

# Support Justice for East Timor & Indonesia

**"A worldwide movement sprang up in the aftermath of the [1991 Santa Cruz] massacre to demand freedom for East Timor. In the United States, ETAN was formed... Grassroots efforts resulted in thousands of letters and phone calls to Congress. Military assistance to Indonesia was cut back over its abuses in East Timor against the wishes of successive Republican and Democratic administrations." — Amy Goodman**

**E**ast Timor, now officially Timor-Leste, became the world's newest country on May 20, 2002. In 1975, following the end of Portuguese colonial rule, East Timor was denied independence by the invading Indonesian military. The invasion and subsequent occupation killed as many as 180,000 people through starvation, epidemics, war and terror. East Timor's brutal annexation was made possible by U.S. backing, through weapons, military training and political support to Indonesia.

## What You Can Do

- ✓ *Contact President Obama and Congress. Urge them to support an international tribunal for East Timor. Tell them the U.S. must not provide military training or weapons to Indonesia. (Call the White House comment line: 202-456-1111; e-mail: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov). Call your Senators and Representative at 202-224-3121 or see [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org).)*
- ✓ *Inform others. Write letters-to-the-editor, organize a video showing or host a speaker at your school, community center, place of worship, or house. Contact ETAN for a video list and speaker contacts or see our website: [www.etan.org](http://www.etan.org).*
- ✓ *Send a contribution to support the work of ETAN.*

On August 30, 1999, the people of East Timor — defying an Indonesian military campaign of intimidation and violence — voted overwhelmingly for independence. Following the vote, Indonesian troops and their militia proxies exacted brutal revenge: destroying 75% of the country's infrastructure, killing at least 1500 people, raping hundreds of women and girls, and forcing hundreds of thousands across the border into Indonesian West Timor.

Today, independent East Timor faces many challenges. It has suffered sporadic violence in recent years. Australia is exploiting undersea petroleum resources, which rightfully belong to East Timor under international law. Although, the two countries have signed a resource-sharing agreement this does not fully serve the rights and interests of the Timorese people.

**S**enior Indonesian military officials responsible for East Timor's invasion and occupation have so far escaped justice for crimes committed in 1999 and before. Many have been promoted to key positions in conflict areas like West Papua, where they continue to perpetrate human rights violations, or have run for prominent political office. The few officials tried by an Indonesian court have been acquitted. East Timorese argue that only an international tribunal can deliver justice.

Because of the Indonesian military's poor human rights record, most U.S. military assistance was suspended by Congress. However, the Bush administration succeeded in overriding congressional limits on such "aid." Yet, the Indonesian military continues to repress civilians. The Obama administration is currently considering training Indonesia's notorious Kopasus special forces. The East Timor & Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) opposes military engagement with Indonesia and works to support justice for East Timor, including a process of U.S. accountability for its complicity in the occupation. ETAN works with civil society in both countries on a range of issues in support of democracy, human rights, the environment and economic justice.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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Please put me on your mailing list and keep me informed of your activities.

Enclosed is my contribution of  
 \$500  \$125  \$75  \$30  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to support the work of ETAN.

To donate by credit card online, go to  
[www.etan.org/etan/donate.htm](http://www.etan.org/etan/donate.htm)

See ETAN's website for information about our blog,  
*listservs and more.*

Please make checks payable to ETAN. Tax-deductible contributions over \$50 can be payable to "A.J. Muste Institute/ETAN."

Return to: East Timor & Indonesia Action Network, PO Box 21873, Brooklyn, NY 11202-1873 ; 718-596-7668; [etan@etan.org](mailto:etan@etan.org); [www.etan.org](http://www.etan.org)

06/11