

# East Timor

monthly memo  
news

R. Pinheiro Chagas, 77 - 2º E  
☎ (01) 57 47 18 / 54 13 08

1000 Lisboa Portugal  
Telex 64 062 CIDAC P

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(Information received during July 1990)

1. EAST TIMOR

a. FRETILIN flags fly in Dili:

FRETILIN sources report that schoolboys and girls in the Colmera and Becora areas of the capital Dili, raised the FRETILIN flag and sang the FRETILIN anthem, "Fohu Ramelau", on July 17, which is supposed to be celebrated as "integration day" to commemorate the signing by Suharto of the bill fourteen years ago annexing East Timor. The schoolchildren also shouted "Viva FRETILIN" and other slogans calling for the Portuguese parliamentary mission to come to East Timor.

Troops and police soon arrived on the scene and ordered the schoolchildren to pull the flags down, but they refused to do so, saying they would remain aloft until sundown the time when the Indonesian flags in other places would be taken down. Dozens of youngsters were rounded up and taken away. Following intervention by the International Red Cross, all those detained except three were released. (Diário de Notícias 21 July 1990)

b. Street-fights in Dili at night:

Fretilin reports that Indonesian Intelligence have formed an intimidation squad in Dili composed of about 150 Indonesian young men from Kupang, Ambon and Molucas, its function being to neutralize anti-Indonesian groups.

In response, FRETILIN organized groups in Dili that confront members of this squad. The people of Dili now avoid being on the streets between 6.00 pm and 5.00 am because of the fear of violent confrontations between the two groups. Indonesian-owned vehicles are likely to be damaged if left on the streets at night and Indonesian civilians are accosted by Timorese youths and "intimidated to return to Indonesia" (FRETILIN Newsbrief (1) July 1990)

Tapol reports that an informal campaign whereby any Indonesian in a public place is asked «kapan pulang?» ("when are you going home?") has been very difficult for the Indonesian authorities to contain. It was started by the underground student movement, but was subsequently enthusiastically taken up by young people and children as young as six and occurs spontaneously at the airport, in public offices near garrisons- or in the harbour - anywhere

where many Indonesians congregate. (Tapol Bulletin (100) August 1990)

c. Human Rights violations:

Paulo Silva, was arrested on May 1 in Viqueque, the district where he lived, after an attack carried out by the guerrillas. He is reported to have been later hanged by Indonesian soldiers.

In Dili, a student at the St José School named Leo was arrested in May on suspicion of collaborating with FRETILIN. He was taken to the KODIM headquarters in Dili and interrogated. He is believed to be still in detention but his whereabouts are unknown. (FRETILIN Newsbrief (1) July 1990)

d. Youth and student groups in East Timor:

We have received 31 pages of documents from the Association of Youths and Students Anti Indonesia (HPPMAI) in Bahasa Indonesia. They are accompanied by a 2 page "Information" in English which refers to human rights abuses in Lospalos, Baucau and Viqueque in May of this year. The origins of this hitherto unknown group are obscure at this point and it is not yet known by whom or why it was set up. (ETN/292, ETN/293)

Meanwhile, in addition to the publications "Neon Metin" and "Suara Maubera" mentioned in ET MM 36, FRETILIN reports 2 additional publications by resistance groups: "FECLINTIL Informaçãõ" is a bulletin in Portuguese produced by the Students Clandestine Front FECLINTIL (formerly known as the East Timor Catholic Students Organization) and "O Grito de Matebian" is a bulletin produced by the Timorese Youth Organization.

e. Documents received:

1. Press Release from Portuguese solidarity groups, Lisbon, 16 July 1990, 1p (Portuguese) ETN/287
2. Amnesty International Annual Report for 1989, London, June 1990, ETN/288
3. Letter to the US Ambassador, Dili, 13 Jan. 1990, 2p (English), ETN/289
4. Letter to the US Ambassador, Dili, 17 Jan. 1990, 3p (English), ETN/290
5. "Towards peace in East Timor: the sources of help elsewhere", a paper by Herb Feith, Dept. of Politics, Monash University, Melbourne, 22 June 1990, 8p (English), ETN/291
6. Association of Youths and Students Anti Indonesia (HPPMAI), Information, East Timor, 2 June 1990, 2p (English), ETN/292
7. Association of Youths and Students Anti Indonesia (HPPMAI), East Timor, 2 June 1990, 31p (Bahasa Indonesia), ETN/293
8. "East Timor: an island of fear", transcript of radio program on Australian radio, Parliamentary Background Briefing, 15 April 1990, 15p (English), ETN/294
9. "A tourist in Timor", Chris Macmahon, Australia, April 1990, 1p (English), ETN/295
10. Letters from Lord Avebury to Australian Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans, April 4 and May 27 1990, 3p (English), ETN/296,

11. Letter of reply from Gareth Evans to Lord Avebury, 11 May 1990, 2p (English), ETN/297
12. Oral question to European Parliament from MEP João Cravinho and reply to same, Meeting of Foreign Ministers, May session, 1990, ETN/298
13. Questions to European Parliament Foreign Ministers from MEP Barros de Moura, ETN/299
14. Paper presented by Pax Christi International to the UN Special Committee on Decolonization Regional Seminar in Bridgetown, Barbados, 19-21 June, 6p (English), ETN/300
15. Tapol Bulletin (100), London, August 1990 (English), ETN/301
16. Letter to Ali Alatas, Indonesian Foreign Minister, from the Free East Timor Japan Commission, Tokyo, 27 June 1990, ETN/302

## 2 ADMINISTERING POWER, PORTUGAL:

### a. Solidarity groups protest at government "passivity":

Five Portuguese solidarity groups issued a joint press statement on July 16, strongly critical of the government efforts this year on the question of East Timor. They stated that "the negotiations concerning the planned visit of the parliamentary delegation to East Timor have been used to justify much passivity and lack of political will" and had been used as a justification for inactivity on the Timor Gap Treaty and for not proceeding with proposals for an international seminar of parliamentarians on East Timor and for Portuguese radio broadcasts to East Timor.

They noted an evolution in the situation this year in that "the people of East Timor have shown more and more courage in refusing to accept the colonial occupation and if, on the one hand, the forces of Jakarta see themselves as impotent before the vigour of Maubere nationalism, the Jakarta government has, on the other hand, scored some success in the diplomatic field, as for example in the case of recent positions assumed by China and Zimbabwe." Faced with this situation the Administering Power had distinguished itself, they said, by "giving way, once again, under the pressure of the aggressor" (ETN/287).

### b. Parliamentary mission -- not this year:

The visit to East Timor by a Portuguese parliamentary mission will now definitely not take place this year the Portuguese Foreign Office revealed on July 1. Lisbon accused the Indonesian representatives of deliberately prolonging the negotiations to render impossible a visit this year before the onset of the rainy season. (Diário de Notícias 1 July 1990)

Four days after the public criticism from solidarity groups the Lisbon government revealed that the next round of talks in New York between Portugal and Indonesia, which was to have taken place on July 31 had been postponed by Indonesia to September 20, and the government stated that it had decided to unfreeze the initiatives proposed by its Special Commission on

East Timor which had been on hold in recent months because of the process of negotiation of the parliamentary visit. These include a proposal to broadcast short-wave radio programs in Tetum and Portuguese to the territory and the holding of an international seminar of parliamentarians, in Portugal, on the East Timor question. These proposals were now scheduled to be discussed on July 31. (Público 19 July, 20 July 1990)

In the following week the "Diário de Notícias" quoted a leaked report made by Philip Flood, Australian Ambassador in Jakarta, to the Foreign Office in Canberra, which said that the possibility of the visit had been vetoed from the very start by Indonesian generals who had recommended to their government that the visit should not take place "in the next two or three years" because it would "cause great social disturbance" (Diário de Notícias 26 July 1990)

The next day Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese PM, gave a press conference where he announced that Indonesia had changed its position and that the postponed meeting at the UN in New York on July 31 would be taking place after all. (Público 28 July 1990).

When the Special Commission on East Timor met in Lisbon the only subject discussed was the sending of 3 MPs to New York for the Special Commission on Decolonization in the second week of August. (Diário de Notícias 30 July 1990)

### 3 INTERNATIONAL

#### a. Philip Flood visits East Timor:

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia made an investigatory visit to East Timor from 3 - 5 July. He later reported that he had spoken with Governor Mario Carrascalão, Bishop Belo and various priests and Red Cross officials and that the consensus was that the situation had improved in recent months, in part because of a more flexible attitude of the new Indonesian military commander. He said that he had investigated the reports of a massacre in March of this year and found them to be "baseless". He confirmed the death of Cândido Amaral at Lalarek Mutin (see MM 36) and said the matter was under investigation. He also said there was "no substance" to the reports of a large troop build-up in the territory.

His public comments on the visit, given in a press conference in Jakarta, contrast somewhat with what has been leaked of his private report to the Canberra Government (see 2b above).

#### b. Questions to the European Parliament and Council of Europe:

The Council of Europe, meeting in Innsbruck on July 3, rejected the resolution on the situation in East Timor which

had been proposed by the Portuguese MEP Carlos Candal in May (see ET MM 35) and had had the backing of 26 MEPs from various countries. Neither the proposer or the Chair of the Portuguese delegation were present when the vote was taken and the majority of those present voted for a proposal by the Dutch MEP Pieter Stoffelen that the Council give priority to developments within continental Europe. (Diário de Notícias 4 July 1990).

The Portuguese MEP João Cravinho put an oral question to the meeting in May of the Foreign Ministers of the 12 EEC countries calling attention to the violations of human rights still perpetrated by Indonesia in East Timor and asking what concrete measures had been carried out by the Twelve to implement the resolutions passed by the European Parliament in Sep 1988 and Nov. 1989. In their reply the foreign ministers said that they were "following attentively" the evolution of the situation in East Timor and that the Twelve had been "unequivocally supporting the contacts between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General." (ETN/298)

The Portuguese MEP Barros de Moura has presented two questions to the European Parliament Foreign Ministers meeting. One calls attention to the instances of human rights abuses in East Timor mentioned in the recent Amnesty International Annual Report and the other refers to the recent study (see ET MM 36) confirming the authenticity of the recording of the Feb 3 speech by the Indonesian Defense Minister and asks whether EEC cooperation with Indonesia will be suspended in the light of this. (ETN/299)

c. Pax Christi International calls for UN visit:

In its presentation to the UN Special committee on Decolonization in Barbados in June, Pax Christi expressed "grave concern over the personal safety of Bishop Belo" and recommended that the Special Committee "dispatch a visiting mission to East Timor to meet with Bishop Belo and other East Timorese leaders" (ETN/300)  
1990)

d. US Senator concerned by Timor situation:

The US Democratic Party Senator, Claiborne Pell has written a letter to the Secretary for State James Baker expressing his profound concern about the human rights situation in East Timor. (Diário de Notícias 11 June 1990)

4. INDONESIA

a. Indonesia planning diplomatic confrontation at the UN?:

José Ramos-Horta, the former FRETILIN representative at the UN, told the Diário de Notícias that he believes "Indonesian diplomats are preparing for a confrontation with Portugal in

the General Assembly of the UN." (Diário de Notícias 26 June 1990).

Earlier in the month the Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas had taken the opportunity of the press conference to announce the reopening of diplomatic relations between his country and China, to accuse the Portuguese government of having "abandoned Timor in an irresponsible and bloody fashion, just as it had done in its other colonies". (Diário de Lisboa 4 July 1990)

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