

**East Timor and Indonesia Action Network**

PO Box 21873

Brooklyn, NY 11201

www.etan.org, etan@etan.org

**Open Letter on Possible Sale of Apache Helicopters to Indonesia**

March 30, 2012

As organizations concerned about human rights in Indonesia and West Papua, we are writing to urge the U.S. government and Congress not to allow the sale of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters to the Indonesian military (TNI). Providing these helicopters would pose a direct threat to Papuan civilians, who have been the target of deadly TNI assaults for many years.

The sale of this weapons system to the TNI -- notwithstanding its long record of disregard for civilian casualties, corruption, human rights violations and impunity in East Timor, Aceh and elsewhere -- would only increase the suffering of the Papuan population.

Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Defense Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin told the Antara news agency, that Indonesia intends to buy eight AH-64 Apache helicopter from the United States.

The heavily-armed AH-64 is a highly lethal weapon which can be used to escalate conflict within Indonesia and in West Papua. These aircraft will substantially augment the TNI's capacity to prosecute its "sweep operations" in West Papua and thereby, almost certainly lead to increased suffering among the civilian populations long victimized by such operations.

TNI "sweep operations," including several now underway in the Central Highlands region of West Papua, involve attacks on villages. Homes are destroyed, along with churches and public buildings. These assaults, purportedly to eliminate the poorly armed Papuan armed resistance, force innocent villagers from their homes. Papuan civilians either flee the attacks to neighboring villages or into the surrounding forests where many die or face starvation, cut off from access to their gardens, shelter, and medical care.

The [AH-64](#) is designed for air to ground attack. It can operate day or night and is armed with high caliber chain guns . It is also equipped to fire missiles.

Congress must be notified of major weapons sales. We urge Congress to oppose the sale of these helicopters.

*Signed,*

East Timor and Indonesia Action Network  
West Papua Advocacy Team

Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC)  
Asian Human Rights Commission  
Australia East Timor Friendship Association of South Australia  
Inc.  
Australia West Papua Association - Melbourne  
Australia West Papua Association (Sydney)  
Australians for a Free East Timor  
Baltimore Nonviolence Center

Nonviolence International  
Office of the Americas  
Ohio Valley PEACE  
Pace e Bene Australia  
Pantau Foundation Jakarta  
Partij voor de Liefde, The Netherlands  
Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand  
Pax Christi Australia  
Pax Christi Australia (NSW)  
Pax Christi Metro New York  
Pax Christi New Orleans

Baptist Church, Papua, Indonesia  
Byak Regional People's Parliament ( Biak, West Papua)  
Campaign for Peace and Democracy  
Center For Creative Activities, Philadelphia  
Columbus Campaign for Arms Control  
ETAN-Madison  
East Timor Action Network / Portland  
East Timor National Victims "74-99" Association  
East Timor Religious Outreach  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
Faith-based Network on West Papua (FBN)  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Foreign Policy In Focus  
Foundation Pro Papua, The Netherlands  
Franciscans International  
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace  
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space  
Green Delaware  
Health Alliance International  
Hunter East Timor Sisters, Australia  
Indonesia Human Rights Committee, Auckland New Zealand  
Hunter East Timor Sisters, Australia  
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, Ann Arbor, MI  
International Federation for East Timor  
International Labor Rights Forum  
International Lawyers for West Papua  
International Platform of Jurists for East Timor  
Japan East Timor Coalition  
Jews Against Genocide, USA  
Justice for Palestine Matters, Australia  
KontrS, Indonesia  
Koalisi Anti Utang, Indonesia  
Land Is Life  
La'o Hamutuk - Timor-Leste Institute for Development  
Monitoring and Analysis  
LEPOCO Peace Center  
Massachusetts Peace Action  
Metta Center for Nonviolence  
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre, Australia  
Moana Nui Action Alliance  
Mornington Branch of the Australian Greens Victoria  
Neighbors for Peace, Chicago  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action  
Pax Christi Victoria ( International Christian Peace Movement)  
Peace Action  
Peace Action of Washington State  
Peace House, Ashland, OR  
Peace Island Foundation, Boston, MA  
Peace Movement Aotearoa  
Philippine Workers Support Committee  
Puget Sound Nuclear Weapons Free Zone  
Quaker Peace & Service Aotearoa New Zealand  
Rogue Valley Peace Veterans  
Shomer Shalom Network for Jewish Nonviolence  
Socialist Party of the Netherlands  
Stg. Timor Lorosae Solidarity (TLS), The Netherlands  
Stichting Akar, The Netherlands  
Swedish East Timor Committee  
Swedish Free Papua Association  
TAPOL  
Urban Poor Consortium (UPC), Indonesia  
Vereniging Papuavrouwen in Nederland – the Netherlands  
Veterans for Peace NYC Chapter 34  
Voices for Creative Nonviolence  
Volunteers for International Solidarity  
War Resisters League  
War Resisters League, Chicago Chapter  
War Resisters League, Portland  
WarIsACrime.org  
Watch Indonesia, Germany  
WESPAC Foundation  
West Papua Action Network, USA  
West Papua Netzwerk, Germany  
West Papua Solidarity Wellington  
Western New York Peace Center  
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters  
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Madison