lead was a very PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION. We as demonstrators didn't do any crimes or hits, but when the Indonesian army captured us they tortured us.... We will never recognize integration in our life."



David Alex Daitula (photo by Adam Hannestad)



PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

— Ask Indonesian authorities to release José Antonio Belo and those arrested with him immediately, and not to mistreat them while they are in custody. Ask also that an international investigation into the events around the death of David Alex be allowed. Finally, ask that *Operasi Tuntas* be ended and that Indonesia embark on peace talks with the East Timorese resistance.

— Ask Canadian authorities to intervene on behalf of José Antonio Belo and his companions, and to support an international investigation into the events around the death of David Alex as well as free access to East Timor for human rights organizations. Nobel laureate José Ramos Horta has requested an international commission of inquiry; Canada should support this request.

Indonesian officials:

- Col. Slamet Sidabutar, Commander Resort Military Command (KOREM) 164/Wiradharma (covers East Timor), Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma, Dili, East Timor (via Indonesia)
- Maj.-Gen. Prabowo, Commander of Special Forces, Panglima Kopassus, Markas Besar ABRI, Cilangkap, Jakarta Timur, Indonesia
- Alex Refialy SH, National Commission on Human Rights, Komisi Nasional Hak Asazi Manusia (Komnas HAM), Jalan Dr Antonio de Carvelho, Dili, East Timor (via Indonesia)
- Budiman Darmosutanto, Indonesian Ambassador to Canada, 55 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa Ont. K1Y 1E5, phone: (613) 724-1100, fax: (613) 724-1105, email: info@prica.org

Canadian officials:

- Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for Foreign Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa Ont. K1A 0A6, phone: (613) 995-0153, fax: (613) 996-4309 or (613) 947-4442
- Gary Smith, Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia, P.O. Box 8324/JKS.MP, Jakarta 12084, Indonesia, Phone: 011-62-21-525-0709, Fax: 011-62-21-571-2251

Mandela to mediate?

South Africa's Nelson Mandela has used his considerable personal moral authority to intervene forcefully in the East Timor case. On a July visit to Indonesia, Mandela asked to meet with Xanana Gusmão, the imprisoned leader of East Timor's resistance movement. A surprised Suharto granted the request, and Mandela was soon making East Timor a major agenda item in his talks with the Indonesian president. He also welcomed East Timorese leaders including José Ramos Horta to South Africa and was soon calling for the release of Xanana, who he called the key to finding a peaceful solution in East Timor. Mandela is thought to have responded to pressure from within his African National Congress and from overseas. He was apparently inspired by Xanana's presence and saw the parallels between Xanana and his own years as a prisoner of the apartheid regime.

Look who's coming to dinner...

The Government of Indonesia has not yet confirmed who will represent it at the APEC summit in Vancouver. Among the guests that may be gracing the summit and its formal leaders' banquet at the University of British Columbia:



Subarto, President of Indonesia for 30 years, ordered invasion of East Timor in 1975. Subarto is guaranteed election, unopposed, to a seventh straight term in 1998. Recently Indonesian agents issued a "last warning to Canadian slanderers" on the Internet, perhaps basing their reasoning on Subarto's comment: "If they insult me as Head of State, then we have to take action."



Try Sutrisno, vice-president. From 1974-8, he was Subarto's special military adjutant. As armed forces commander in 1991, he told reporters after the Santa Cruz massacre of over 250 people in Dili, East Timor: "These ill-bred people have to be shot, and we will shoot them." He is often touted as the next president, combining armed forces support with a record of loyalty to Subarto.



Ali Alatas, minister of foreign affairs, is Indonesia's diplomatic face and chief overseas apologist for the regime but a lightweight at decision-making level. A lifelong diplomat, he aspires to be secretary general of the United Nations. His normally calm exterior was ruffled on Subarto's last major overseas trip to Germany, when Alatas gave the finger to protesters.



B.J. Habibie is Indonesia's influential minister of research and technology. A Subarto protege plucked from the German aerospace industry, Habibie leads the "technologists" faction in cabinet and heads up military procurement and the emerging Indonesian military-industrial complex. His purchase of the old East German navy stirred protests that led the government to ban three newsweeklies in 1994.



Siti Harjidanti Rukmana (widely known as **Tutut**) is Subarto's eldest daughter, one of Indonesia's richest business people, and a leader in the ruling GOLKAR bloc. Since the death of Mme. Tien Subarto, she has been her father's right hand. Her "foundations" have been implicated in labour rights violations against East Timorese.

... and a wild card



Always present behind the scenes is ABRI, the

Indonesian armed forces. Pictured here are two key figures: deputy army chief **Subagyo** and Special Forces chief **Prabowo Subianto**. Prabowo's leadership of the elite Kopassus (Red Beret) strike force gives him enormous power that is enhanced by his family ties to the First Family — his wife is Subarto's second daughter.

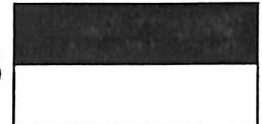
Spoil the banquet!

The government of Canada plans to welcome Indonesian government officials with full state honours. Canadians who care about human rights can help to change that.

- ETAN is asking that Canadian legislation against war criminals be brought into play. Suharto should not be welcomed; he should be barred from entry or indicted as a war criminal. Write to ask the government to lay charges (or alternatively deny entry to Canada): Attorney General Anne McLellan, House of Commons, Ottawa Ont. K1A 0A6 (postage free).
- Seek passage of a resolution in support of barring or indicting Suharto in the British Columbia legislature, City of Vancouver and University of BC. Ask your local government to declare an East Timor Day and fly the Timorese flag in November. Pass a resolution in your trade union, university, church or other organization (sample resolutions available).



Canada-Indonesia military ties



By DAVID WEBSTER

It won't come as news to Canadian friends of East Timor that the Chrétien government has decided to sell out Canadian human rights principles for the chance to make a quick buck on the Indonesia trade. What has shocked many, however, is a summer of news about military ties between the two governments.

This spring, *Vancouver Sun* reporter Ted Alden broke the story of an Indonesian request for closer military links to Canada. On May 1, a Canadian warship on a six-country Southeast Asian junket to flog Canadian high-tech goods docked at the main Indonesian naval base in Surabaya. Indonesian armed forces (ABRI) officials came on board HMCS Vancouver and made three requests: Canadian training for the Indonesian army and police, joint naval manoeuvres and the right to post a military attaché to Ottawa.

According to Alden's story, Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia Gary Smith said his government was "favourably disposed" to accepting the police training and perhaps considering the other items on ABRI's list. Other officials were more circumspect. "It has to be finessed at a political level," one said. "It's the optics of putting out public dollars to train people associated with ABRI that's what makes it so difficult."

ETAN and many other groups and individuals reacted with shock and disgust, and Ottawa backtracked. There had never been any official request made, officials insisted. Therefore, they could not possibly be considering a request. Yet they refused to rule out any of the items. And Alden reported that the request for police training had also been made by foreign minister Ali Alatas, the Indonesian chief of police, Indonesia's ambassador to Canada and by Francisco Lopes da Cruz, Indonesia's special "roving ambassador" on East Timor.

The background to ABRI's search for Canadian ties lies in Washington, where concerted pressure by ETAN/US and other organizations succeeded in 1992 in ending the program that was the backbone of ABRI's success. The International Military Education and Training (IMET) program was axed by Congress in 1992. Suddenly, ABRI had lost the program that gave it the tools to seize power in 1965-6 and that has trained ABRI's elite ever since. ABRI has been looking for training in any country that will give it. Canada's Military Training Assistance Program seems ideal for their purposes.

Still more so for the Indonesian police, an increasingly important part of ABRI. Canada has a highly-touted program of training civilian police forces to replace military-dominated forces in countries like Haiti. Yet ABRI's police are part of the existing military-run "territorial warfare" system. And they are responsible for the majority of human rights violations in Indonesia. Is this really the sort of "police" force Canadians want to be associated with?

Gary Smith says yes, and actions by his superiors in Ottawa seem to bear him out. Smith argued that training the police would help them develop a greater respect for human rights.

A few Indonesians agree. Asmara Nababan of the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, for instance, told Alden: "It depends on the type of training. As far as we are able to monitor, that kind of training is very important for officers to be exposed to other

ideas." That depends on their willingness to listen to these ideas, of course.

Other Indonesian democrats are far less sympathetic to Canada considering such a plan. Edwin Gozal of the People's Democratic Party, for instance, attacked the training plan for the ABRI "killing machine." Any training, he said, would not make the police more professional but rather "train them as professional killers" of East Timorese and Indonesians. Even Nababan is unimpressed with Canada's overall role. Canada is "very cautious" not to offend the Suharto regime, he said in a passage cut from the *Vancouver Sun* article. "We think Canada can play a significant role in supporting change and democracy here." Yet Canada is failing to do so.

Years of Canadian "engagement" and "quiet diplomacy" have borne no fruit at all: in fact, the regime depends on aid from countries like Canada to stay in power. If thirty years of U.S. "engagement" with Indonesia through IMET has failed to dislodge the Suharto dictatorship, why should Ottawa think its diplomacy — even quieter than Washington's — will achieve any more?

Axworthy hawks arms

The military-training episode makes more sense in the light of news released at the end of July, when Access to Information request filed by Parliamentarians for East Timor was finally answered after months of delay. It revealed that Lloyd Axworthy had presided over the sale of military goods to Indonesia, a year after boasting that he had tightened up arms export restrictions to the point that regimes like Indonesia no longer qualified. (Under Canadian policy, Indonesia should never have received weapons in the first place, since it violates strictures against sales to both human rights violators and countries at war. But the Chrétien government quietly tossed that policy out of the window, along with its promises to help East Timor, soon after its election.)

To make a military-related sale to Indonesia, a company must first apply for a permit from the government of Canada, where it must be approved by four ministries including foreign affairs. Indications from foreign affairs were that the trade in arms to Indonesia, a symbolic stain on Axworthy's pro-human rights image, would end in 1996. Instead, Axworthy in the final four months of the year approved five separate export permit applications, valued at a total of \$32,285,205.86.

The details are classified, but it has been revealed that the equipment includes "military vehicles such as armoured personnel carriers and military transport trucks"; "military aircraft and helicopters"; and related parts and components for these categories. Another permit was issued for "specialized equipment for military training or for simulating military scenarios."

One of those permits resulted in a deal worth \$1,638,426 to a Canadian arms manufacturer whose identity was not disclosed. The others may or may not result in sales, but the signal from Axworthy is clear: Canada is open for business, even in military technology, and despite requests for an arms embargo on Indonesia issued by everyone

from the two Timorese Nobel laureates, to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, to the Canadian Labour Congress. It was especially ironic coming from a minister who Parliamentarians for East Timor says it once counted as an active member (indeed, Axworthy was perhaps the most vocal advocate of an arms embargo during the Mulroney years). In a final irony, the permits were issued at the same time as the Nobel Prize was being announced (October 1996) and awarded (December 1996).

Undaunted, Axworthy was off to Jakarta from July 29-30. ETAN wrote him to welcome his stated plan to meet with Indonesian human rights groups as well as President Suharto, and asked that he use the meeting with Suharto to raise the issue of East Timor. Meanwhile, Nobel laureate José Ramos Horta fired off a personal letter to Axworthy, appealing to him to follow the lead of Nelson Mandela during his trip to Jakarta and seek a meeting with the jailed leader of the East Timorese resistance, Xanana Gusmão. Axworthy and his officials never replied. There was no meeting with Xanana, no public talk of Timor.

Instead, Axworthy announced the creation of a Bilateral Consultative Forum between Canada and Indonesia. A joint declaration by Axworthy and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stated that, "determined to broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence and understanding," the two governments will establish a Forum, meeting annually or more often, to discuss a range of subjects including "pursuing opportunities for cooperation, *inter alia* in the areas of technical training and education exchanges ... and consulting on political issues of common interest," "joint confidence building efforts,"

"UN reform," "terrorism and illegal drugs and crime," and, buried within the document, "governance and human rights." The brief reference to human rights makes no mention of any Canadian criticism of the appalling Indonesian human rights record. Instead, Canadian government concern is limited to support for the Indonesian government's toothless national Commission on Human Rights.

There have been some positive signs, including financial support for a limited dialogue process among the Timorese being carried out under UN auspices. But they pale into insignificance next to the Chrétien government's betrayal of East Timor.

As ETAN's press statement at the time said: "It appears that Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy believes that he can satisfy the Canadian people with a few perfunctory gestures about human rights, while at the same time pursuing an ever closer relationship with Indonesia, including arms exports and perhaps military training. ETAN is not satisfied by this, and we do not believe that it will satisfy the many people across Canada who want to see their government stand up for peace and justice."



Send protest letters to:

Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6. Send copies or write directly to the opposition critics for foreign affairs at the same address: Bob Mills (Reform), Stéphane Bergeron (Bloc Québécois), Svend Robinson (NDP) and Scott Brison (Conservative).

On Parliament Hill...

This year's federal election has delivered a House with increased potential for East Timor. In the last parliament, the Liberal majority left little space for dissent on human rights grounds, even to backbench Liberals like Warren Allmand who did speak out strongly for justice for people and against the government's dollar-driven diplomacy.

There are now five parties with official status in the House of Commons, up from three. By giving research budgets and guaranteed space in question period to the New Democrats and Conservatives, this has opened the floor to a wider range of voices with a more international outlook.

Parliamentarians for East Timor plans a membership drive in the fall and hopes to expand its existing all-party membership.

Meanwhile, ETAN will continue to lobby at this level and — most important — in local constituencies. Is your M.P. involved in PET or in other types of East Timor support work at the federal level? Even if they are member of PET, they still need constituents to keep them on their toes! ETAN can provide lobbying tips and often send someone to accompany you on a meeting with your M.P.

We continue to ask that Canada speak out and act in international arenas on behalf of East Timor's right to self-determination, as promised by the Prime Minister before he was elected. Some concrete tips include pushing for an arms embargo, calling for a special hearing on East Timor at parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, asking about East Timor in question period, and introducing private member's bills or House motions.

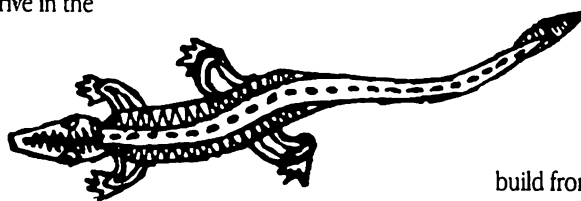
... and at the UN

Bella Galhos testified on behalf of ETAN at the 1997 United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization in New York, where she was accompanied by Kerry Pither from ETAN/Ottawa. Bella told the committee about her personal journey from survivor of the Santa Cruz massacre, to someone called by Indonesian officials "a bright girl with a bright future," to defection in Canada. She also outlined the increasing concern of Canadians about what is happening in East Timor and called for the General Assembly to pass a strong resolution to add to the eight it has already passed in support of East Timor.

The General Assembly has not done this, but the UN's Human

Rights Committee did pass a good resolution in February that provides a place to

build from at the UN level.



Canada, to its credit, voted in support of this resolution, as did the United States and most European and Latin American governments. ETAN was disappointed, however, at the decision of the Cuban government to vote against East Timor.

Incoming UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has also helped to propel the talks process between Portugal and Indonesia with an energetic commitment to finding a peaceful solution. He has reportedly chosen to focus his tenure on three areas of conflict: East Timor, Western Sahara and Cyprus.

Network news

From the national office

By LI-LIEN GIBBONS, ETAN NATIONAL OFFICE COORDINATOR

Greetings from the national office! It's been a busy year not only in terms of education and activism, but also organizational development. ETAN is growing! We have two new chapters: Réseau d'Alerte pour le Timor Oriental (RATO) in Montreal and Regina ETAN. We also have many new members thanks to the awareness raised by the Nobel Peace Prize, our amazing local chapters and national projects, as well as by the new video, "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-Out of East Timor."

This year's annual general meeting is coming soon and we invite all members to participate in our political strategizing, policy development and committee nominations. Please get in touch with your local ETAN chapter or the national office to participate in the October AGM.

I have been coordinating the national office part-time this year and will be finishing my contract this November. I have learnt a great deal from working with ETAN nationally and would like to thank the network for this opportunity. Special congratulations to ETAN's local chapters for hanging in there during the growing pains we've experienced as an organization. Hopefully this year's AGM will help to clarify and establish a structure and processes that work better for such a large, national, grassroots organization. Let's work together to learn from this year's experiences and strengthen ETAN.

The national office would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the running of the office. Your contribution was essential to the effectiveness of the national office.

We are pleased to announce that we were able to offer some national office training to our volunteers, including Timorese in exile. This included computer, administration, public relations and education, and fundraising training.

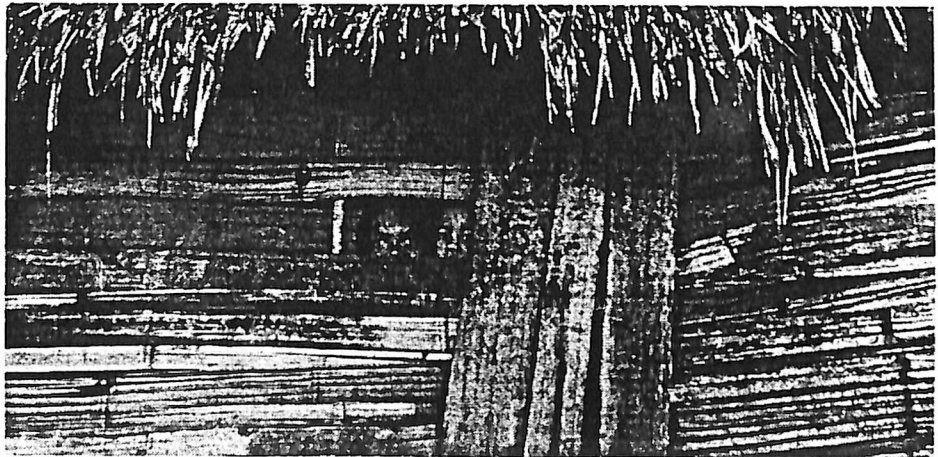
Over the year, every day, ETAN has received calls and requests for information and resources. We have worked hard and creatively to meet these demands. The fact is, ETAN is still the only complete East Timor resource centre for Canadians. Many people have visiting our office seeking opportunities to help East Timor. We were particularly busy during the school year with students' requests. Besides membership and research for papers, we have also had many requests for speakers to attend various presentations.

ETAN has been communicating internally and nationally, mainly through e-mail. We are still working on providing Internet access to those local chapters in need. We are increasingly using email for public information dissemination and collection. Almost all the updates we receive on East Timor and Indonesia come through email. Please get in

touch with the national office if you would like to subscribe to international East Timor update lists. ETAN is also re-establishing our own urgent action update list for our membership. Please send us your email address if you would like to join this list.

At the national office, we have an assortment of resources for sale, including books, videos, information kits, t-shirts and buttons (see back page). We hope to offer the black T-Shirt with the Timorese flag again next year. Send in your orders now!

ETAN wishes to thank the Anglican Church, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church and Inter Pares for their support this year. We cannot express enough how crucial this support has been in helping us continue to run the national office, raise awareness, and increase ETAN membership across Canada.



ETAN would also like to thank all our individual donors and our members for your generous and timely contributions. We greatly appreciate your support.

We have been able to run, for the first time, a national office with a part-time co-ordinator and provide a consistent source of information and resources to ETAN chapters and the public. This is mainly because of the consistent and generous support of individual supporters.

We also acknowledge the contribution made in memory of Gord McKeil, a very popular teacher of Science, who died of his own will, on the evening of June 5th, 1997. Gord's devotion as a husband and a father were much noted by his friends and colleagues. But he was also a citizen of the world, very concerned about issues of moral importance to Canadians of conscience.

He abandoned a Ph.D in Physics at the University of Toronto partly in dismay over the legacy of atomic physics. His death was an enormous shock to those who knew him. A friend's poem, attached, gives a sense of the lament many feel.

Gord
you lay there
your sloping jowls ashen

beyond reach, beyond hope
your spirit has departed
to another world

what did you shelter
in this still heart
why did you not reach out
to those who love you

in pain
you gave up the struggle
marking my life
and the sweet little children
who loved you

by Veronica Eley

Halifax: Confronting university complicity

By BROOKS KIND

On March 25 the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS, now merged with Dalhousie University) awarded an honorary degree to Indonesia's minister of trade and industry, Tunky Ariwibowo, a TUNS alumnus. Unlike most events of this nature, however, the ceremony was kept under tight wraps; no media were invited to the proceedings and there were no public postings. The planners evidently feared a PR fiasco; perhaps because of ETAN/Halifax's criticism of Dalhousie's connection with the Indonesian government and pressure on administrators to address these concerns over the past several years — or perhaps because of a dim consciousness that there might be something wrong with officially legitimizing a regime of war criminals. At any rate, the hope that this sycophantic display of deference to one of Suharto's leading technocrats might generate some juicy new contracts between Dal/TUNS and the government of Indonesia obviously overshadowed, in



Bill Owen, Carleton Conference, 1989

B. Owen

the minds of university administrators, the minimal risks of exposure associated with a secret ceremony. It turned out to be a serious miscalculation, and one they are probably still regretting.

A conscientious and talented young journalism student from King's University, Sarah Martin, learned of the event by chance, understood its significance and after contacting ETAN, appeared at the ceremony, notepad and tape recorder in hand — much to the discomfiture of TUNS reps and PR flaks. The result was a full-length page-three article by Martin in the March 26 edition of the *Daily News*, one of Halifax's two dailies, which included references to the Indonesia's atrocities in East Timor and ETAN's position on the awarding of the degree to Ariwibowo. This was followed by local and national coverage on CBC's hourly news, including *The World at Six* during which a clearly embarrassed TUNS president Ted Rhodes appealed desperately and ludicrously to the legality of the clandestine proceedings.

Dalhousie's President Thomas Traves, who has persistently refused to respond to legitimate concerns over Dal's lucrative Indonesia involvement (Dal currently has five projects in Indonesia), joined the damage control unit, attempting to defend the university's action at a press conference. The lame and even silly rationalizations he and Rhodes offered to this end appeared in a subsequent *Daily News* article, eliciting two more full length pieces — scathing critiques — by Halifax journalists. Many thanks to Sarah for her excellent work without which none of this would have happened.

It is perhaps needless to add that there was no response to any of the *Daily News* letters or articles by either Traves or Rhodes; university administrators seem to have profited from Guelph University's experience to the extent that they understand the dangers associated with open debate.

ETAN/Halifax intends to renew its pressure on the universities this fall. We're hoping to have John McMurtry come give a talk at the Dal Law School. The compelling title he has suggested is "Is the university an agent of a war crime state?"

Finally, ETAN/Halifax is very sorry to have lost its co-chair and one of its core members, who also happened to be our best public speaker, our internet accesser, and an all around great guy. Bill Owen has been fighting against the Canadian government's disgraceful East Timor policies since the early 80s, when he was a co-founder of the Nova Scotia East Timor Group, a forerunner to ETAN, and coordinated a national East Timor campaign for Amnesty International. For the last several years has been the only Dal faculty member willing to openly criticize the administration for its Indonesia connections.

Bill is now moving with his family to Australia. His extensive experience as a political activist for human rights and social justice including many years of work for Amnesty International, his vast knowledge of history and politics, his talent for public speaking, his satirical wit, and his willingness to confront politicians, bureaucrats, and administrators on all occasions (to say nothing of his passion for strategic political graffiti) made him an invaluable asset to our group. I know that I have profited immeasurably from our association and friendship and that it will be impossible to replace him. But our loss will be Melbourne's gain, and Bill will undoubtedly be in touch with the East Timor community there. Our love and best wishes go with him and his family.

NEW! ETAN web page
<http://www.etan.ca>

Toronto: reaching out

By SUZAN YATES

We've had a number of strong events in Toronto in the last year. A Night of Celebration and Music last November 12th commemorated the 5th anniversary of the Dili Massacre, while celebrating the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Bishop Belo and José Ramos Horta. "Abé ho Aloz," "People from Earth" and "Alvi" performed the music, while Abé Soares, Li-Lien Gibbons and João Rolo spoke about East Timor and some of their personal experiences. The turnout was quite exciting, both in terms of numbers and make-up — many people were new to the issue. The following Saturday, the 16th, we kept vigil outside the Indonesian consulate to remember the massacre and occupation in a quieter (and more political) way.

On March 13th Elaine Briere brought her newly completed documentary "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-out of East Timor" to Toronto for its local premiere. The film, which was introduced by Elaine, played to an enthusiastic crowd of about 100, with Abé Soares and Bella Galhos answering questions afterwards. OPIRG Toronto co-hosted the event with ETAN-Toronto.

The Brampton-Mississauga Labour Council heard a presentation by Li-Lien Gibbons and Bella Galhos on June 25th. We'd like to thank the Council for their support: they donated \$400, and passed a resolution which protests the welcoming of Indonesian President Suharto to APEC by the Canadian government. Council members who are teachers also said they are very interested in inviting speakers on East Timor to their schools and in raising awareness in Toronto. ETAN Toronto is hoping to approach the Metro Labour Council this fall in order to increase local labour participation and support.

Vancouver: summer of action

In September, ETAN/Van opened a much-needed office in the historic Dominion Building downtown, already home to many like-minded groups. We hope to be able to offer some institutional support to groups in Western Canada from this space. For now, we plan to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

By ROBERT STRANG

It's been a busy year for ETAN/Vancouver. Last November, our rally in commemoration of the Santa Cruz massacre drew 300 people. We plan to have even bigger and better events this November, when Suharto will be in town.

In March, ETAN/Vancouver co-organized a symposium on East Timor at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia along with the Institute for the Humanities at SFU and many other university groups. The symposium was a rousing success and a big boost for a summer of action (for a full report, drop us a line).

On July 8, Bella Galhos and others gave a presentation entitled "APEC and the Tragedy of East Timor" at La Quena coffeehouse presented by ETAN/Van along with the No! to APEC coalition and APEC Alert (UBC). Elaine Briere's video "Bitter Paradise" was shown to the approximately 60 people in attendance.

On July 17th, East Timorese "Integration" Day into Indonesia, ETAN went to the consulate downtown to present the officials a

symbolic warrant for the arrest of Indonesian President Suharto for crimes against humanity. (See Ottawa report for more on Lloyd Axworthy's response.)

As part of the campaign in resistance to APEC, ETAN groups have been distributing "WANTED: Suharto for crimes against humanity" posters in neighbourhoods across Canada. They have provoked a strong reaction from the Indonesian embassy in Ottawa, who sent a letter to the editor of the *Montreal Gazette*, accusing ETAN of fabricated stories and insulting Indonesia. There was also a "last warning" to the "Canadian slanderers" issued on an email mailing list by an Indonesian intelligence officer because of the posters.

Another protest was staged at the Consul General's residence during the Indonesian independence day celebrations on August 17th. "It's sheer hypocrisy that they should celebrate their independence while denying that of East Timor's," said one woman holding a banner. "We have nothing against the Indonesians, just their leadership." Demonstrators chanted in Bahasa Indonesia: "Indonesia merdeka! Jatuh Suharto!" (Free Indonesia! Down with Suharto!). Some of the Indonesians in attendance expressed quiet support.

Plans for November

ETAN/Van will be present at this year's People's Summit on APEC and No! to APEC Conference, plus many other resistance actions. We must expose the absurdity of not linking human rights to trade. José Ramos-Horta will be here (he was not allowed into the Philippines during last year's APEC Conference), as will a representative from the left-leaning PRD (Partai Demokrasi Rakyat, People's Democratic Party). The PRD comprises several youth leaders of the burgeoning democracy movement in Indonesia and several of them have recently been handed harsh sentences for subversion. For this reason, it is our responsibility to maximize our efforts here in the west where we face considerably less risk than our counterparts overseas. As we have been reminded by Bella Galhos: "In East Timor, we wouldn't be allowed to have meetings like this and say those things. We would all be killed." Far from being too removed from the Third World to help, what happens in North America makes a difference. Usually it's detrimental, but we don't have to let it be.

If you are interested in helping out with ETAN/Vancouver, please contact us by phone at 688-4191 or by email at etanvan@vcn.bc.ca or etanvan@web.net.

"To Resist is to Win!" -Xanana Gusmão



Last spring ETAN/Vancouver and the Canadian Auto Workers presented a talk by Cicib Sukaesih, an Indonesian Nike worker who was fired for labour organizing. Michael Jordan is paid \$20 million a year to wear Nike; in Indonesia, children are paid \$2.20 a day to make them. For more information on the Nike campaign, contact ETAN/Van.

Ottawa: "This would never happen in Indonesia!"

By BRIAN DAWSON, ETAN/OTTAWA

Hello from ETAN/Ottawa.

We have a new phone number! ETAN/Ottawa's information/action line can now be reached at (613) 230-4070.

The year in Ottawa opened with an awareness campaign at Carleton University, sparked by a conference sponsored by Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. Titled "Contemporary Indonesia", the February 25th conference featured Indonesian Ambassador Benjamin Parwoto, Canadian government representatives, and "experts" hand-picked by the Indonesian government. Notably absent were any human rights or pro-democracy activists.

The conference was part of the Indonesian government's ongoing damage control campaign in Canada. ETAN, in cooperation with concerned students and staff of Carleton University, highlighted the apparently collaborative relationship that Carleton had formed by participating in this propaganda campaign. The university community was asked to express their feelings on this legitimating exercise and call for the cancellation of the conference.

The Carleton awareness campaign culminated April 2 with a university showing of Elaine Briere's film, "Bitter Paradise". The general Ottawa community premiere of "Bitter Paradise" drew a capacity crowd at the auditorium of the Ottawa Public Library on May 15th.

On July 17, the anniversary of the illegal integration of East Timor, ETAN/Ottawa began a postering and leafleting blitz, to help launch the current campaign to indict Suharto for war crimes. Posters reading "Wanted: Indonesian President Suharto, for crimes against humanity" went up on street poles, and Pamphlets were circulated on street corners and in shops around the city.

The launch achieved national media exposure with coverage on CBC radio, which quoted Brian Dawson saying "one important aspect of the campaign is awareness, and actually letting people know that one of the worst mass-murderers of this century is actually being invited to Canada and will be coming here in November. Once people find out about it, we're sure this will put pressure on the Canadian Government to respond in some way.

"Ideally what we're looking for is to either have Suharto barred from the country, or if he does come here, it should be to try him with war crimes."

That provoked a direct response from Lloyd Axworthy, minister of Foreign Affairs. In a radio interview that day with "The World at Six," Axworthy acknowledged ongoing atrocities, but said "you have to work within the context of what we're doing." He claimed that rising trade between Canada and Indonesia was the best way to improve human rights, allowing for access to talk about the issue. So as far as Suharto is concerned, he said there'll be no barring, and no charges. He committed himself to raise the human rights issue again in a July meeting with Suharto, and claimed he would also meet with labour and activist groups to hear their side.

ETAN supporters picketed outside festivities at the Indonesian embassy on Indonesian Independence Day (August 17), to remind everyone of the hypocrisy in the celebrations while the people of East Timor are denied their right to self-determination. "This would never

happen in Indonesia," said embassy spokesman Achsan Djunaedi, as reported in the Ottawa Citizen. "If I were to demonstrate like this in Indonesia, I'd be thrown in jail," said Kerry Pither, of the local group. Proving our fears, over a dozen students were imprisoned in Bogor, Indonesia, for participating in protests that same day.

ETAN/Ottawa will also be involved in the campaign of awareness on issues around APEC. On September 13, in Hull, an exclusive APEC conference of the "Women Leaders' Network" will discuss the impact of women in APEC. We will be at the counter-conference across the street, looking at the ignored issues of the impact of APEC on women and children throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

ETAN/Ottawa will be one of many social justice organizations participating. Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians, Joan Grant-Cummings of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and Bella Galhos of ETAN will be among the speakers. The counter conference is organized by the Anti APEC Action Coalition of Ottawa. We'll report on details in the next newsletter.

Prairies: ETAN grows

MANITOBA — As this newsletter went to press, ETAN/Winnipeg member Colin Murray had begun a hunger strike at the constituency office of Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy to protest against the resumption of military sales to Indonesia and Axworthy's recent trip to Indonesia (see page 5). The hunger strike started Sept. 2 and Colin intended to continue until Sept. 5.... ETAN/Winnipeg plans a dinner for East Timor on November 29 at 6 p.m. in conjunction with the Interfaith Immigration Council. The dinner will be held at Sturgeon Creek United Church, 207 Thompson Drive. Help is needed — please contact ETAN/Winnipeg if you can help or for more information.

SASKATCHEWAN — Welcome to Regina ETAN, the newest local group. There are now groups in eight of the ten provinces. RETAN was launched with the invaluable help of *Briarpatch Magazine*, Canada's most consistent publication in its excellent and ongoing coverage of East Timor.... Elaine Briere's *Bitter Paradise* will be screened on the provincial public television station SCN on Wednesday, November 26 at 8 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. that night. We hope that the broadcast will help to increase the new activism for East Timor in Saskatchewan.

ALBERTA — In September Elaine Briere will conduct a film tour in Alberta. She will be the keynote speaker at the Edmonton Film Festival on Sept. 26-27. ETAN also hopes the tour will see the launch a new group in Edmonton and provide a boost to the longstanding and dedicated ETAN/Calgary group.

Abé ho Aloh -

will soon be releasing their first music video to promote "20..." (20 Years of Resistance to Genocide in East Timor), the International Artist's charity CD for the East Timor Hope Foundation. AhoA will also be releasing their own CD and are preparing for an *Abé ho Aloh World Tour* for East Timor to promote these releases. They are currently rehearsing with musicians that will hopefully be part of the touring ensemble provided that their fundraising and sponsorship efforts are successful.

If you think you can help them with their video, CD and/or World Tour by making a donation (financial and/or time) or would just like more info on AhoA or "20..." please contact:

Abe ho Aloh, c/o HANDSFREE RECORDS, P.O. Box 1302, Guelph, ON, Canada, N1H 6N6, (519) 767-1781, (519) 767-1785 (fax), hands@web.net, http://www.web.net/~hands

BELO, THE SHEPHERD (the voice of the voiceless)

"I belittle my pain and suffering
As I think of the people who fight
For their own redemption and freedom
And avenge the blood of martyrs.
I belittle my pain and suffering
As I hope to give more to the struggle"

— JOSE MARIA SISON

Belo, the shepherd
Belo, the young bishop

loudly
cries out

His voice
echoes
in
every corner
of
the universe

as
the sheep are
chased after
and beheaded
by
the wolves

Belo, the shepherd
is accused of
creating confusion

Belo, the shepherd
is restless
and broken-hearted

Belo, the shepherd
is steadfast
amidst
the dejection

Belo, the shepherd
has only
one desire—
MAY MY SHEEP
DRINK AND
EAT AGAIN
IN
THE GREEN PASTURE
IN PEACE
AND
PROSPERITY

— Abé Barreto Soares, 1996



"It is high time that the guns of war are silenced in East Timor, once and forever. It is high time that tranquility is returned to the lives of the people of my homeland. It is high time that there be authentic dialogue."

— Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo
Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Oslo, December 10, 1996

Resources for sale

BOOKS

- * *Complicity: Human Rights and Canadian Foreign Policy* by Sharon Scharfe, Canada: Black Rose Books, 1996. 249 pp. Scharfe exposes the hypocrisy of Canada's twenty years of "business-as-usual" foreign policy with Indonesia. The Canadian government emerges as an accomplice in genocide. (\$20)
- * *Surviving Indonesia's Gulag* by Carmel Budiardjo, founder of TAPOL. Budiardjo, a British woman who moved to Indonesia following her marriage, was imprisoned without trial as a suspected communist in Indonesia. She spent three years in the notorious Bukit Duri prison in Jakarta. She describes the suffering of her fellow political prisoners and her own experience of interrogation and psychological torment. Great Britain: Biddles Ltd., Guilford and King's Lynn, 1996. 213 pp. (\$25)
- * *ETAN INFO-ACTION KIT* written and published by ETAN, 1996. An excellent succinct primer for research and action on East Timor. (\$5)
- * *The Indonesia Kit* by Elaine Briere and Susan Gage. A primer on human rights in Indonesia and East Timor — the story you won't read in the travel section. Published by ETAN, 1993, 43 pp. (\$10)
- * *East Timor's Unfinished Struggle: Inside the Timorese Resistance* by Constancio Pinto and Matthew Jardine. A first-hand account of the East Timorese struggle. South End Press, 1996, 292 pp. (\$25)

T-SHIRTS

- * "EAST TIMOR Betrayed but not beaten" (front) and "To Resist is to Win" (back) on black T-shirt (\$15)
- * "Free East Timor/End Canadian Support for the Indonesian Occupation of East Timor" (front/back) with ETAN logo design. One colour on unbleached cotton T-shirt (\$15)

BUTTONS

- * "Free East Timor" with photo of smiling Timorese girl, square button (\$1)
 - * "Free East Timor" with Timorese flag on black background (pictured) (\$1)
 - * "Free East Timor" on black background (\$1)
- If ordering more than 10 buttons, cost is 50 ¢ each.

VIDEOS

- * "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-out of East Timor", a Canadian video by Elaine Briere. This is the story of the tragic destruction of the people and culture of East Timor, and Canada's shameful indulgence of the regime responsible for over 200,000 deaths. (home video \$25.00) public libraries, NGOs, unions, religious groups, colleges, universities and educational institutions please contact Snapshot Productions 33659 Fifth Avenue, Mission, BC V2V 1X1, Fax: 604-820-3694)
- * **NEW!!** "Sometimes I Must Speak Out Strongly," a full-length documentary about Bishop Belo by Max Stahl, maker of "In Cold Blood." (home video \$25)
- * "Indonesia: Islands On Fire", a video documenting human rights violations in Indonesia and East Timor and the exploitation of Indonesian labour by U.S. companies. (home video \$25)
- * "There is only one word: RESIST!" Profile of Indonesia's People's Democratic Party (\$20)
- * "Noam Chomsky speaks on East Timor" The renowned linguist and media critic came to Ottawa in 1994 to deliver a speech on East Timor, along with Timorese overseas resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta. (\$15)

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