



## INDONESIA IN 1995, THE YEAR OF WISDOM AND PEACE. MAYBE.

\* By Jose Ramos-Horta

**1995** will be a year of many celebrations. The 50th anniversary of the Indonesian Republic, the 20th of the invasion of East Timor. The UN itself will celebrate its own 50th anniversary. The political map of the world has changed many times over in this half-century. It was quite a different one between the period of the League of Nations and the era of United Nations. Between the two world wars, the first destroyed the League of Nations, the second prompted the creation of the United Nations, colonial possessions changed ownership several times over. African peoples that were traded around by the European powers at the Berlin Conference saw their fate traded again at the end of World War I.

By the end of World War II, the map of Africa showed only one independent African country, Ethiopia. By the late 70's, the whole of the African continent had become independent. At least most had a flag, a national anthem and some half-illiterate army officers pretending to be managing their new "independent" country.

However, the changes of the last 10 years have been even more mind-boggling. At the end of World War II, most sound-minded observers could forecast the demise of the European imperial domains in Africa and Asia. But no one predicted, at least with much certainty, the changes that occurred in Eastern Europe and in the vast Soviet empire in the last 10 years. If it is true that the Napoleonic imperial dreams melted in the winter snows of Russia as was Hitler's ambition to conquer Russia, it would be equally true, at least in part, to say that the Soviet Empire built by Lenine and Stalin saw its demise in Afghanistan. Leonid Brejnev's decision to invade Afghanistan in 1979 was a fatal political and military error of the same magnitude as Napoleon's mistake (repeated by Hitler) to invade Russia.

In a much smaller scale (and I plea for forgiveness for the unintended comparison), there might be some lessons to be drawn by Jakarta from these historical events in order to prevent the break-up of the Indonesian Republic. As the country

celebrates its 50th anniversary and we, the East Timorese mark our 20th anniversary of a war of resistance, unsurpassed in determination and bravery, the Indonesian leaders and people might ask some difficult questions: what has Indonesia gained from its invasion and annexation of East Timor? If a country's foreign policy is dictated by its national interests which include national security, what are Indonesia's "national interests" today that justify the continuation of the 1975 policies?

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The invasion of East Timor in 1975 was prompted by two national security considerations: fear of a communist take-over in East Timor and the potential for subversion and disintegration of the Republic. The post-World War II strategic doctrine of "containing communism" which dominated Western strategic thinking for 40 years was also what drove the Indonesian leaders at least for most of the first 40 years of the Republic. The American defeat in Indochina in 1975 and Marxist victories in Africa in the same period confirmed LBJ's "domino theory" that if you allow one capitalist domino to fall then all the others would follow. Our unhappy country fit into the Cold War strategic doctrine and East Timorese, innocent by-standers in the geopolitical equation, fell victim to the East-West rivalry and of Indonesia's own definition of its national and security interests.

***"Indonesia is slowly maturing beyond the understandable security culture"***

Indonesia is slowly maturing beyond the understandable national security culture of the first four decades. One can understand and even sympathise with a country with such a traumatic birth, having had to fight the centrifugal forces from within and without in order to preserve its national unity.

However, 1995 welcomes Indonesia without the Cold War doctrine that justified every barbarism of the regimes of left and right. Indonesia's centrifugal forces do not present any serious threat to its hard-won national unity. Profound resentment, le-

gitimate grievances, demands for more say in local affairs remain strong in regions of traditional opposition to Javanese dominance. However, there seems to be no serious call for secession.

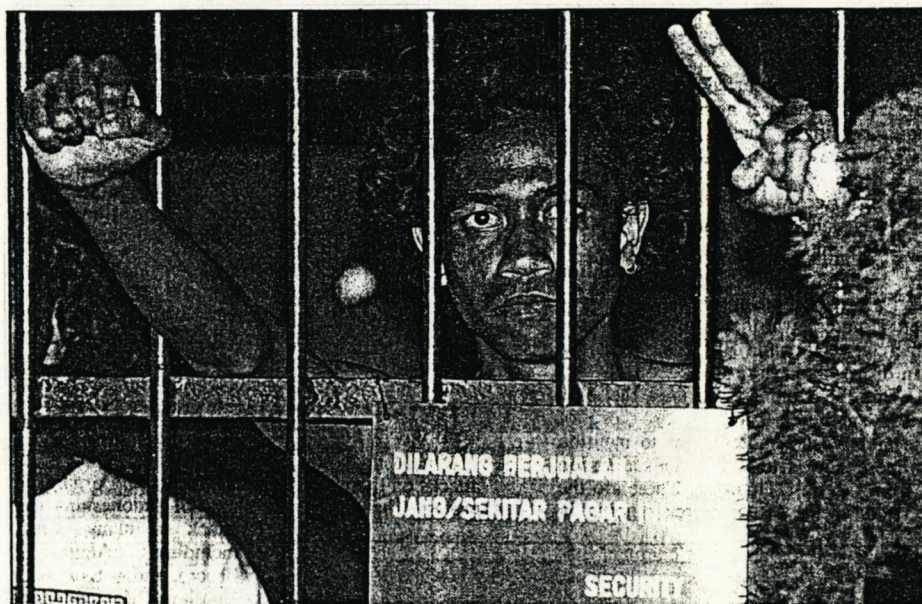
***"This is a very dark side of the 50th anniversary of the Republic"***

As Indonesia takes stock of its 50 years of nation-building and economic development, it can be proud of its achievements. It will not be proud of what happened in 1965-66, the massacre of hundreds of thousands of its own people, the imprisonment of tens of thousands of peasants, workers, students and intellectuals. It cannot remain indifferent to the fate of many men, most in their 70's and 80's, still serving inhuman jail sentences. This is the very dark side of the 50th anniversary of the Republic. It will never be able to bring back the lives of those killed and the youth wasted in prison these past 30 years. But it can close a chapter by freeing all remaining prisoners and allow them to live the last

days of their lives at least watching their country returning to a more humane path.

East Timor remains Indonesia's only external problem, created two decades ago at a time of a different security situation in the region and in the world. If Indonesia had any illusions that the East Timorese somehow would accept a neo-colonial status and a second class citizenship, the events of the last few months should suffice to show that they are a people of pride, dignity and determination.

In 1995, Indonesia can show wisdom and courage by freeing all East Timorese prisoners and Xanana Gusmão, the resistance leader, and begin a process of dialogue with him and Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo about a step-by-step process of disengagement from East Timor. What the East Timorese side is prepared to do is to bend backwards and give ample room and time for Indonesia to leave East Timor with honour and dignity. An incremental peace process must be based on a complete withdrawal of Indonesian troops from the territory, the



At the fence of the US Embassy in Jakarta



removal of all light and heavy weapons, the training by the UN of a highly educated and disciplined indigenous police corps, followed by free elections for a Territory Assembly and governor who would oversee the country's transition to independence within five to 10 years.

I believe there is no other way out. I know my people too well. They will never accept cosmetic arrangements called "limited autonomy". All those in a position of power must realise that only genuine commitment to self-determination can form the basis for an incremental process leading to independence within five to 10 years. Any attempt to short-circuit the resistance is recipe for disaster.

If Jakarta fails to learn from its own and other country's mistakes, and opt for policy of repression back home and continuing occupation of East Timor, then the worst fears of the founding fathers of the Indonesian republic will be realised. The country would break up from within. ■

*\*Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta is the Special Representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance. He is the author of two books on East Timor and the United Nations. He also lectures in Sydney and overseas on international human rights law, the UN system and international politics.*

### ***Xanana Gusmão writes to President Clinton***

Honourable President,

East Timor continues to be a territory under the responsibility of the International Community. The good offices of the UN Secretary General have been engaged with a view to reaching a solution to the problem.

The case of East Timor faces a dialogue process and it is our desire to bring to an end the 19 years of suffering of the Maubere People. However, Jakarta, as ever, is wishing to impose its own law, its own definition of values, upon the world, just as Iraq did and has attempted again in relation to Kuwait. A clear parallel exists in the basic facts between the invasion and military occupation of East Timor by Indonesian forces and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. However, one colossal difference exists: one section of the International Community supported Indonesia's policy while Baghdad was taught a lesson for violating International Law.

Jakarta has been difficult in its handling of the East Timor question. The economic, military and, therefore, political importance of Indonesia in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region has allowed it to become today a member of the UN Security Council, in spite of its failure to honour the resolutions passed in relation to East Timor by this organ of the UN. It is this same importance which has allowed Indonesia to assume the role of host of the forthcoming APEC Summit and which now stands in the way of a successful solution to the East Timor problem being found. Jakarta has shown itself to be intransigent in its attitude to the problem away from the need for a plebiscite for the future of the territory.

CNRM, which I represent, has proposed a solution in the form of a three-phase Peace Plan which will permit a climate of political stability, both within the territory and in relation to Indonesia, ahead of a referendum to be conducted under international supervision.

Allow me to remind you, Mr President, of another striking parallel between the Gaza and West Bank Autonomy Plan and CNRM's own plan which aims at achieving a just and an internationally acceptable solution to the East timor problem. If, with the influence and laudable efforts of your government Israel and Palestine have come to an understanding that it is time to lay down their weapons and to make peace, bringing to an end a case defined as intractable and characterised by a wide

*cont on pg. 5*



### APEC highlights the issue of East Timor

The events surrounding November 12 1994, the third anniversary of the infamous massacre of Sta Cruz, shook Jakarta and many governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

The occupation of the US embassy, including the demand to free the national leader of East Timor, Xanana Gusmão, so that he can represent his people in the negotiations towards finding a long lasting solution, was a masterpiece of action which Jakarta never expected to face.

The worldwide coverage certainly justified the sacrifices of those courageous students and put East Timor well in the centre of the Asia-Pacific political problems.

In East Timor, the events took on a wider dimension which must be carefully analysed. On one hand, there was the view that everything started with the killing of a Timorese by a Makassar merchant. The media chose to report the event as a sign of ethnic tension. On the other hand, there were consecutive days of protest in many suburbs of Dili including the university campus of Kaikoli, in Dili.

In retrospect, it was clear that all these events were carefully planned by the Resistance to

capitalise on the unique opportunity of the presence in Jakarta and Dili of the international media. This, in fact, was the main factor for such a massive and well organised campaign.

The fact that a Timorese was stabbed to death by an Indonesian migrant was a coincidence and such a coincidence was a product of increasing tension between the Timorese and the migrants from Indonesia. One can only expect that next time a similar circumstance is created, more actions against these migrants will highly likely to be repeated.

What Jakarta must do is stop these migrants now, until the question of East Timor is solved. Using these poor merchants as a bait for political propaganda is a cheap military manoeuvre and must not be allowed to go on.

The Timorese can be forgiven for hating against any Indonesian who invades their country. Be it soldiers, public servants or simply merchants who go to East Timor for quick money. Over the last few years, the Timorese have watched helplessly the arrival of kalimuto and tatamailau - the two ships bringing into East Timor tourists with only a one-way ticket. Many of these

"tourists" bought their KTP (the famous ID card) even before they arrive in East Timor.

The lands of the Timorese and the jobs which supposedly were created for them have been taken by these migrants. The Timorese can only hope to drive taxis, buses or other jobs which they create themselves, but these opportunities are very rare.

Another lesson for Jakarta is that the massacre of Santa Cruz, which Try Sutrisno thought would terrorise the Timorese for good, produced a reverse effect. Instead it hardened the courage and determination of the Timorese students. The events in Jakarta and Dili of November 12, 1994 testify to this. There is only one way out of this dilemma. Jakarta must come to terms with reality, release Xanana Gusmão and all the political prisoners, and start serious negotiations with the Timorese.

The Timorese have stressed time and time again that they are ready for dialogue. They have put forward a Peace Plan which envisages a transitional period for a honourable withdrawal of all the Indonesian military and civil servants from East Timor within a pre-established period.

*cont. on pg 5*



A carta aqui publicada e a mesma que o Cmdt das Falintil, Xanana Gusmao, enviou ao Presidente dos EUA.

Senhor Presidente dos Estados  
Unidos da America

Excelencia

Tenho a honra de apresentar a Vossa Excelencia os meus melhores cumprimentos.

Numa era em que a Comunidade Internacional reforça a sua fe e desenvolve esforços por um mundo mais justo e equilibrado, onde a paz e a justiça sejam o suporte das liberdades individuais de sociedades e de povos,;

Numa era em que a Humanidade espera dos líderes mundiais uma decisiva visão, projectada para o futuro de progresso, sob os parametros da conservação do nosso planeta e de cooperação e amizade entre os povos do mundo inteiro,

Reconhecemos plenamente a importancia da liderança moral que os EUA detem e devem cotinuar a deter na garantia da paz mundial e na defesa dos padrões universais da liberdade e da justiça. Sob o Governo da Vossa Excelencia, Senhor Presidente, os EUA continuam tão só a honrar as tradições democraticas de uma grande Nação, cujos sucessos na politica internacional falam por si. O processo de paz no Medio Oriente que terminou com antagonismos irreconciliaveis, permitindo assim a Arabes e Israelitas construir um clima de confinaça e a promessa de paz e de cooperação, atesta o gigantesco e inexceldivel esforço do governo de Vossa Excelencia em responder as obrigações historicas que se colocam aos EUA, no sentido de assegurar a Humanidade que o fim da Guerra Fria está a ser verdadeiramente o começo da compreensão democratica e da paz no nosso planeta.

Contudo, nesta era de cada vez maiores avanços tecnologicos que tornam o mundo cada vez mais pequeno e menos misterioso, o homem, infelizmente, continua a ser uma peça sem valor em muitas partes do Globo, onde a paz é ameaçada por interesses que violam os principios universais e onde elites ideologicas, usurpam o poder politico e se obstinam a negar aos seus povos os direitos mais elementares.

Denunciamos a aberração da concepção filosofica de regimes autoritarios, nomeadamente os vigentes na Asia como o da Indonesia, da China, do Iran, do Iraque, do Myan-mar, que argumentam que os Direitos Humanos, a liberdade, a democracia tem um caracter muito relativo, acomodando-o a aparentes

bases culturais, que não são mais que expressões de mentalidade feudal de domicação e servidão, por um lado, e alienação ideologica, por outro,.

A universalidade dos problemas que afectam o nosso planeta, confere ao ser humano um sentido globalizado da sua existencia, dos seus anseios, dos seus sofrimentos, da sua vontade e das suas lutas pela sobrevivencia. A universalidade do pensamento que faz do homem actor inteligente na busca de soluções para a Humanidade, vinca o pressuposto espiritual, emocional e psicologico, que caracteriza o ser humano, no materialismo economico-social. Para aqueles regimes, a separação destes dois factores e explicada com base em mentalidades impreparadas, definidas como cultura especifica/particularidade dos seus paises. Os direitos civis e politicos não podem ser removiveis da natureza humana, na sua continua luta para perceber o sentido exacto da sua existencia, a sua relacao para com os demais e o seu papel na sociedade.

Qualquer surto de progresso economico e social, desenvolvido por paises como a Indonesia, constitue apenas produto da expressão do proprio povo indonesio, pela prioridade que se concede ao factor fisico, material, do desenvolvimento, tão aplaudido pelos governos ocidentais mas que vem exigindo um elevadissimo preço ao povo. Não pode haver, como não há, justiça no plano social e economico sem o respeito pelos direitos civis e politicos dos cidadãos e a Indonesia é bem um exemplo vivo e actualissimo destas arbitrariedades conceptuais, proprias de regimes fundados na força da repressão.

E é pena que países ocidentais ou, mais propriamente, os países do Norte, ainda consintam que regimes do Sul, advogando diferenças culturais, neguem, em proveito do desenvolvimento economico à custa de prisões e assassinatos de operarios, da usurpação de terrenos aos camponeses, da repressão da juventude e da oposição, da abolição da liberdade da imprensa, o valor universal dos Direitos Humanos.

Excelencia, Senhor Presidente

Estamos profundamente reconhecidos pelas iniciativas do governo da Vossa Excelencia, que lembraram à Indonesia de que o caso dos sistematicas violações dos DH em Timor-Leste não pode merecer o beneplacito dos EUA, que tão sobejamente provaram ao mundo a disposição americana de não tolerar flagrantes violações do Direito Internacional, ao evitar uma segunda invasão do Kuwait pelo Iraque. Desde



o ano passado, dezoito anos depois de Timor-Leste ser invadido e ocupado militarmente pelas forças militares Indonesias, os EUA puderam finalmente, sob o Governo da Vossa Excelencia, tomar as mais justas posições, desde a não permissão de transferência dos aviões F-5 da Jordania para a Indonesia à proibição de venda de armas pequenas não-letais, desde o fim ao treino militar no IMET, de oficiais indonesios, sob o encargo dos EU ao facto de os EUA terem apoiado na CDH em Genebra uma resolução a favor de Timor-Leste.

Temos ainda, em muito apreço os pronunciamentos do Secretario do Estado, Senhor Worren Christopher e do Secretario Assistente para a Asia Ocidental, o Senhor Wiston Lord, que levantou o problema de Timor-Leste com o ministro Ali Alatas e outras entidades indonesias.

Reconhecemos, no fundo dos nossos corações, a preocupação e a atenção de Vossa Excelencia, Senhor Presidente, em abordar a questão de Timor-Leste com o Presidente Soeharto, na cimeira do Grupo dos 7, em Julho de 1993, em Japão, e na Cimeira de APEC, em Seattle, em Novembro do mesmo ano. Nós acreditamos, Excelencia Senhor Presidente, que a justiça será sempre o motor de acção e que a liberdade e a democracia serão também sempre a razão de ser da politica externa dos EUA, como foi amplamente demonstrada no apoio à restauração da democracia no Haiti.

Excelencia Senhor Presidente

Timor Leste continua um territorio sob a responsabilidade da Comunidade Internacional. O Secretario-Geral das Nações Unidas tem vindo a envidar os seus bons officios na busca de uma solução para o problema.

Na sequencia dos varios processos de paz que tem vindo a ter lugar, como o resultado mais logico do dialogo, o caso de Timor-Leste está perante um processo de dialogo e nós desejavamos perspectivar o termino de desanove anos de sofrimento do Povo Maubere. Mas Jakarta, como sempre, deseja impor ao mundo a sua propria lei, a sua propria definição de valores, como Iraque fez e tentou fazer de novo em relação ao Kuwait. Existe um paralelismo evidente nos argumentos de fundo entre a invasão e ocupação militar de T-L por forças indonesias e a invasão do Kuwait por Iraque. So existiu uma diferença colossal: parte do mundo apoiou a politica indonesia enquanto o Bagdad recebia a lição justa por violar o Direito Internacional.

Jakarta tem sido dificil no tratamento da questão de Timor Leste. A importancia económica e militar e, consequentemente politica de Indonesia no Sudeste Asiatico e no Pacifico, que lhe permitiu ser hoje membro do Conselho de Segurança da ONU, apesar de desrespeitar as resoluções daquele Orgão das Nações Unidas com respeito a Timor-Leste, importancia que concede também a Indonesia o papel de anfitrião da proxima Cimeira da APEC, torna diminutas as possibilidades de exito na solução do caso de Timor-Leste. Jakarta mostrou-se sempre intransigente na sua atitude quanto a substancia do problema e todo o esforço do Ministro Ali Alatas é de minimizar a necessidade de um plebiscito para a população do Territorio.

O CNRM, que eu represento, avançou ja uma proposta de solução, num processo faseado que permitirá um clima de estabilidade politica, tanto dentro do territorio como com relação a Indonesia, para se andar devidamente para um acto genuino de referendo, sob a supervisão internacional.

Permito-me, Excelencia Senhor Presidente, lembrar que existe um outro paralelismo impressionante entre o plano de autonomia de Gaza e do West Bank com o projecto do CNRM que aponta para uma solução justa e aceitavel pela Comunidade Internacional. Se, sob a influencia e louvaveis esforços do Governo da Vossa Excelencia, Senhor Presidente, Israel e Palestina puderam perceber enfim que era tempo de arrumar as armas e edificar a Paz, encerrando assim um caso definido como intratavel e condimentado na busca da solução para o caso timorense, levando o regime de Jakarta a dialogar com a Resistencia Timorense.

Venho apelar a Vossa Excelencia, Senhor Presidente, no sentido de abordar com o Presidente Soeharto, na ocasião da Cimeira da APEC a necessidade de Jakarta mostrar maior boa-vontade politica no tratamento da questão, respeitando-se a essencia do problema, o estatuto juridico-politico do Territorio, para o qual a ONU ainda reconhece Portugal como a potencia administrante.

Com a mais alta consideração

Pel' O CNRM

KAY RALA XANANA GUSMAO  
Cmdt. das Falintil  
Prisão de Cipinang, 1 Nov. 1994

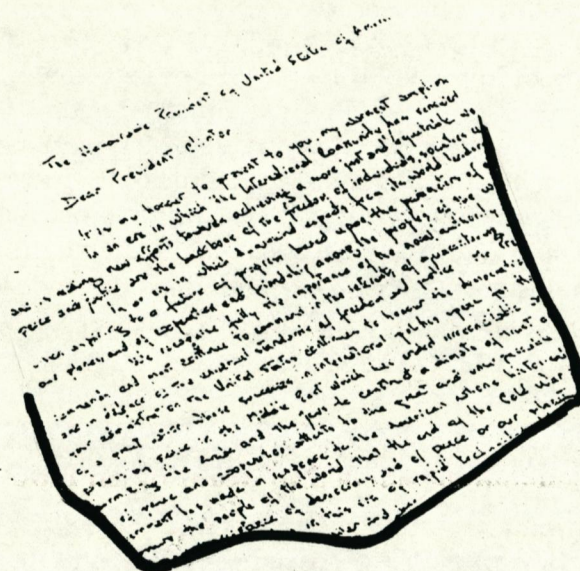


Indonesia, too, has much to gain from an honourable withdrawal from East Timor. It will enhance Indonesia's image internationally which no public relation company is capable of producing whilst East Timor is illegally occupied. It will reduce the focus on secessionist politics and stress the internal development of Indonesia as a nation, something which requires enormous political work to achieve. The problem of Presidential succession could be less problematic once Indonesia can clear its image internationally. The continuous illegal occupation of East Timor does add a strong component to the instability of an Indonesia which does not know its direction for the future. A nation that systematically commits human rights abuses and ignores all the chances the international community offers to overcome the problem, cannot claim to be a mature and developed nation. If anything, it is a nation poisoned with xenophobia and the future is certainly bleak!

1995 can be a golden opportunity for Jakarta to meet these positive expectations. Allowing a referendum in East Timor, for instance, can be one of the most honourable way out of this two decade tragedy. How to go about it, will be up to the Timorese and the Indonesian government to decide under the supervision of the United Nations. What Indonesia must do now is to meet the demands of the Timorese students: to release Xanana Gusmão.

(from pg 3)

(Xanana Gusmao writes...)



range of complexities, we believe the USA is capable of contributing decisively to the search for a solution to the East Timor problem, encouraging the Jakarta regime to engage in dialogue with the Resistance.

I come to you now to appeal for your support in raising with President Suharto on the occasion of the APEC Summit the need for Ja-

karta to display greater political goodwill in addressing the problem, acknowledging the essence of the problem and the legal and political status of the territory of which the United Nations continues to recognise Portugal as the Administering Power.

With the highest consideration,

Signed by Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão,  
Commander of FALINTIL, on behalf of the CNRM

Cipinang Prison, Jakarta, 1 November 1994

*The letter was published in the Melbourne Age in mid November 1994.*

Matebian News is a publication  
of East Timor Information &  
Documentation Centre/CNRM  
supported by ETRA  
Co-ordinator: Ines Almeida  
Working team: Neca Brites, Agio Pereira,  
Geraldo Magno, Bernardo Reis, Lola Reis,  
Mize Lemos & Ceu Brites



## Report on the 9th annual East Timor speaking tour in Japan

*By Ceu Brites & Ines Almeida*

This year's Japan speaking tour turned out to be a big success. This is due not only to the organisational capacity of the Free East Timor Japan Coalition, but also to the fact that all the five Timorese campaigning in Japan in this 9th year tour, spoke the same language: humanitarian aid, regionalisation, end to the abuses of the human, release of Xanana Gusmão and CNRM Peace Plan.

This year, the tour was undertaken by five Timorese, the biggest delegation ever. The invitation for Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida came after both attended the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) in May/June this year.

The other three members of the contingent were Aviano Faria, Joao Amorin Dias and Roque Rodrigues. Joao and Aviano were the two witnesses of the second massacre interviewed in John Pilger's film "Death of a Nation".

Both managed to escape before the film was launched and now are based in Lisbon and working for CNRM. Roque Rodrigues is accredited East Timor Ambassador to Angola. In his campaign in Japan, he highlighted the importance of the CNRM Peace Plan as an instrument of diplomacy for the Maubere People. It was this well co-ordinated approach which gave this year's tour its edge of success.

The Japan East Timor speaking tour has become an annual event. It started nine years ago with the aim to make the Timorese reach the Japanese public and enhance the support for East Timor.

The tour is organised by the Free East Timor Japan Coalition, with the involvement of local Amnesty International and Catholic and Citizens groups. A total of 10 local East Timor support groups and Catholic Commission for Social Justice make up the broad

support which every year lend their support to the tour in order to maximise the impact. The aim of these annual tours can be summarised as 1) to raise awareness amongst students, lecturer and school teachers, 2) to reach the citizens movement and talk about the plight of the people of East Timor; 3) to mobilize support in order to keep the issue of East Timor alive in the International arena; 4) to establish contacts between new supporters and the local East Timor support groups.

The strategy adopted in this year's campaign included co-ordination in terms of the topics to be emphasised and the relevant documentation to support the talks and enhance the capacity to follow-up after the talks are over. In that sense, the team was effective. All the five Timorese echoed the priorities of East Timor as established by the CNRM in East Timor and abroad.

The preparatory stage was a difficult one since it involved preparing the necessary literature, compiling, photocopying and binding. There was also a need to prepare specific campaign material such as postcards, news compilation about Xanana Gusmão, information kit prepared by ETRA, APCET clippings were also taken to Japan as support material for the public talks. Matebian News was widely distributed and some Japanese supporters subscribed.

Using the relevant material either provided by us or obtained via other sources, the Free East Timor Japan Coalition prepared high quality information leaflets



*Ceu Brites campaigning in Hiroshima*





*Protesting outside Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo*

translated into Japanese language. Amongst the literature made available, there were ETRA's leaflet in Japanese, profile of each Timorese, background on Xanana Gusmão including his letter to the Japanese Speaker of the House, Takako Doi, CNRM Peace Plan in Japanese and Amnesty International East Timor & Indonesia Campaign. These three-week campaign was supported with all these literature.

The invitation to speak in each place came from various individuals or groups, such as professors/lecturers who know about the issue of East Timor, university students who participate in the local groups and/or decided to take postgraduate studies on East Timor, Amnesty International, local Citizens group, school teachers and politicians.

The main topics for this year's campaign were 1) the release of Xanana Gusmão to attend the ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations, and 2) the CNRM Peace Plan.

Media coverage was very effective.

Some of the public talks were covered by TV, and newspapers. The fact that the three week campaign coincided with the events in Jakarta during the third year anniversary of November 12 massacre and the high profile meeting of the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Community), helped to give a boost to the campaign, specially because the Japanese media appeared to be the best equipped in Jakarta and East Timor to send daily reports to Japan about the occupation of the US embassy by the Timorese university students, and the massive protests in Dili.

As a first hand experience, one can summarise the interest in Japan in the following way: the fact that Japan occupied East Timor in WWII and is responsible for the death of more than 40,000 (forty thousand) Timorese, helps the Japanese to be aware of where and what is East Timor historical background, at least to the point where the Portuguese, Japanese and Australians directly affected the Timorese history. A second reason is the fact that Japan is the biggest capitalist power in this region where East Timor

is, and also because Japan controls the economy in Indonesia, the perpetrator of the East Timor current tragedy.

The questions often asked by the participants in these public meetings included the historical background, the Portuguese colonial rule, WWII Japanese invasion, the fall of the Portuguese fascist regime, the political parties, infiltration by Indonesian intelligence in the process of independence of East Timor and the so-called operation Komodo, the civil war, the December 7 invasion and the illegal occupation, the death toll, reconciliation of Abilio Araujo, human rights abuses (past and present), and how the resistance is organised today.

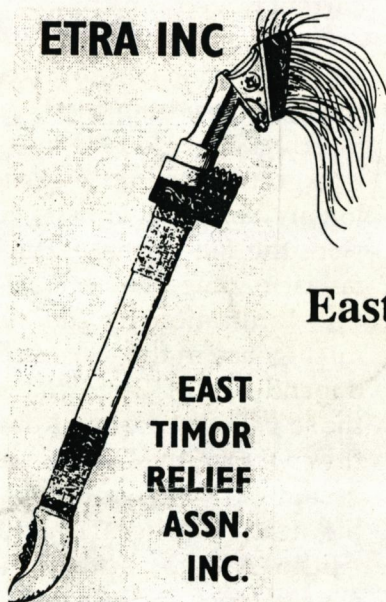
To conclude, one must say that this ninth year campaign showed how much the Free East Timor Japan Coalition and the other associated groups in Japan had advanced in the last few years. The issue of East Timor has become a well known issue in Japan. The existing problems including the need to break through the Japanese language newspapers because so far East Timor has deserved attention only from the English versions of some major newspapers. It seems that the news editors are of the opinion that East Timor is only a foreign issue. The upgrading of Japan coalition is also necessary in order to accommodate a much bigger campaign (eg. there are plans to take ten Timorese to Japan next year).

Last but not least, we must thank all the tireless volunteers, supporters in Japan, including the coordinators, Mr Matsubara and Aki Matsuno for their attention and commitment for East Timor.



**WHAT'S ON.....**

**ETRA INC**



**East Timor Relief Association Inc.**

*presents*

**Noam Chomsky**

public meeting

**"The Great Powers and Human Rights:  
The Case of East Timor"**

Renowned linguistic and critic of Western media and foreign policy, Noam Chomsky, will visit Australia in January on invitation of the East Timor Relief Association Inc. and the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM). Chomsky who has been described as "the world's greatest dissident" will speak out on the West's continuing support of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor, and on why Western leaders and institutions have turned a deaf ear to the desire for self-determination of the East Timorese.

**FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 1995**

**7.30PM**

**SYDNEY TOWN HALL**

**Tickets: \$10**

Enquiries & bookings:

ETRA - tel: 891 5861

Glebebooks - tel: 660 2333

Ariel bookstore at 42 Oxford Street, Paddington