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# timor moratorium

SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
RALLY 10<sup>AM</sup>  
ELDER PARK



- \* protest Indonesian govt. atrocities in East Timor
- \* all Indonesian troops out of East Timor now
- \* protest Australian govt. connivance in the slaughter
- \* stop all military aid to Indonesia
- \* recognise the Democratic Republic of East Timor
- \* restore the Fretilin radio transmitter in Darwin

**FUNDRAISING**  
PARTY- upper refectory union building  
Sat. 20th March 8 pm.  
Two rock groups- food & drink provided  
Tickets from SAUA \$2.50

# EAST TIMOR — WAR ON OUR DOORSTEP

Less than 400 miles from Darwin a full-scale war has been raging for more than three months, since the Indonesian generals launched an invasion of Dili on December 7th, 1975. Prior to this a limited war was being fought along the border with the Timorese keeping Indonesian forces in check. According to Lopez de Cruz, a UDT leader working for the Indonesian regime 60,000 people out of a total population of 650,000 have been killed by the Indonesian forces. (The Age, February 14th, 1976) — and this was a month ago. A letter from a non-FRETILIN source, smuggled out to Darwin from East Timor a week after the invasion said that about 80% of those remaining in Dili — mostly women and children were executed after the landing. Following the invasion many people from urban centres fled inland. It is estimated that about two thirds of the population are behind FRETILIN lines. Against huge odds (Indonesia has a population of 130,000,000 and receives large military aid from the U.S. and from Australia) the people of East Timor, led by FRETILIN, are doing exceedingly well. FRETILIN claims to be in control of 80% of the territory. With no doctors and then only supply of modern weapons from what the Portuguese left behind, the Timorese are making the best from traditional medicines, and laws and poisoned-tipped arrows. FRETILIN's motto "Independence or Death" is being taken seriously by the Timorese.

## What is Fretilin ?

FRETILIN (the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) is a broad political front and has the overwhelming support of the people of East Timor according to all Australians who have recently returned from East Timor. Many of its leaders are of Roman Catholic faith. It is not a communist party — it had its origins in a Social-Democratic Party before the Lisbon coup (the ASDT). The people who labelled "communist party" are the Indonesian generals and people like Anthony in Australia. FRETILIN has always had the welfare of its people at heart: during the last 18 months it has initiated an impressive programme of rural health and education schemes. It is committed reversing the legacy left to East Timor by the Portuguese colonial administration: a 50% infant mortality rate,

and a 90% illiteracy rate. Already it has built more schools than were built in 500 years of Portuguese colonialism.

The main motivating force behind FRETILIN is a fierce sense of national independence, a desire to be free. Then nationalism is not racist however — on many occasions they have stressed that their struggle is not directed against the Indonesian people, but the Indonesian regime who equally oppress their own people.

FRETILIN is not the entire government of East Timor: the Democratic Republic of East Timor government is an alliance between FRETILIN and the Timorese Army: there are three ministers in the government who are not FRETILIN members.

## Why did Indonesia invade ?

Indonesia is a country whose economy is dominated by foreign companies (mostly U.S.). Following a U.S. and Japanese-backed coup in 1965 in which Sukarno was overthrown, a bloodbath eventuated in which an estimated 500,000 people were executed for allegedly being "communists": foreign investments poured in at unprecedented levels and an incredibly fascist, corrupt, incompetent regime was born. In the past ten years there have been numerous uprisings around the Indonesian islands against the repressive regime with the result that the Indonesian generals see an independent East Timor under FRETILIN, so close to Indonesia, as an example to all those islands, including West New Guinea (annexed in 1969), who want their own independence. It is also relevant to state that oil has been found in East Timor. Pertamina, the nationalized Indonesian oil company, run by corrupt officials has been having grave financial problems lately.

## Australian involvement

In September 1974 Whitlam told Suharto in Townsville that an independent East Timor was unviable and was a threat to the security of the area. He gave Indonesia the go-ahead to carry out its "act of free choice".

Australia's Dept. of Foreign Affairs

— recently approved \$25 million MORE military aid to Indonesia.

— obstructed transport of Timor Relief Appeal goods to East Timor.

— Delayed FRETILIN leaders departure from East Timor to attend U.N. talks.

— refused to re-open the Australian Consulate in Dili.

— had foreknowledge of the Indonesian invasion (as was strongly suggested by the newmaking Wo'acott cables).

Probably the most blatant act by the Australian Government, showing whose side it is really on (contrary to statements made at the U.N.), was the seizing of the FRETILIN radio transmitter in Darwin by Commonwealth Police. According to a leak from the Foreign Affairs Dept., Fraser ordered the seizure personally. The radio was the only two-way contact that Timorese here had with FRETILIN, and it was also the only way that the U.N. delegate, Winspeare Guiccardi, could have got into East Timor for his fact-finding mission. Apart from government complicity in the Indonesian takeover, there has been a virtual news blackout on happenings in East Timor. The daily press has been uncritical in publishing reports emanating from Jakarta sources and have thus operated most effectively as channels for Indonesian propaganda.

## Indonesians kill our newsmen

Although the U.D.T. leader Lopez de Cruz publicly admitted, in fact boasted, that the "pro-Indonesian" forces killed the five Australian newsmen because they were "communist", the Australian Government buried its head in the sand and mutely accepted the Indonesian "correction" that they were killed unwittingly by a bomb attack on the town of Balibo, where they were staying. The Australian Journalists Association has called for a public inquiry into their deaths and condemned previous Foreign Affairs Dept. investigations as "inadequate, incomplete and incompetent". Another journalist, freelance Roger East, who was working closely with FRETILIN was murdered by the Indonesian after they invaded Dili.

## Support the East Timorese struggle for independence

As in 1946 when Australian Trade Unions boycotted Dutch ships which stopped off at Australia on their way to Indonesia with men and guns to wrest back control from the newly declared Republic, trade unions now have led the action against the Indonesian regime in their bid to deny independence to the East Timorese. The Seamen's Union has been the most active in supporting East Timorese independence.

The plight of the East Timorese has attracted Australians of all walks of life. Many church and aid groups, such as Action for World Development, and Community Aid Abroad have been applying pressure on the Government, without success. In all states Campaign for Independent East Timor groups have sprung up and rapidly increased membership.

## Repay our heavy debt

We owe it to the Timorese not only because of our governments complicity in the Indonesian genocidal war against them, but also out of debt. Few remember that 40,000 Timorese people were shot by the Japanese in World War II because they supported Australian troops. (Australian death toll was 40) if the Australian government will not speak or act on behalf of the Timorese people, the Australian people must. The Moratorium on March 20th is the occasion for this: please be there and voice your disapproval of the Australian — supported Indonesian aggression in East Timor.

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR CONTACT ON CAMPUS. BADGES, NEWSLETTERS, CAR STICKERS, INFO — BOB HANNEY, C/- STUDENTS ASSOCIATION.