

MATEBIAN NEWS



CNRM endorses Bishop Belo's proposals

The following was the document issued by CNRM following the publication of Bishop Belo's proposals for peace in East Timor. This document shows clearly the level of co-ordination which exists between the political resistance as a whole and the Church of East Timor whilst a national but politically neutral institution of East Timor.

The search for peace is obviously felt in East Timor and by CNRM abroad as an urgent matter to safeguard the basic human dignity of the people of East Timor. The statement previously made by Bishop Belo regarding the appalling human rights situation in East Timor sent to the Secretary General of the UN, Dr Boutros-Ghali, summarises the reasons why a political solution for East Timor is a matter of urgency. Bishop Belo said:

“We are dying as a people and as a nation...I ask that referendum be held”.

Conscious of this situation, to reinforce the appeal made by the highest religious authority of East Timor, CNRM issued the following statement:



Oliver Strowe

Bishop Belo: ready to mediate

The National Council of Maubere Resistance, CNRM, expresses its total support for the open letter recently issued by the Apostolic Administrator of Dili, Monsignor Belo. In his letter, the bishop denounces the deplorable - and worsening - human rights situation in the territory, calling for Indonesian troop withdrawals, and the holding of a self-determination referendum.

As supreme organisation of the East Timorese nationalists struggling for self-determination and Independence, CNRM is fully aware of the intolerably oppressive conditions the people of East

Timor have had to endure since 1975 under the brutal and genocidal military occupation by Indonesia. Bishop Belo's latest statement is totally consistent with the grave accusations made continuously over the last 19 years by the Catholic Church, as well as international human rights bodies.

In this letter Bishop Belo's once again repeats his increasingly frequent calls for an end to Indonesian military occupation of East Timor, and its accompanying terror, injustice and murder. In a rare video interview just released, the bishop has also denounced the current Indonesian military campaign of deliberate provocation of religious conflict between Catholics and members of other religions, increasingly evident. This new military strategy, again aimed at gain-

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ing the control of the East Timorese population which so far has eluded Indonesia, has led to further tensions, conflict and deaths. As is already evident, this irresponsible military policy will only heighten the rejection of the Indonesian occupiers by the East Timorese people, adding further suffering and turmoil to their existences.

"Alatas shamelessly postures to be seeking a confidence building process"

It is indicative of Indonesia's ill-faith and lack of credibility that these new acts of aggression take place at the time Foreign Minister Alatas shamelessly postures to be seeking a confidence building process in the diplomatic arena, aimed at achieving an internationally acceptable solution to the East Timor problem.

CNRM welcomes Bishop Belo's call for a reduction in Indonesian military presence in East Timor, as the first step in a process culminating in a genuine act of self-determination. This is congruent with CNRM's Three Phase Peace Plan, advanced to assist the UN Secretary General's mandate to find a solution to the East Timor conflict and consistent with current UN and Portuguese approaches.

The CNRM Peace Plan envisages:

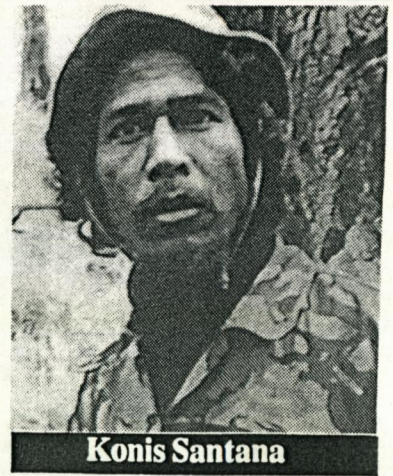
Phase One (one to two years): Indonesia-Portugal talks under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, with East Timorese participation, to achieve end to armed



Jose Ramos-Horta

activities in East Timor, release of political prisoners; reduction of Indonesian military personnel; removal of armaments; expansion of international Committee of the Red Cross activities; reduction of Indonesian civil servants; population census; access by UN Specialised Agencies for restoration and protection of the environment, resettlement, district development, women and children care and public health and immunisation, restoration of all basic human rights, removal of restrictions on Portuguese and Tetum languages; setting up of an independent Human Rights Commission; appointment of a UN Secretary General Resident Representative in East Timor.

Phase Two - autonomy-(five years): This is a transition stage of autonomy in which East Timorese would govern themselves democratically through their own local institutions. This would require: democratic election of a local Assembly with a five-year mandate under UN supervision and assistance. Only East Timorese may vote and be elected; election of an East Timorese Governor for a five-year term by the Assembly; Assembly powers would include, among others, legislation concerning international trade relations,



Konis Santana

investment, property, and immigration; withdrawal of all Indonesian troops and further reduction in Indonesian civil servants; a UN-organised territorial police force, placed under the command of the Governor, the territory is to have no army. Phase two may be extended by mutual consent between Indonesia and the East Timorese population expressing its views through a referendum.

Phase Three - self-determination: Covers preparation for a self-determination referendum, to be held within one year of the commencement of this phase, whereby the population may choose between free association, integration into Indonesia, or independence.

CNRM welcomes the availability of Bishop Belo, the highly respected leader of the East Timorese Church and the great majority of the East Timorese people, to use its position of political neutrality to facilitate a process of dialogue between the Indonesian authorities and Resistance members. The National Council of Maubere Resistance pledges its full support for any genuine initiative in this respect. ■

Xanana Gusmao writes to Mandela

The following is the text of a letter from the leader of the East Timorese National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), Xanana Gusmao, to President Nelson Mandela, sent from Cipinang Prison, Jakarta, on 15 May 1994.

The letter, written in Portuguese, was released by the CNRM representative, Luis Cardoso in Lisbon on 1 September 1994:

His Excellency,
The President of South Africa,
Mr Nelson Mandela

Mr President,

On behalf of the People of East Timor, the CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance) and the East Timorese Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALINTIL), I send you greetings and congratulations on such a tremendous victory over the past which the present intends to erase for the sake of harmony and progress of South Africa's future generations.

I personally congratulate you, Mr President, on your unyielding fight for justice, your perseverance in standing up for human rights and your spiritual tenacity and lucidity which you maintained throughout your struggle, in spite of severe adversities.

Your election as the first President of a united, democratic, non-racial South Africa is an inspiration to the fight of oppressed people everywhere, the fight of the victims of repression, injustice and crimes committed by totalitarian regimes. Humanity has taken another step forward towards Human Freedom and the Freedom of Peoples.

Today, the suffering Maubere People have yet another reason to carry on, and to keep the flag of freedom flying. The oppressed people of East Timor have been encouraged even more to make the sacrifices needed to defend their rights, to uphold freedom

and justice, and to attain peace.

The People of East Timor congratulate the South African People for whom a new chapter in history, full of hope and prospects is opening up. From the bottom of their hearts - the hearts of those who are also victims of repression, victims of physical and cultural genocide - the Maubere People hope that, under your guidance, Mr President, the People of South Africa wisely put into effect the ideas always held by the African National Congress (ANC), of a South Africa that offers freedom and justice to all its citizens, and harmony and understanding for all its people.

On 10 of May 1994, a curtain was drawn across a time in the history of mankind which is best forgotten. The Maubere People dearly hope that all South Africans will unite in a concerted effort, under your Presidency, to heal the wounds of yesterday and construct a radiant future for the South African nation.

Having said this, Mr President, we are also certain that the successful restoration of law, justice, freedom and peace in South Africa cannot be complete while, in other parts of the world, repression continues to create victims, and while governments of many countries contemplate with indifference the crimes being committed by the powerful.

For this very reason, we are sure that your struggle, Mr President, as well as the ANC's difficult fight, and the



Xanana Gusmao in Cipinang

repression experienced by the black majority of South Africa, will continue to inspire your personal support, and that of the ANC, the government and the South African people for the fight of the small, weak and defenceless People of East Timor for its right to self-determination and national independence.

LONG LIVE UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND
NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA!

LONG LIVE THE JUST STRUGGLE OF OPRESSED PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

With my highest esteem and admiration.

Yours,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao,
Member of the CNRM,
Commander of the FALINTIL.

Cipinang Prison, Jakarta
15 May 1994

News-in-brief

Nelson Mandela raises Timor talks

According to the ABC TV, September 4, the South African President Nelson Mandela raised the issue of East Timor with President Suharto on the 2nd day of his visit. He suggested to the Indonesian Government to hold talks on the issue. He said "the idea was met with a positive response".

Xanana nominated for International Freedom Award:

CORSO, a New Zealand organisation that is committed to justice for all the world's people, has nominated Xanana Gusmao for the prestigious award.

The International Freedom Award is an annual award given by the International Centre for Human Rights in Quebec, Canada each December.

The award is given to organisations or individuals for making an exceptional contribution to the defence and promotion of human rights or democracy in any country or region in the world.

It is hoped that the nomination will afford Xanana some protection while he is in captivity and will also keep the plight of the East Timorese people high on the agenda with the United Nations and with the world's governments. (Pacific News, Sept 94)

Xanana 'met military'

According to news disseminated in major newspapers such as SMH (6.9.94) and NT News (6.9.94), Xanana Gusmao held a formal meeting with Indonesian military. During the meeting, the Indonesian military raised with Xanana the issue of a referendum in East Timor. According

EAST TIMOR:

To Resist is to Win

to NT News, the meeting appeared to be linked to broader moves to establish contact with Timorese dissidents.

Indonesian Diplomat Expelled

Australia has expelled an Indonesian diplomat for pulling a knife on protestors at his embassy. He returned to Jakarta late last week following a Federal Govt. request for his removal. The diplomatic incident will test relations further after Indonesian Foreign Minister Alatas criticized Australia for not doing enough to protect its missions from protestors. Just days later the staff member left Australia. A Foreign Affairs spokesman confirmed the removal last night saying the behaviour was incompatible with that of a member of a diplomatic mission.

The Foreign Affairs spokesman said Australian Federal police had investigated the incident. "We think the matter is regrettable but we don't want to think that it need affect the broader relationship. Certainly for our part we don't want it to." he said.

Brisbane Courier Mail, (Sep.3.1994)

Socialists to debate Timor

Concerned about the situation in East Timor, Antonio Guterres used his influence with the Socialist International to try to get the issue included for discussion by the organisation's Committee for Asia and the Pacific. The request of the Secretary General of the Portuguese Socialist Party was heard, and East Timor will be one of the items on the agenda for the next meeting of the SI's Committee for that geographical area, scheduled to be held in the Autumn. *Source: Independente (26.8.94)*

British illicit' arms sales to Indonesia

British defence contractors are being accused of selling arms to Indonesia against government guidelines which prohibit the sale of equipment likely to be used for repression.

Alvis of Coventry have recently won a GBP 6 million order to upgrade 150 British-made armoured vehicles - the workhorses of the Indonesian army - according to industry sources. Earlier this year a team from Vickers Defence Systems visited Jakarta in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to win orders for its new Mark Eleven, described as having the firepower of a tank and the speed and versatility of an armoured car.

The Indonesian army has been involved in the brutal suppression of dissent for nearly 20 years and been branded one of the world's worst human rights violators.

Carmel Budiardjo, a spokeswoman for Tapol, the Indonesian human rights campaign, said yesterday: "We have evidence that British military equipment, including Land Rovers, have been used by the army in East Timor and elsewhere." (*source: Pactok - August '94*)

News on East Timor

During August, e-mail news was dominated by Mandela's visit to Jakarta, the UN Population Growth Control in Cairo, Konis interview to Jill Jolliffe, Xanana's meeting with senior Indonesian military and Bisop Belo's statement.

CNRM actions in Australia

CNRM held a FALINTIL day in Melbourne attended by 450 people. The video of FALINTIL history and a message from Konis Santana, combined with Mr Ramos-Horta's presence were the highlight of the evening. Xanana Gusmao also sent a message from Cipinang prison to help put FALINTIL's role in perspective. In his message, Xanana emphasize the paramount importance of maintaining FALINTIL non-partisan and appealed to those who commemorate this day to

(cont' on page 7)

August '94

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The Church of East Timor and the politics of liberation

The Church of East Timor suffered a powerful transformation since East Timor was invaded and subsequently occupied by Indonesia. On one hand, the Council Doctrine forbids the priests to get involved in politics; on the other hand, the Church of East Timor is dominated by Timorese priests who, historically, are seen by the people as a collective of Timorese intellectuals. Such category, independently from the Church Doctrine, exerts upon the Timorese priests the duty to defend the nation in this crucial and difficult times.

To accommodate these two ends, the Church of East Timor issued the document which was disseminated as an open letter from the Head of the Church, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo. To put the role of the Timorese priests into perspective, the document stated that "(...) due to an understanding of human being, with less interest to involve in state politics (Populorum Progressio, Paul VI, n. 13), the Church should encompass with the evolution of time, then attempts to interpret it in the light of the Bible (Gaudium et Spes, n.4)"

The document continued to explain the role of the Church in the context of the reality on East Timor in the present time by asserting that "finding and helping people to discover their dignity is the main role, a central role which would unify the duty of the Church and human beings (Gaudium et Spes, n.76)"

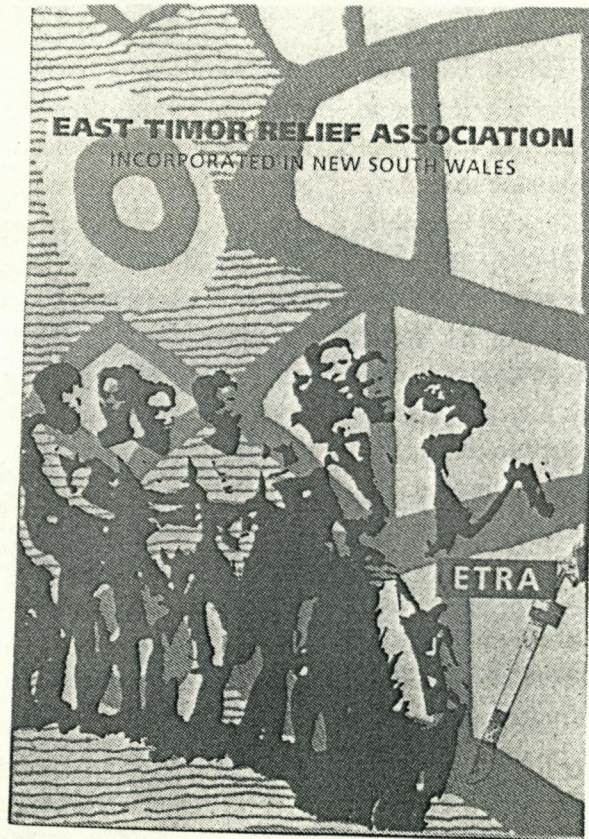
Finding the sense of dignity is precisely the moral crest of the struggle of the Timorese people. The dignity to live the way the people really want to, the right to choose and implement this way without being shot, tortured, raped or made to disappear. It is this dignity that the People of East Timor has asked their own Church to stand for,

and all the Timorese intellectuals that turned priests - the guardians of the Timorese dignity - to dignify their role in this critical time.

In this historical document, the Bishop of East Timor wrote that "(...) the Timorese people are living under pressure due to the imposition of institutional force, continued excessive control to be particularly affected by violations of the right to life perpetrated by the institution of force against the activities of East Timorese, the

establishment of extra judicial institutions leading to extra judicial killing, extra judicial punishment, torture, arbitrary arrest and illegal detention especially by extra judicial institution, torture and missing people. The Church also expresses its deep concern over the conditions of ethnic identity, religion and culture which are getting worst on daily basis."

As for what is the solution for this already two decades of illegal and barbaric occupation, the Church of East Timor simply reiterates that it will accept whatever solution is freely chosen by the people. ■



Support East Timor!
Join East Timor
Relief Assn

EDITORIAL

Solidarity with East Timor must focus on CNRM

Solidarity with East Timor in Australia is again very active, almost with the same momentum seen in the period of 1975-78. This has been one of the most important product of the infamous November 12 Massacre of Sta. Cruz. However, for this energy to be channeled efficiently, all efforts must be focused on finding a political solution to the problem. To be efficient, one must look into the pros and cons of this solidarity.

There are four main solidarity groups for East Timor. The individuals who are very effective in their own professional fields and with political influence to make a difference when they take a public stand on East Timor; several groups who are attached to the political parties with a "left" agenda, environmentalists and several NGOs which focus on human rights and grassroots development. Another special group is made up of those formed since 1975, and survived.

The first group of supporters may not express publicly their views on Timor as often as one would like to see, but they can be very effective whenever the right opportunity arises, but they may do it only when there is a perception of wide support for the issue.

Those attached to a specific political party and/or organisations with one-issue agenda, are people with diverse activities to deal with and with limited resources, often their actions do not necessarily focus on East Timor, but East Timor

in the context of their own political parties and organisations ideological guidelines. As a result, in isolation, they would not necessarily respond to the demands of the Timorese Resistance.

The NGOs are becoming very visible in the process of East Timor due to the shift in the politics of the international community. Nowadays, the focus is on human rights of peoples, not the soviet union as in the cold war era.

Geo-politically, we are witnessing East Timor often promoted in the context of Indonesian internal affairs which may not help the issue of East Timor from the point of view of an illegal invasion followed by a subsequent occupation. Some groups do stress the right of the Timorese people for self-determination and independence but the public campaign is very often done with East Timor, West Papua, Aceh, democracy in Indonesia and regional imperialism as one single agenda. Although all these issues are very important from an ideological perspective, East Timor - whilst an issue under the UN agenda and under military occupation - can be diluted in all these other issues, losing its main focus which is the illegal and barbaric occupation, rejected by the entire people of East Timor.

In this context, solidarity - if it is to be for East Timor must be properly adjusted to always focus on East Timor. This is not ignoring other very important issues mentioned above, for the Timorese, the

best way to help democracy and human rights in this region is to conquer independence for East Timor, as soon as realistically possible. This can only be achieved if the focus is right.

Solidarity with East Timor must, therefore, be at all times, in tune with the National Council of Maubere Resistance. One way to show that is to promote the Peace Plan of CNRM as suggested by the Special Representative of the CNRM, Mr Jose Ramos-Horta, in his speech for the solidarity, on August 27, with emphasis on the direct participation of Timorese Resistance in the negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the UN, Dr Boutros-Ghali; another is to promote the campaign against abuse of human rights including transmigration, birth control in East Timor and demilitarisation.

This agenda is specially relevant for those groups in Australia that have defined East Timor as their main priority.

If the focus is not on CNRM and the direct participation of the Timorese Resistance in the negotiations, including CNRM's Peace Plan, the limited time and energy these groups and individuals have available to promote solidarity actions will be dissipated without tangible results ■



ETRA Brief Activity Report

ETRA participated in a day for East Timor in Macquarie University. Agio Pereira was the guest speaker and he used the opportunity to explain the latest developments concerning East Timor in the UN agenda and, above all, the inflexibility of the generals of Jakarta and what the Timorese Resistance - CNRM - sees as the way to solve the conflict. About thirty students attended this talk. Matebian News and copies of the paper delivered previously by Agio Pereira in a Breakfast Seminar organised by Evatt Foundation were distributed.

Petition: the campaign to obtain signatures from the Australian citizens against the signing of Timor Gap Treaty is an on-going process. ETRA's office in Sydney received thousands of signatures and many more are still expected to arrive in the next month or so. If any reader is interested in this campaign, please contact ETRA's office to organise for copies of this petition to be forwarded to you.

Co-ordination of activities with Manila (APCET organisers) took place during the month of August. The aim was to obtain materials which are relevant to the follow-up of APCET in Manila. A video about the four days conference is now available in ETRA's office. The good news is that our office will soon have facilities to view

these videos and others about East Timor culture and other activities. All will be welcome.

APCET comprehensive report produced by Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida is now available from the office. Any reader interested in this report can contact ETRA. Postage fee will be needed to cover the costs.

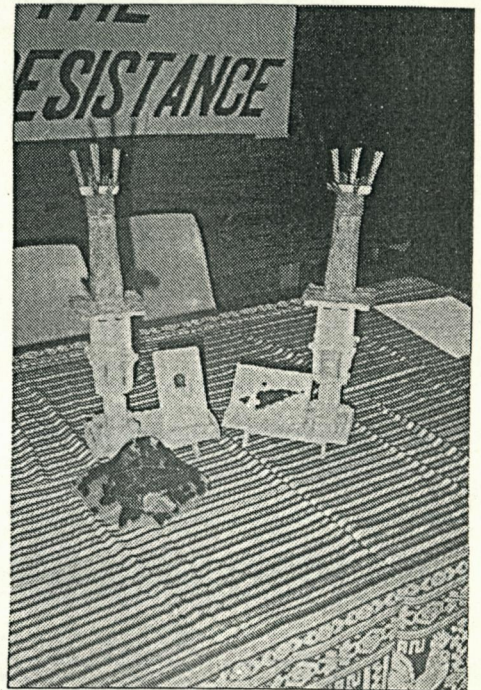
Agio Pereira also addressed an ALP Branch meeting in Sydney where he spoke about the developments of East Timor struggle, the role of consecutive Australian Governments, the role of the Timorese People in WWII when Australia and Japan illegally occupied East Timor causing the death of more than 40,000 (forty thousand) Timorese, and what the Australians can do today. The draft resolution proposed by the solidarity groups to be debated and passed in the forthcoming ALP National Conference in Hobart was unanimously endorsed by the ALP Branch on the same evening. The branch will encourage the ALP to support this resolution.

(from pg. 6)

not to promote FALINTIL again from a partisan point of view. He stresses the role of FALINTIL as solely fighting and dying for the homeland and not for any political party.

Signing as the Commander of FALINTIL and on behalf of CNRM, Xanana Gusmao recorded his message and send it abroad.

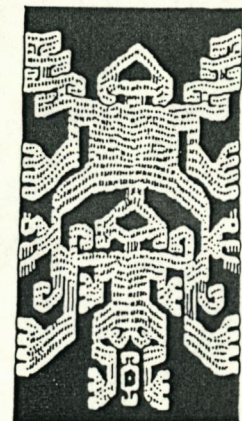
A full translation will be made available soon. ■



Timor house made with sandalwood by FALINTIL guerrillas



Matebian News/East Timor
Information & Documentation
Centre/CNRM
Supported by ETRA
Co-Ordinator: Ines Almeida
Working team: Agio Pereira,
Lola Reis, Gerald Magno, Ceu
Brites, Bernardo Reis, Neca
Brites & Mize Lemos-Magno



What's on...

CONCERT All In The Family

Nicola Quilter, singer/actress who produced the song 'Cry Freedom' has organised a two-day concert to raise funds for the orphans of East Timor.

AGIO PEREIRA, TIMOR OAN, MIDNIGHT OIL, MENTAL AS ANYTHING, ARCHIE ROACH and many more will take part in this big event.

When: 23-24 Sept '94
Time: 7.30pm-3am
Venue: Harbourside
Brassiere, Pier One Hicksons Rd,
Walsh Bay
Entry fee: \$25 per person

For further information contact: (02) 252 3000 or ETRA (02) 891 5861

Strengthening Legal Aid and Human Rights in Indonesia



Leading Indonesian Lawyer
Dr Buyung Nasution
Tours Australia
9-20 September 1994

Speaking dates

Canberra

Monday 12 September, 5.30-7.30 pm
Old Canberra House
1 Liversidge St, Acton.
(Entry \$30 donation)
Contact: John Graham (06) 251 4615

Brisbane

Wednesday 14 September, 5.30-7.30 pm
Queensland Law Society, 179 Ann St
(Entry \$30 donation)
Contact: Tony O'Connor (07) 875 7440

Sydney

Thursday 15 September, 7.30 pm
Pitt St Theatre, 264 Pitt St
(Entry by donation)
Contact: Brett Evans (02) 261 4766

Hobart

Saturday 17 September, 7.30 pm
Friends Meeting House
395 Argyle St, North Hobart
and also
Sunday, 18 September, 12 noon (picnic)
Waterworks Reserve, South Hobart
Contact: Sieneke Martin (002) 34 3240

Melbourne

Monday 19 September, 1.00 pm
Medley Theatre, Redmond Barry Bldg,
Melbourne University
and also
Monday 19 September, 5.45 pm
Law Institute, 470 Bourke St
(Entry by donation)
Contact: Pat Walsh (03) 417 7505