

## Timorese US Speaking Tour Begins!

On March 27, five young East Timorese nationalists will arrive in New York to begin a month-long tour all over the United States. In addition to meeting with officials in Washington and at the UN, our guests will speak at universities, media outlets and community meetings in more than a dozen states and provinces.

The participants of the tour were infants or children when Indonesia invaded their homeland 17 years ago. They represent a new generation of resistance, the human embodiment of a yearning for independence which cannot be eradicated by terror and "education." Although they were forced to leave their country, these five people have committed their lives to struggle for the day they can go home again.

**Constâncio Pinto**, 30, was a leader of the November 12, 1991 peaceful demonstration that ended with Indonesian troops massacring over 271 people. He was Executive Secretary of the underground National Council of Maubere Resistance (the coalition of most Timorese nationalist groups) in East Timor from 1989--92. He has been arrested several times and tortured. He escaped East Timor last May, after being intensively hunted by the Indonesians for seven months.

**Abé Barreto Soares**, 27, official representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance to North America, went into exile in 1991 and now lives in Toronto. He is a student of English literature.

**Elizabeth Exposto**, 18, will attend La Trobe University in Australia. She fled East Timor as an infant in 1975, and returned there four years ago to visit her grandparents. Her shock at the conditions there motivated her to speak out in behalf of her compatriots.

**Danilo Henriques**, 21 a student and diplomat-in-training, escaped with his mother in 1975. He now lives in Australia.

**Maria Teresa Fernandes**, 24, is a graduate student and activist who left East Timor in 1975 and now lives in Portugal.

Although parts of the tour are still being organized, many public events are already set up. In addition, the Timorese will be meeting with journalists, academics and public officials to help American opinion-makers understand their situation and determination. The list below is only partial for the cities listed; our guests will also visit Washington DC, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, and elsewhere. Call ETAN at (914)428-7299 or Richard Koch at (908)542-6275 for details.

- **White Plains, NY** **Sun. March 28, 6:00 pm**  
Potluck supper and party at WESPAC, 255 Grove Street. Welcome our Timorese guests to the U.S. with an informal get-together. (914)428-7299
- **Princeton, NJ** **Mon. March 29, 8:00 pm**  
Bowl 5, Robertson Hall, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. Sponsored by Amnesty International and ETAN. (609)258-8405
- **Baltimore, MD** **Sat. April 3, 2:00 pm**  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, 320 Cathedral Street. Sponsored by Maryland United for Peace and Justice. (410)732-8523
- **Long Branch, NJ** **Mon. April 5, 7:00 pm**  
Wilson Auditorium, Wilson Hall, Monmouth College. (908)542-6275
- **New Haven, CT** **Wed. April 7, noon**  
Seminar at Yale Center for International Studies, 85 Trumbull St., second floor seminar room. Sponsored by Council on Southeast Asia Studies. For info: Chris Moseker at (203)432-3431 (days)
- **Providence, RI** **Wed. April 7, 7:00 pm**  
List 120, Brown University. Info: David Targan at (401)863-2314
- **Boston, MA** **Thu. April 8, 8:00 pm**  
Pound Hall, Room 102, Harvard Law School, Cambridge. (617)868-3396
- **New York, NY** **Tue. April 13, 7:00 pm**  
Goddard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Avenue (at 88 St.). (718)788-6071 or (914)428-7299
- **Los Angeles, CA** **Thu. April 15, noon**  
Program at UCLA, hosted by Committee on Genocide. (310)396-4624
- **San Francisco, CA** **Fri. April 16, 6:00 pm**  
Wilshire United Methodist Church, 711 S. Plymouth Blvd. (at Wilshire)
- **San Francisco, CA** **Tue. April 20**  
Castro Theatre (415)387-2822  
City College of San Francisco
- **Berkeley, CA** **Wed. April 21 noon**  
UC Berkeley, 315 Wheeler, Maud Fife Room (415)387-2822
- **Hayward, CA** **Wed. April 21, 7:00 pm**  
Hayward State College (415)387-2822
- **Sacramento-Davis, CA** **Thu. April 22, noon**  
(916)758-8542
- **Madison/Oshkosh/Milwaukee, WI** **Sat. April 24**  
Also Iowa City, Minneapolis, Chicago. (608)249-8194
- **April 26-May 3**

## UN Human Rights Commission Passes Resolution with United States Support

On March 11, the United States reversed a 10-year policy at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva (UNHRC) and supported a strong resolution criticizing Indonesia over East Timor.

When the resolution was introduced by the European Community the week before, the Bush holdovers representing Washington in Geneva actively opposed it. This contradiction with Clinton's announced concern generated critical reaction at home, including a *Boston Globe* editorial which ruminated "Whether because of inertia, the confusion of a transition or a change of heart, US policy under Clinton seems to be no different from what it has been since the Indonesians first invaded..."

In response to the criticism, Washington sent new instructions to its diplomats in Geneva, and the US co-sponsored at the last minute. The resolution was adopted 22-12 with 15 abstentions; the US, Canada and Australia voted for it, while Japan abstained. In 1992, those four countries had blocked meaningful action. In addition to European countries, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius and Zambia supported East Timor's position. Pakistan and south Korea abstained, breaking Asian unity.

Indonesia, feeling in a strong position as head of the Non-Aligned Movement and Vice-Chair of the Commission, overplayed their hand and refused to negotiate a consensus statement. They got Malaysia to move to remove East Timor from the UNHRC agenda, but the "no-action" motion was defeated, the first time this has happened in four years.

The strong international reaction was partly a response to the previous day's "re-election" of General Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia for 27 years and will be nearly 77 when this term ends. Suharto chose General Try Sutrisno, former commander of the armed forces, as vice president and heir apparent.

When the November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre occurred under his command, General Try described the peaceful demonstrators: "Delinquents like these agitators have to be shot, and we will shoot them."

East Timorese nationalist leader José Ramos Horta called the UN vote a humiliating defeat for Indonesia and sees it as an important precedent: "All the democracies in the world supported us. ... Equally important, East Timor destroyed the myth of the Asian block. There were Latin Americans and Africans voting with us, and important Asian and Muslim states abstained."

The Commission criticizes Indonesia for failing to honor its commitments made in last year's consensus statement, and is "gravely concerned at continuing allegations of serious human rights violations." It calls for the release of prisoners not involved in violent activities, and for human rights for all. The Human Rights Commission "regrets the disparity in the severity of sentences" between nonviolent civilians and the military involved at Santa Cruz, and calls for information and access to the territory for both UN officials and independent observers.

On Sunday, March 14, the *New York Times* headlined their wrap-up of the UNHRC *UN Criticizes Indonesia About East Timor*. On the same day, the *Washington Post* ran a commentary by Swedish TV journalist Sven Bergman headed *Timor's Untelevised Terror: As the World Looks Elsewhere, A Small Island Suffers a Hideous War*. Copies of this long article, which includes historical background and first-hand impressions, are available from ETAN.

## International East Timor Solidarity Movement Thrives

The 1991 Santa Cruz massacre motivated the Timorese resistance and its supporters worldwide, and the energy continues. In February, representatives of East Timor solidarity groups from a dozen countries met in Amsterdam to share information and coordinate actions. Twenty-nine groups described progress in public awareness and the level of pressure exerted on their own governments, but acknowledged that there is still a long way to go.

Participants discussed a coordinated approach to the UN human rights conference in Vienna this summer, continued pressure on countries funding Jakarta, particularly through the CGI, and focused pressure on the United Kingdom and Germany because of massive new warship and warplane sales to Indonesia. The movement will use of electronic mail to improve communications, and will work together at the July UN Decolonization Hearings in New York.

The next international solidarity meeting will be in Manila, Philippines, in November 1993. Contact ETAN/US if you would like more information. To help us be part of an international movement, here is contact information for a few of the groups:

**England:** TAPOL, 111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW. 44/81-771-2904. fax 44/81-653-0322, [tapol@gn.apc.org](mailto:tapol@gn.apc.org)

**Canada:** East Timor Alert Network, 104-2120 W. 44, Vancouver, BC V6M 2G2. 604-264-9973, [etantor@web.apc.org](mailto:etantor@web.apc.org)

**Japan:** Free East Timor Japan Coalition, Kure YWCA, 20-19 Nishi Kawaraisi-cho, Kure, Hiroshima, 737. 81/823-22-0962, fax 81/823-22-2684, [jinglis@igc.apc.org](mailto:jinglis@igc.apc.org)

**Portugal:** Comité para os Direitos do Povo Maubere, Rua Pinheiro Chagas, 77, 2º Esq, 1000 Lisboa, 351/1-352-8718, fax 351/1-534-009, [cdpm@gn.apc.org](mailto:cdpm@gn.apc.org)

**Ireland:** East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign, 210 Le Fanu Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10. 353/1-623-3148.

## Hopes for the Clinton Administration

During the campaign, Clinton characterized past US policy toward East Timor: "I'm very concerned about what's happened in East Timor, and I think we have to review it. We have ignored it so far in ways that I think are unconscionable. ... We have to engage the (Indonesian) government on the question of how those people are being treated. And I certainly wouldn't rule out the prospect of cutting aid." New personnel in Congress and the State Department are further reason for hope for a change in US policy toward Indonesia and East Timor. When American diplomats in Geneva swung around to support a UN resolution in March, the chance of a change became real.

Vice President Albert Gore was one of 52 Senators who signed a letter to Bush after the Santa Cruz massacre. Peter Tarnoff, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, moderated a forum on East Timor last year and is interested and knowledgeable. John Shattuck, Undersecretary of State for Human Rights, is a sincere believer in those rights. The new post of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Democracy and Human Rights has been filled by Morton Halperin, a Nixon-era policy analyst who resigned to protest the Vietnam war and has been a civil liberties activist since.

In 1992, the US Congress defied President Bush to terminate US military training (IMET) for Indonesia, the first-ever cut in funding to protest East Timor. This year, some of the obstacles to stronger action are gone. Ronald Dellums, new Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee is an outspoken advocate of military cuts and human rights. His committee has jurisdiction over arms sales. Stephen Solarz, who as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs consistently blocked positive action, lost his re-election bid. The new chair, Gary Ackerman, is one of a dozen Representatives who last

year co-sponsored H.R.5176, a comprehensive aid/trade sanctions bill against Indonesia over East Timor.

ETAN's report *How to Influence U.S. Government Policy* contains addresses, phone and fax numbers for key people in the new Administration and Congress. We also have an analysis of *The Outlook for a Change in U.S. Policy Toward East Timor*, written for the February international meeting. If you would like both reports, please send 50¢ for copying and postage.

## Xanana Gusmão Goes on Trial

The leader of the unified Timorese resistance, arrested last November 20, was put on trial in Dili in early February. He described himself as an Indonesian citizen, a "security disrupter" (the derogatory Indonesian term for Timorese resisters) by profession. Even Xanana's government-appointed attorney is puzzled by his acquiescence with his captors, although Xanana has hinted at a secret strategy. The trial is scheduled to end in conviction and sentence on March 20, with no defense witnesses.

The Indonesian authorities have vacillated about allowing outside observers to the trial. A week after inviting five Portuguese journalists, authorities asked them to leave because their presence was provoking demonstrations. Amnesty International was kept out of Dili, but some diplomats, Australian reporters, and representatives of the International Commission of Jurists have attended.

On March 4, a prosecution witness disrupted courtroom decorum by standing up and shouting "Viva East Timor! Viva Independence!" Saturnino da Costa Belo, 22, was already serving a 9-year sentence for participating in the Santa Cruz demonstration (nearly all of the witnesses are incarcerated Timorese activists). He was taken away, beaten, and declared "unfit to appear." Saturnino's spirit and courage affirms that the Timorese resistance endures, but many are worried about what the Indonesians may do to him.

## Chomsky Film a Hit

The new, highly-acclaimed, full-length documentary film *Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media* is showing widely. The movie uses East Timor as a case study of how the media ignores important issues, and ETAN has been working with the producers and distributors to help moviegoers channel their new awareness into action.

If you can leaflet or table, or would like to arrange a theatrical run in your community, contact ETAN's Eleanor Hoffman at 914-235-1797 or the distributors, Zeitgeist Films, 212-274-1989. Here is a partial schedule of upcoming showings:

**New York:** Film Forum, 209 West Houston St., March 17 on.

**San Francisco:** Castro Theatre, Castro at Market St. April 9-15.

**Olympia, WA:** Olympia Film Society. April 11-14.

**Orono, ME:** University of Maine. April 15.

**Berkeley:** U.C. Theatre. Apr. 16-22.

**Ithaca:** Cornell Cinema. April 22-24.

**Boston:** Brattle Theatre. April 23-29.

**Washington, DC:** Key Theater. April 23-May 7.

**St. Louis, MO:** Webster Coll. April 23-May 8.

**San Diego:** Univ. of Calif., April 27.

**Los Angeles:** NuArt Cinema. April 29-May 5.

**Columbus, OH:** Wexner Theater, April 30-May 1.

**Rhinebeck, NY:** Upstate Films. April 30-May 2.

**Cleveland:** Cleveland Cinéma-thèque, May 7-8.

**Petaluma, CA:** Washington Sq. Theatre. May 7-13.

**Santa Cruz, CA:** The Sash Mill. May 13-19.

**San Jose:** The Towne. May 14-20.

## Data entry help needed

Because of the success of outreach around *Manufacturing Consent*, hundreds of people want to be put on the ETAN mailing list. If you can help with data entry - we'll set up a simple database for your IBM-compatible computer - please get in touch with ETAN. Thanks.

## Resources

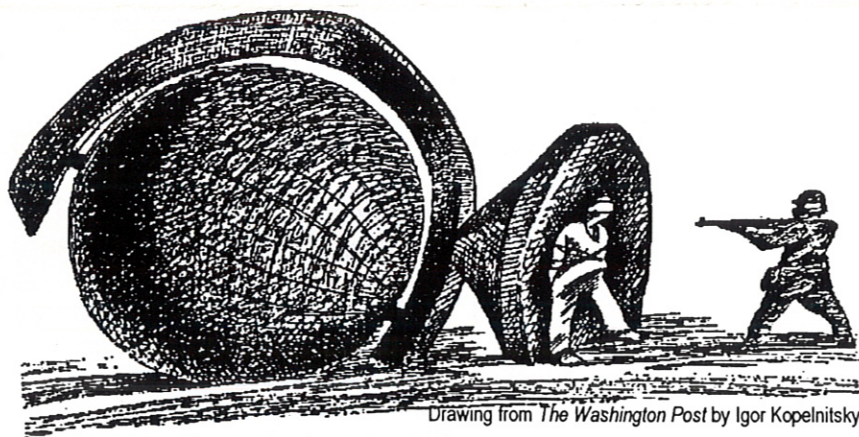
ETAN is printing some new T-shirts, and we also have copies of the book *Telling: East Timor Personal Testimonies 1942-1992*. This book, written by Michele Turner and just published in Australia, costs \$20 and contains nearly 50 oral accounts of ordinary East Timorese people, recounting what they have witnessed. It adds a human dimension to East Timor's grim statistics.

Our T-shirts include the traditional "Free East Timor" with the FRETILIN flag (now on black instead of white), as well as two new designs: (1) "East Timor: To Resist Is To Win" with a photo of a young boy with his arms outstretched in a victory sign in front of a banner at the Santa Cruz demonstration, and (2) "East Timor: Indonesia's Killing Field" with a photo of a man in front of grave in cemetery with mountains in the background. The shirts have "End U.S. Support of Indonesian Genocide" or "End U.S. Support of the Indonesian Occupation" on the back. They come in Large and Extra Large.

Write for our full resource list. If you order videos, T-shirts, or books, please add \$3 for postage.

## Next ETAN meeting

The next meeting of the East Timor Action Network/US will be on Sunday, March 21, at 2:00 pm at the home of Max Surjadinata, 100 LaSalle Street (apt 21B), east of Broadway near 124 Street, Manhattan, (212)222-1899. We will have an update on the developing policy in Washington and UN developments, as well as those inside East Timor and Indonesia. We will finalize the speaking tour and begin planning for follow-up.



## Save House Hunger Committee

The House Select Committee on Hunger has been a major force for East Timor in Congress for many years. Chaired by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH), the Hunger Committee and its staff have worked hard to increase Congressional awareness of starvation in East Timor, the United States, and elsewhere in the world.

In a false economy, the House is considering eliminating the Select Committees, and will make a decision by the end of March. The Hunger Committee is the least costly in Congress; its \$600,000 annual budget wouldn't buy paper clips for the Pentagon—yet other Congressional Committees are drooling over the money.

It would be a tragedy if the Committee died an untimely and unseemly death as a result of Congressional intrigue and public relations. Call your Representatives at 202-224-3121 and urge them to keep it alive.

In an editorial on March 9, *The Boston Globe* wrote: "This stratagem is easy politically because the select committees are not supported by powerful special interests such as the oil business or the aerospace industry. The constituents of the Select Committee on Hunger are the 5 million American children who go hungry every night, the 50,000 young mothers who were restored to the food supplement program known as WIC because of the committee's efforts, the starving Somalis whose plight the committee foresaw."

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