



Internships at the East Timor *Action* Network

Do grassroots organizing for human rights!

The East Timor *Action* Network/U.S. (ETAN) is a grassroots human rights organization working in solidarity with the people of East Timor and Indonesia. ETAN advocates justice for past rights abuses; sovereignty and democratic reconstruction of East Timor. ETAN supports continued restriction of military assistance to Indonesia in order to support democracy and justice in both countries. To this end, we work to influence the policies of the United States government and international institutions as they relate to East Timor and Indonesia. The history of U.S. support for Indonesia's illegal invasion and occupation of East Timor underlies ETAN's efforts to achieve accountability for those responsible at home and abroad for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed from 1975 on.

Why East Timor and Indonesia? On December 7, 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor with U.S. backing. Over the next 24 years, Indonesian military forces killed one-third of the population and devastated the country, all with weapons and political support from Washington. ETAN formed in response to a 1991 massacre of over 270 East Timorese civilians, to campaign in the U.S. for human rights and self-determination in East Timor.

In May 1999, Suharto was forced from office in Indonesia, ending his 32-year dictatorship. In an August 1999 UN-supervised referendum, an overwhelming majority of East Timorese voted for independence. In retribution, the Indonesian military and the militias they directed killed hundreds, raped women and girls, destroyed 70% of the infrastructures, and forced three-quarters of the population from their homes. East Timor is working to rebuild, establish itself, and create essential political, social, and economic institutions. On May 20, 2002 East Timor became the first independent nation of the millennium.

What does ETAN do now? Many issues remain: Few of the Indonesian military or militia leaders guilty of planning and carrying out 1999's scorched earth violence have been prosecuted and most of those tried have been acquitted. ETAN also works with East Timorese grassroots organizations to ensure the developing U.S.-East Timor relationship respects East Timorese human, political, economic and environmental rights. During this transition period, ensuring East Timor's security, holding people and governments accountable for past crimes, and working towards a just future are critical. ETAN also

continues to oppose U.S. assistance to Indonesia's military, because it remains a major roadblock to justice, human rights and security.

What do we do in:

Washington? ETAN's Washington office closely monitors congressional, State Department and administration activity relating to East Timor. In addition to keeping up with developments, we supply information and make recommendations to policymakers, often in coordination with other organizations. We host East Timorese guests and participate in relevant conferences and events.

New York? Our media/outreach office is in Brooklyn. This office focuses on media, UN monitoring, New York area organizing, administrative matters, maintaining ETAN's website fundraising and other tasks. Both involve office work, writing, research, maintaining and building relations with other organizations, and other tasks required to keep an organization functioning and an issue alive.

Will I get paid? Not in cash, but in experience, skills, and the satisfaction of helping people who have been so wronged by the international community. If you need to relocate, we can help find cheap housing, and may be able to provide partial support for living expenses

How does one apply? Please send or e-mail a cover letter, resume and writing sample to the ETAN office you are interested in working with. Describe your primary field of study, your reasons for applying, and any relevant experience you may have.

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