

East Timor

monthly memo
news

R. Pinheiro Chagas, 77 - 2º E 1000 Lisboa Portugal
☎ (01) 57 47 18 / 54 13 08 Telex 64 062 CIDAC P

Ref MM 36
20 July 1990

AUG 10 1990

MONTHLY MEMO Nº 6 1990

(Information received during June 1990)

1. EAST TIMOR

a. Human rights abuses in Viqueque region:

Letters smuggled out from East Timor describe alleged atrocities committed by Indonesian soldiers of the 86th unit in the small village of Lalerek Mutin in the Viqueque region on the south coast of the territory.

In this village were rehoused a number of Timorese who were regarded as being suspect in the wake of the rebellion of Timorese militia at Kraras in 1983 and subsequent massacre. Of a population of 1553, 221 are widows or widowers. Cristina Brandão (26) and Teresa Amaral (27) had lived there since 1983 and because their husbands are believed to be in the guerrillas, their houses have been subject to permanent surveillance and they are reported to have been raped by the soldiers posted in the village.

On March 26 the soldiers at the womens' home claimed to have seen two men near the house who they thought were the womens' husbands. They went to the nearby home of Joaquim Sarmiento (42) and having beaten him unconscious extracted a statement that he had been in contact with 2 guerrillas.

Two other men, Antero Carvalho (52) and Sebastião dos Reis, also of the village, were subsequently detained and beaten and statements extracted from them which incriminated Cândido Amaral, the father of Teresa Amaral. The two women were threatened with death and fled to Dili.

Cândido Amaral, a father of 5, was picked up and tortured by having "lighting cigarettes applied to his sexual organs" but refused to make a statement. On March 29 he was taken to Tula-Metan, a near the sea, at Sam and machine-gunned to death in such a way that "part of his body disappeared". Later that day, the commander of the commando unit visited the village, arranged for the body of Cândido Amaral to be buried and offered a sack of rice, 5 packets of biscuits and a box of maceroni to his widow and children.

The other three men, after an intercession by a christian group, were evacuated to Viqueque Regional Hospital where they

were later visited by representatives of the Red Cross on April 1.

On March 30, Lt Col Inf. Yosep Soemarsano accompanied the return to the village of 31 of its residents who had taken refuge at KODIM (district command) on the previous day because they feared for their safety.

On March 31, Major Jecky, the Commander of the 86th unit stationed at Baucau went to Dili where he spoke to the Governor and promised to punish his soldiers who had executed and tortured the people of the village and promised to give a subsidy of 200,000 rupiahs as well as rice and clothes to the family of the dead man. (FRETILIN Newsbriefs (1, 2) June 1990; Neon Metin (3) 1990; letter from Dili ETN/276, ETN/277)

b. Guerrilla activity:

During the month of April it is reported that FALINTIL carried out surprise attacks on more than 6 administrative posts. The most daring of these took place at the town of Maubara, about 40 km from Dili, where the guerrillas, commanded by Mau-Karo, took control of the town for 4 hours and raised the FRETILIN flag before retiring. Attacks were also reported in Lacluba, Ainaro, Same, Los Palos, Viqueque, Baucau regions and it was reported that there were numerous injured Indonesian soldiers in the hospitals in Dili and Baucau. The tactic of "lightning attacks" is believed to be part of a strategy to force the Indonesian military depart from its present policy of concentration in the Dili region. See appendix for a map released by FRETILIN's Lisbon office which indicates the resistance military actions which took place between January and May this year (Expresso 2 and 23 June 1990)

FRETILIN reports that seven soldiers of the 721 batallion were killed on May 3 by guerrillas of the Second Autonomous Company, commanded by Venancio Ferraz, in the village of Mape in the southern region near the southeast border with Indonesia (West Timor). 7 Belgian-made automatic weapons were captured in the encounter. (FRETILIN Newsbrief N02 June)

c. Detentions and disappearances:

Four residents of Maubara, Felix da Costa, José dos Santos, Francisco do Carmo and Custódio da Dilva Nunes were arrested by soldiers in April following guerrilla activity in the region. Their current whereabouts are unknown.

In Dili, Frederico Magno Sarmiento (30) was arrested in May and accused of having links with the guerrillas. Also arrested was Hermenegildo Filomeno Saldanha da Conceição, a taxi driver. It is reported that he was tortured and had his ear cut. (FRETILIN Newsbrief N0 2 June)

d. Pressure on St José School:

The FRETILIN office in Lisbon has received a confidential document from the Indonesian Military Regional Command in

Bali to the Special Operational Command for Security in East Timor (KOOPSKAM). The document, (ETN/278), dated February 14 1990, deals with an operation to get information about the St José school in Dili.

It will be recalled that the school, which is unique in the territory in that it offers a Portuguese syllabus, has been under pressure for some time from the Indonesian authorities. FRETILIN reports that the students have been threatened, the director was replaced (the present director is a Timorese named Monteiro), and a number of teachers have left their jobs there because of pressure exerted on them. (FRETILIN Newsbrief (2) June; ETN/278; Independente 29 June 1990)

e. Timorese students in Bali:

"For the first time in Timorese political life" according to Neon Metin, the 25th of April 1974 was commemorated this year. This was the day when fascism was overthrown in Portugal and its policy towards its then colonies irrevocably altered. That event was recalled at a ceremony behind closed doors attended by about 100 Timorese students in Bali. The students called for Portugal to exercise its "moral, political and historic obligation" towards East Timor by demanding the immediate reimposition of its sovereignty of the territory with a view to reinitiating the process of decolonization interrupted by the Indonesian invasion.

Three days later 3 students were detained and beaten (as detailed in ET MM 35). They were released 5 days later when Maya Uwer Zapico, an International Red Cross official in Jakarta went to Bali to intervene on their behalf.

It is reported that the Denpasar District Commander Lt Col Kribyantoro and his Assistant Commander Lt Col Sugiri "threatened the Timorese students with total extermination if they did not adhere to the law and the norms in vigour". (Neon Metin (3))

f. Economic and social conditions in East Timor:

A new polytechnic "aimed at producing skilled people for industries in East Timor" is scheduled to open next October in Dili. It will have about 150 students "most of whom will be East Timorese" (Jakarta Post 14 May 1990)

Realizing that "many of East Timor's graduates will not be able to find jobs in the province" the Indonesian Christian University (UKI) held a 3-day seminar to discuss unemployment and health, which began on May 28. (Jakarta Post 26 May, 4 June 1990)

The inhabitants of Dili can now make international telephone calls through the recently installed digital exchange by paying a 50,000 rupiah (27\$ US) administration fee, the Indonesian Chief of the Telecommunications Directorate, P

Djiwatampoe announced on May 6. An additional 12 such exchanges are scheduled to be built in other parts of the territory before the end of 1991. (Jakarta Post 7 May, 4 June 1990)

The 1989 crop production in East Timor, 22,618 tons from 100,000 ha of cultivated land, suffered a decline of 4.51% compared with 1988 according to figures released by Ir. Carlos, the head of the Plantation Service in the territory. The principal crop produced is coffee (8,542 tons). (Indonesian Observer 4 June 1990)

An inventory is being made of the number of prostitutes operating in the territory because of a rising number of VD cases. The Vice chairman of the House of Representatives (DPRD), André De Sousa told the Jakarta Post that "prostitutes were non-existent during the colonial period of the Portuguese but after integration they came here in numbers" (Jakarta Post 13 June 1990)

g. New Timorese student resistance magazine:

"Suara Maubere" a new magazine in Bahasa Indonesia, is being produced by Timorese students. The first issue came out in April and contains 9 pages. (ETN/286)

h. Documents received:

1. "Lalerk-Mutin, babylon of the people of Bibileo", letter from East Timor, undated, 7 p (Portuguese), ETN/276
2. "Attempts towards a solution", extract from a letter from Dili, 29 April, 1p (Portuguese), ETN/277
3. Letter from the Indonesian Regional Military Command in Bali concerning St José School in Dili, Denpasar 14 Feb 1990, 2p Bahasa Indonesia, ETN/278
4. "Assessment of Authenticity of Speech", Indonesia Publications, Maryland USA, 22 June 1990, 3p (English), ETN/279
5. FRETILIN Newsbrief (1,2), Lisbon June 1990, 6p and 2p (English), ETN/280
6. "East Timor - some impressions", Chris McMahon, Australia, October 1989, 5p (English), ETN/281
7. Extracts from a letter from Dili to family in Lisbon, undated, 2p (Portuguese), ETN/282
8. "Demonstration by Timorese youth in Dili (...) before the US Ambassador", undated letter from East Timor, 2p (Portuguese), ETN/283
9. Neon Metin (3), May 1990, 12 p (Portuguese), ETN/284
10. Letter from East Timorese students to the president of Portugal, Indonesia 30 Jan 1990, 2p (Portuguese) ETN/285
11. Suara Maubere (1), April 1990, 9p Bahasa Indonesia, ETN/286

2 ADMINISTERING POWER, PORTUGAL

a. Portuguese Parliamentary visit to East Timor:

The next round of talks in New York between Portugal and Indonesia has been set for the end of July (see ET MMs 33,34 and 35). (Diário de Notícias, 30 June 1990).

b. Plan to appoint an East Timor High Commissioner:

After a meeting between President Mário Soares and Prof Alberto Amaral, Rector of the University of Oporto, and Barbedo de Magalhães, organizer of the Oporto Seminar on East Timor, Mr Soares said that he would give his support to the setting up of an East Timor High Commissioner and he promised to raise the matter with the Prime Minister Cavaco Silva. This was one of the recommendations to come out of the Oporto Seminar. (Diário de Notícias 12 June 1990)

c. Indonesian ship in Lisbon:

An Indonesian cargo ship loaded 3000 tonnes of calcium nitrate fertilizer in Lisbon on June 15. Although diplomatic relations have been cut between Indonesia and Portugal since 1975, trade between the two continues to increase (see ET MM 33). In this case the chemical was supplied by the semi-state Quimigal Company but the deal was made through the West German company Hoechst. Portugal and Norway are currently the only two countries in the world that produce calcium nitrate. (Diário de Lisboa 15 June 1990)

3. INTERNATIONAL

a. Australia - Timor Gap Treaty ratified but legal problems worry oil companies:

On May 29 the Australian parliament voted to ratify the Timor Gap Treaty with only 10 dissenting votes. (Diário de Notícias 1 June 1990).

Later in the month, at the annual conference of the Australian Oil Exploration Association, Mr Brian Loton, Executive Director of BHP which is the largest of the Australian oil exploration companies, said that the exploitation of the oil reserves in that region would be postponed to the end of the decade because of concern about the legal position. Although the reserves could be "another Eldorado" for Australia and permit the country to be self sufficient for 80% of its domestic oil needs, "anyone who studies the laws and regulations for the area would quickly be convinced that litigation was likely". Mr Jaap Pool, Managing Director of Petroz Australia Netherlands, also speaking at the conference was of the same opinion and said that such legal disputes may need to be resolved in the International Court at the Hague. According to the "Diário de Notícias", the companies are particularly concerned about the possible outcome of any legal challenge brought by Portugal in the International Court.

It is reported that the Australian government has now ordered a review of its official position regarding the legal situation on the Timor Gap and called for a second opinion

from the Law Faculty of the National University of Canberra.
(Diário de Notícias and Publico, 22 June 1990)

b. Timorese demonstrators sentenced in Australia:

Of the 6 Timorese accused of disorder in the wake of a demonstration outside the Indonesian General Consulate in Melbourne last December, 3 were declared not guilty and three were fined 100 dollars; one received a further suspended sentence of 6 months. The case for the defence was supported in court by film taken by TV crews which showed that an essentially peaceful demonstration being met with a violent police reaction. (Diário de Notícias 19 June 1990)

c. Assessment of authenticity of Moerdani tape:

A detailed assessment of the authenticity of the recording of the Indonesian Defence and Security Minister, Gen Moerdani's February 3 speech (see ET MM 33, 35) has been made by John Mac Dougall, editor of the US-based Indonesia Publications. Having exhaustively analysed the information available he concludes that, although, in the absence of scientific voiceprints of the speakers on the tape, it cannot be stated categorically that these are or are not the voices of Moerdani and Governor Mario Carrascalão, the overwhelming weight of evidence on eight different counts leaves very little room for doubt. Furthermore, "if the tape were not authentic, it would be one of the boldest forgeries of all time, trying to present the voices of both (...) Carrascalão and Moerdani on a single recording. (ETN/276)

d. Socialist International resolution on East Timor:

At the Socialist International (SI) Council meeting in Cairo on May 22 and 23, the following resolution on East Timor was passed:

"East Timor remains as an international unsolved problem. The occupation of East Timor has been condemned not only by the United Nations General Assembly Security Council but also by many other international organizations.

Human rights are daily violated: arbitrary imprisonments, deportation, forced resettlement, torture, summary executions, the absence of the right of association and of freedom of expression.

The final Declaration of the Dublin EEC Foreign Ministers meeting last February recalls again the disquieting reports of human rights violations in East Timor.

The SI condemns the continuing violation of human rights and the destruction of the cultural identity of the people of East Timor.

The SI supports the right of self-determination of the people of East Timor." (Accção Socialista 7 June 1990)

East Timor News is a service which publishes information in three forms - the Monthly Memo (MM) and the occasional publications, Subject Memo (SM) and Urgent Communiqu (UC). It can also make available, on request, copies of all documents mentioned in these publications.

It is produced by two Portuguese NGOs, CDPH (The Commission for the Rights of the Maubere People) and "Peace is possible in East Timor".

The annual subscription is 100\$US.

The text in East Timor News may be freely quoted but in the event of the quotation of a significant portion of its contents, ETN should be credited.

Address all correspondence to East Timor News, R Pinheiro Chagas 77 2' E, 1000 Lisboa, Portugal; Tel. Lisbon (1) 574718 / 541308; Telex 64 062 CIDAC P.

EAST TIMOR

3/90
 (FRETELIN's flag
 was hoisted after an
 attack that caused several
 deaths and wounding)

Atauro Is. • Maumeta

3/1/90
 (9 deaths)
 2/90
 (6 deaths)
 3/90 (7 deaths)
 5/90

5/90
 3/90
 (11 deaths)

2/90
 (3 deaths)
 3/90 (2 deaths)

2/90
 (8 deaths)

4/1/90
 (a helicopter was shot down
 killing 4 Lieutenant Colonel,
 8 major and the crew)

3/90
 (3 deaths)

3/90
 (2 deaths)
 2/90 (4 deaths)

4/1/90
 (a helicopter was shot down killing 2 captain
 a paramilitary commander and the crew).

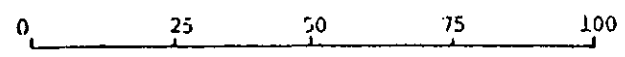
4/90
 (2 deaths)

3/90
 (8 deaths) and 12
 wounding)

3/5/90
 (7 deaths)

3/90
 PANTE-MACASSAR
 Nitibe
 OE-CUSSE

WEST TIMOR
 (Indonesia)



Scale (Kilometres)

GIF / June 90

SOME GUERRILLAS MILITARY ACTIONS
 AGAINST THE INDONESIAN FORCES
 SINCE JANUARY TO MAY 1990

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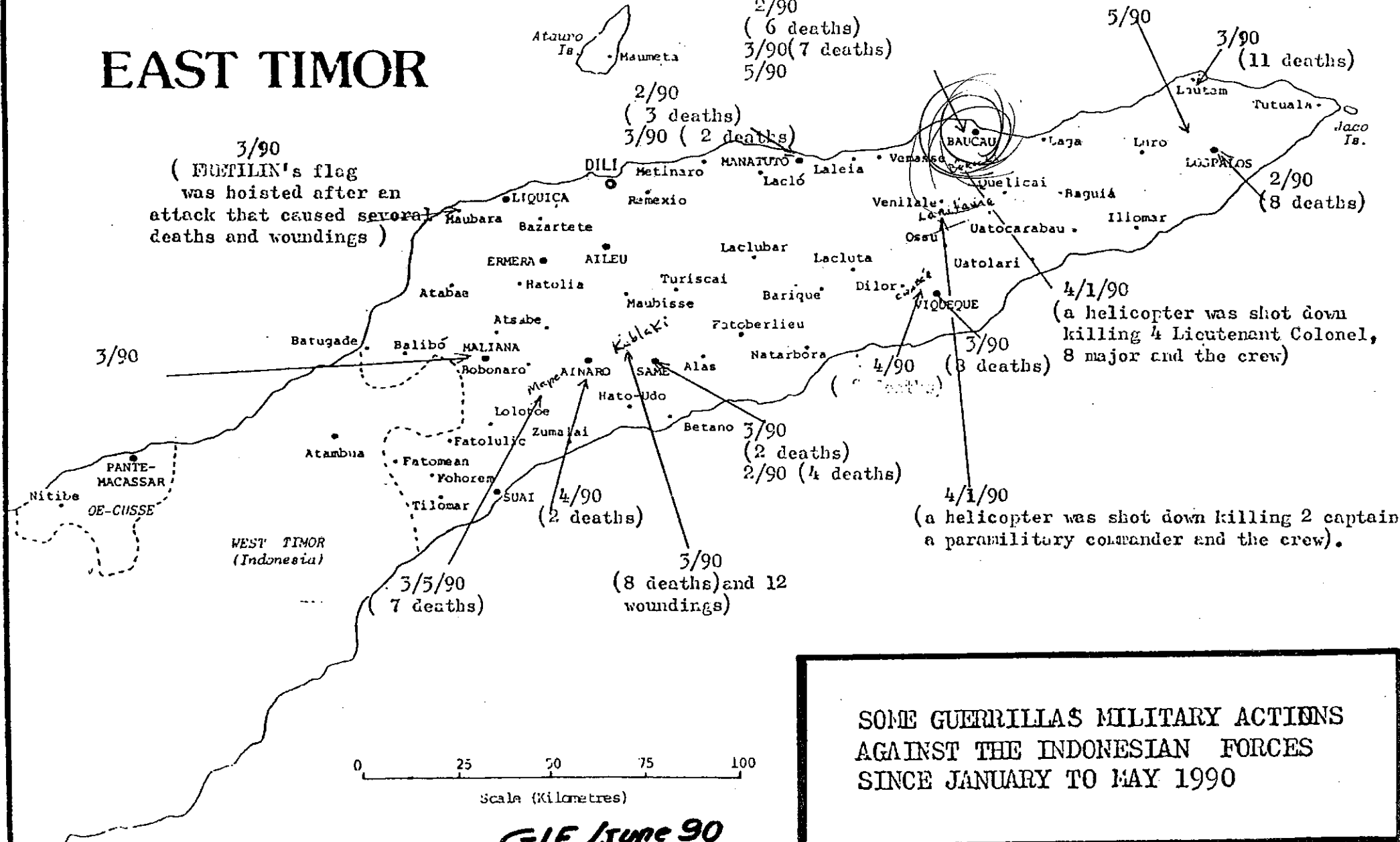
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Map prepared by the FRETELIN Lisbon office
 APPENDIX TO EP MM 36