

Tais Timor

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East Timor looks for justice

"Where is the justice in East Timor?"

The question can occasionally be heard in East Timor today, voiced most likely by the close relatives of Timorese who were murdered, or sexually assaulted by the militia or Indonesian military at the height of the 1999 violence. They just can't understand why former militia, who allegedly committed serious crimes, can continue to wander freely in their midst.

The law in action: a case study

What is the Judicial Process?

Let us look at an example:

A man steals a bicycle. The UN Civilian Police (CivPol) is called and begins an investigation. If there is sufficient evidence or witnesses to support a charge, the man is detained for interrogation. At the time of detention the police has to tell the man what are his rights. One of his rights is to have a lawyer or public defender, because even if someone is suspected of having committed a crime he or she is entitled to the protection of the law through a lawyer or public defender.

In the case of an offense such as this one which does not involve an object of very high value or an intentional deprivation of life, it is possible that after 72 hours

the suspect can be released and that he is given certain conditions to await the trial outside of prison. For example the person can be released on bail.

When the police complete the investigation, a file is compiled and the case is handed over to the prosecution. The prosecutor will then produce an indictment on the file, which means that he will formally "accuse" the suspect. After that the "suspect" becomes the "accused".

After the indictment the public defender is given a period of time to respond to the indictment. Eventually the accused is brought to trial. At the end of the trial the judge will give a verdict and the accused is either acquitted or convicted. For the person to be convicted, the evidence has to be such that the court has no doubt that the accused has perpetrated the crime.

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The wheels of justice do, indeed, grind slow, as the saying goes, but in this case, it's probably best that they should.

Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Transitional Administrator for East Timor, has said repeatedly, "Please remember, just a year ago, no court existed, just an empty, burned out shell of a building - like the rest of the country, destroyed and looted. Nothing remained - no judges to try cases and no investigating or forensic capability to build rock solid court cases. Virtually no jail cells, for that matter."

It provides little solace to the relatives of the victims, but Richard Goldstone, the highly-respected South African prosecutor, had it right when speaking about the perceived slow progress in UN war crime investigations in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The victims want justice and want it fast, he said, but for justice to be fair it cannot be fast. His strategy was to build a strong, unchallengeable case, rather than take a weak case into court to face challenges and then fail.

The UN mission in East Timor and its Serious Crimes Investigations Unit are following Goldstone's lead. They're attempting to build a strong, unchallengeable case. They've been pursuing it for months - assembling impressive forensic capability, and a team of veteran crime investigators. It's done in complement with the establishment of a professional judicial system with well-trained prosecutors and judges - including ones long-

experienced in cases of war crimes, genocide, sexual violence, murder and torture.

The process started from scratch, and, unfortunately, continues to work with lean financial and human resources for the full task, but tangible results are beginning to show. A solid body of investigative and forensic evidence is being compiled; and indictments have already started to be handed down against former low-level militia.

"Please remember, just a year ago, no court existed, just an empty, burned out shell of a building - like the rest of the country, destroyed and looted."

— Sergio Vieira de Mello

In any investigation of this kind, you start with the small fish and then make your way up to the big ones - in this case, the militia and Indonesian military officers who gave the commands.

Such a thorough and cautious approach is essential if justice is to be served, and the national reconciliation process to ultimately succeed. The alternatives - justice with no reconciliation; or reconciliation with no justice - are clearly unacceptable.

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Students flock back to university

"Teky ho toke labele subar malo deit iha ai kuak laran. Sai mai liur para hodi buka moris, tamba timor ukun an ona."

"Girls and boys, please come out of the woods, don't hide anymore. Find your life because East Timor is now a free country." - graffiti in the former Governor's Palace in Lahane

The graffiti is optimistic, upbeat. Probably written by a young man who just had to find an outlet to reach out to his contemporaries. Teky and toke are Tetun words for lizard, but among East Timor's young and young-at-heart, they are slang for young women and young men, respectively.

Between the lines, the graffiti tells the story of how difficult it was to be young in East Timor during the Indonesian occupation when many young Timorese were

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Photo by OCP/UNTAET

Fire and brimstone used to be the order of the day for East Timor university students; now campus life is more settled.

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The Serious Crime Investigation Unit (SCIU): What It Does, How It's Doing

What is a serious crime?

Serious crimes are offences involving serious breaches of human rights, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, murders, sexual offences and torture. For the SCIU, time guidelines have been imposed for offences between 1 January and 25 October 1999.

What are "crimes against humanity" and "war crimes"?

Crimes against humanity means those which are committed as part of a systematic or widespread attack and directed against any civilian population. This includes murder, extermination, enslavement deportation or forcible transfer of population, imprisonment, torture, rape and persecution against any identifiable group.

War crimes involve a number of offenses that are committed in the course of an armed conflict-civil war, international war, etc. This includes killing, torture and other forms of attack against non-combatants or civilians.

The Serious Crime Investigation Unit

In June 2000, the Serious Crime Investigation Unit (SCIU) was formed to investigate atrocities that occurred in East Timor between 1 January and 25 October 1999.

When established, the unit consisted of approximately 10 investigators who were divided into teams investigating five "priority" cases: the Carrascalão massacre in Dili, the Liquiça church massacre, the Lospalos clergy attack, the Maliana POLRI massacre and those cases related to sexual offenses. There are over 100 potential suspects in these cases.

The SCIU currently has 27 investigators conducting inquiries into major offenses. This figure doesn't include the staff that works within the prosecutor's office. The UN Civilian Police (CivPol) has a national crimes investigating unit and each individual police district headquarters has its own investigative capability. These services augment and support the SCIU.

The Crime Unit also coordinates closely with UNTAET's Human Rights Unit on the district and national level. District Human Rights officers gather information from local organizations and CNRT about the crimes which were committed during 1999 and assist Serious Crimes in tracking down eyewitnesses, bodies.

Currently there are no Timorese police officers or investigators assigned to SCIU. As suitably qualified officers are identified, these officers may be seconded to the team. SCIU has one Timorese prosecutor and three Timorese interpreters.

SCIU Investigators continue to focus on other cases, including the death of journalist Sander Thoenes, the Suai church massacre, the death of UNAMET personnel and the attack at Bishop Belo's house. A separate investigation is also being conducted into the Oecussi enclave massacres.

In addition, investigations are on-going in respect to the 49 suspects who remain in detention at Becora and Gleno prisons. Some 20 of these offenders have already been indicted and are awaiting trial.

To date, 25 suspects (23 for murder, one for rape and one for multiple charges of attempted murder, serious maltreatment and destruction of property) have now been indicted for serious offenses. This includes 11 persons who have been indicted for crimes against humanity in relation to Lospalos incidents.

Forensic capability

Since 26 May 2000, at least 190 exhumations have been conducted, with evidence gathered and documented. Since 7 February 2000, there have been 257 autopsies conducted, with an additional 100 awaiting autopsy or post-mortem examination. A large proportion of these is related to serious crimes.

With the exception of Liquiça, there have been few grave sites discovered at which large scale massacres occurred on the scale of those in other conflicts around the world.

A total of 15 indictments have been issued thus far - 13 for murder, one for rape and one involving multiple charges of attempted murder, serious maltreatment and destruction of property.

What is the trial process?

Suspects will be tried by a special panel consisting of two international judges and a Timorese judge. This panel, situated within Dili District Court, will have exclusive jurisdiction to deal with serious crimes.

On 10 January, the first preliminary hearings took place of persons suspected of committing serious crimes in East Timor. There were two separate preliminary hearings, one involving a former militia member and the other involving a man belonging to the pro-independence movement.

The former Dadurus Merah Putih (Red White Tornado) militia member admitted to killing the village chief of Ritabou village in Bobonaro district on 8 September 1999. The admission of guilt was accepted by the court, which was to have convened again on 16 January for sentencing.

In the second hearing, a 30-year old pro-independence activist pleaded guilty to the charges of murdering a militia member in Gleno village, Ermera district on 26 September 1999, but qualified that he was only forced to do it by the crowd. The judges did not accept the guilty plea, which was equivocal. The trial was set for 6 February.

Are all of last year's crimes going to be tried?

This will depend on the nature and severity of the offence involved. In relation to serious crime, where there is evidence to prove offences, those persons will be tried. For those offences of a less serious nature, in consultation with a "Truth, Reception and Reconciliation Commission" that is expected to be established, a decision will be made concerning the possibility of reconciliation.

Are the people at the top going to be indicted and tried?

One of the major priorities within the SCIU is to prove that the atrocities which occurred were part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians and involved an orchestrated campaign of violence which could only be coordinated and controlled by persons in positions of authority whether in the TNI, police or pro militia organizations. If evidence becomes available which clearly identifies those responsible, then these people will be indicted.

What about an International Criminal Tribunal?

At this stage, there is no intention of starting an International Criminal Tribunal within East Timor. The Indonesian government has expressed its commitment to the United Nations to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the gross human rights violations in East Timor during 1999. International Criminal Tribunals are insti-

gated by order of the Security Council and are beyond the authority of the SCIU.

What will happen to the suspects who are in Indonesia?

This aspect of the investigation is ongoing. The SCIU has for some time been co-operating with the Indonesian Attorney General's office to bring to justice those in Indonesia who were responsible for the 1999 crimes. The Indonesian Attorney General has named 22 suspects involved in serious crimes during the 1999 period.

On 6 April 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Indonesia and UNTAET was signed by the Attorney General of Indonesia and the SRSRG, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and pledged co-operation in legal, judicial and human rights related matters. As a result of this agreement, investigations have been initiated into the atrocities that took place in 1999.

During July 2000, a delegation of Indonesian investigators and prosecutors visited East Timor, and, with the assistance of the SCIU, interviewed a number of witnesses and victims who were involved in some of the major offences which occurred at various locations throughout the country. SCIU investigators have recently returned from similar inquiries in Jakarta.

Why hasn't CivPol arrested all the suspects who have returned to East Timor?

Where there is evidence to prove that persons are responsible for offences, then they should be arrested. However, there must be clear evidence available, and this is not always the case. East Timor now follows a legally established procedure for arresting suspects. In this work, CivPol, prosecutors and investigating judges each have a role.

Why were some alleged criminals set free?

Some suspects, especially those associated with house burning, have been released from custody by the courts. This has mainly been due to the fact that the standard of evidence available has not been sufficient to warrant further detention. In these cases the investigation continues and files remain open for further investigation. It should be noted that for minor crimes detention is the exception and not the rule. Suspects are normally released with conditions and must be available to face justice when asked to do so.

What should I do if I identify someone who I believe committed a serious crime?

If you have reasonable grounds to suspect that someone has committed a serious crime, then approach the authorities, whether it be the SCIU, a human rights officers or CivPol, and discuss the matter with them before taking any further action. If there is supporting evidence or other witnesses to the event, pass this information on to these investigators.

Will I be in danger if I share such information with the authorities?

The SCIU has professional investigators experienced in dealing with confidential witnesses and sources. The unit deals with all information in the strictest of confidence and any potential danger to a witness will be minimized.

A communication guideline has been finalized and will soon be distributed to all parties concerned, including NGOs, human rights organizations and CivPol, to ensure that information provided by potential witnesses reaches the SCIU by the most secure and fastest route. ■

Legal terms continued from pg. 1

After the trial at the District Court, either the public defender (representing the accused) or the prosecution can lodge an appeal with the Court of Appeal. When there is no appeal, the decision by the District Court is final. When there is an appeal only the decision by the Court of Appeal will be considered final.

Frequently Used Terminology

Suspect The person who is suspected of having committed an offense.

Complainant The person who reports an offense against him or her or against their property.

Perpetrator A person who commits a crime.

Bail Amount requested against the release of a suspect so that he or she awaits trial outside of prison.

Release on condition Apart from bail other non financial conditions may be established for the release of a subject before the proceedings are completed.

Prosecutor Someone from the prosecution service who represents the state and the interest of the persons against whom the offense has been perpetrated.

Offended Person against whom an offense has been committed.

The defense Person or persons from the public defender's service who represent the legal interest of the suspect and the accused person.

Evidence Elements of proof. Witnesses of the offense and all the facts that can show and prove that the offense was committed by the accused.

The verdict Decision of the court at the end of the trial.

Sentence The specific punishment that corresponds to the commission of the particular crime, according to the law.

District Court Judicial institution with competence to try criminal and civil cases.

Court of Appeals Higher court that reviews the sentences and other decisions from the District Court.

Crimes against humanity Crimes of the most serious nature. Crimes such as genocide, massacres and others, perpetrated within a framework of deliberate and massive suppression of the human rights of people. Crimes of such nature, scale and seriousness that they are not only the concern of the people against whom they are committed, but they become the concern of humankind as a whole. ■

Universities continued from pg. 1

persecuted and lived their lives as “clandestines”, like lizards in hiding.

For that matter, it was not easy being a teky or a toke and in college. This was true both for the home students at any of the territory’s six tertiary education institutions at the time and for those who studied overseas in Indonesian universities. University life simply meant a great degree of unrest and turbulence.

“During the Indonesian times, we could not study very well. We would have class for one week, then no class for two days,” says Gizela Moniz da Silva, 19, an English literature student at the newly opened National University of East Timor.

And after the referendum in August 1999, university life for most Timorese came to a full stop. The universities were destroyed and the Indonesian lecturers (80 per cent of the university’s teaching force) fled the country. The upheaval also disrupted the studies of some 2,000 overseas students who came back home partly to take part in the referendum and partly because of their insecure situation in Indonesia at the time.

Ms. da Silva, who graduated from high school in 1999 and who has started college after a year-and-a-half of waiting, is now looking forward to charting a new future for herself and her country. And so are many of her friends.

National University

The National University has certainly come back to life, initially with two campuses - the former Escola Tecnica building behind the UNTAET main compound, which was rebuilt by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and the former “UNTIM” (University Timor Timur) building in the Kaikoli area. At any time during the regular school day, hordes of young people can be seen outside the campuses huddled over the day’s newspaper, checking out the bulletin boards or just shooting the breeze in between classes.

“Classes have resumed from Christmas break on 3 January and something like 75 per cent have already come back,” says Dr. Armindo Maia, the acting University Rector. According to the students, this is a

far cry from the old days when “most students were usually absent”.

The university’s condition is, according to Dr. Maia, maybe only 75 per cent normal as well: “There’s still a lot of things to do, things that have to be fulfilled,” going on to mention the shortage of qualified teachers and professors, books and laboratory equipment.

“All my classes are going smoothly except for three subjects (Portuguese language, Ethics and Moral, Education) where we don’t have teachers yet,”

“All my classes are going smoothly except for three subjects (Portuguese language, Ethics and Moral, Education) where we don’t have teachers yet,” says Ms. da Silva.

Even at this early stage, the University has embarked on the mission of exorcising itself of its former task of Indonesianization. No less than the Rector himself, Dr. Maia, is handling the subject “History of East Timor”. And the East Timor Transitional Administration’s (ETTA’s) Division of Education is also planning to discontinue the Indonesian Language course and to set up instead an Institute of Languages that will develop Tetun, an English laboratory, and a Portuguese Language Centre.

Things will soon be like what it was before the 1999 rampage, though, infrastructure-wise. Two more buildings have been rehabilitated and are now ready for the university to use - the former Liceu building which will house the Faculty of Education and Teachers’ Training and the former Escola Canto Resende (Portuguese primary school building) for the Faculty of Economics. Next year, the Agriculture Station Hera building will be rehabilitated for the Faculty of Agriculture.

Bridging Courses

In addition to its regular academic activity, the University is set to offer bridging courses starting in February for those who failed last year’s entrance examination. Five general education subjects will be taught for six months to prepare the students for the next entrance examination. If they pass, the subjects will also be credited in their programme of study. The former University building in Kaikoli has been rehabilitated and 25 teachers have been recruited for this purpose. Around 2,000 students have registered out of the original 3,000 who did not pass the exam.

Indonesian Universities

A substantial number of East Timorese students are now back and have resumed their studies in Indonesian universities but the whole process had all the making of a “Mission Impossible” for a long time, according to Victoria Markwick-Smith of ETTA’s Education Division.

To begin with, the East Timorese students are returning to Indonesia under a different status this time, as foreigners. Strictly speaking, this means not only higher tuition fees, but also a visa that should be renewed every two months provided that the students reported to the proper authority and paid US\$35 as well as the necessary visa processing fees every time.

“There were meetings first of all between UNTAET and Indonesia. We had to bend a lot of rules and invent new ones,” Ms. Markwick-Smith says.

After the UNTAET/CNRT education mission successfully negotiated the terms of return of the students with Indonesia in late June, the team had to deal with the different Indonesian universities and colleges.

This meant working out the problems of the universities’ two-semester dropout rule, the students’ debt to the university, and the schools’ security concerns. This turned out to be a long drawn out process that also caused problems with the donors because the scholarships were conditional on the students’ securing a letter of acceptance from the universities.

“Every student had to be treated on a case-to-case basis,” Ms. Markwick-Smith says. “It was an administrative nightmare. There were so many loose ends, so many reins on my hands and one of them was always threatening to snap.”

At the moment, 540 East Timorese students have resumed their studies in Indonesia funded by the Japanese Government and Ford Foundation. About a thousand more are still waiting to go back and the Education Division is looking for more donors to assist the students.

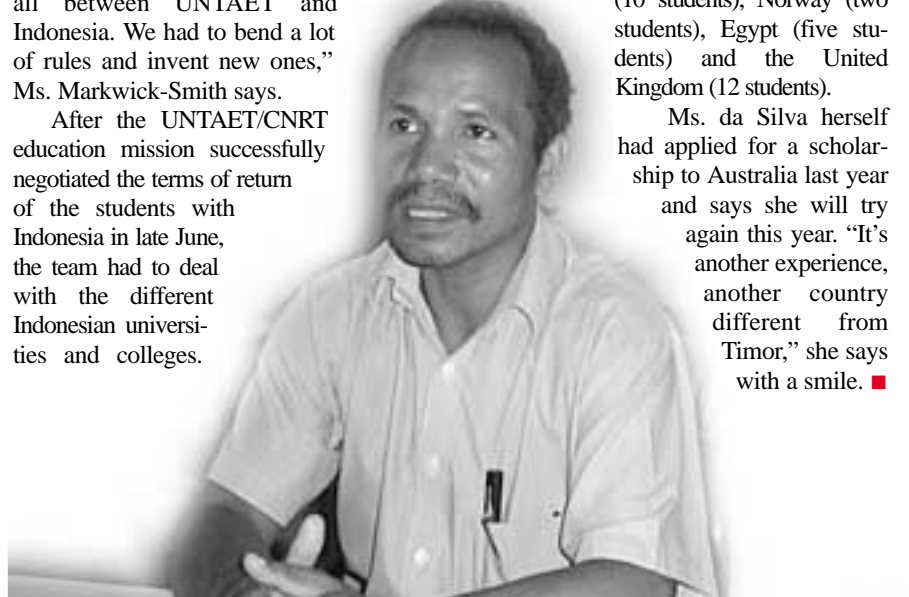
Scholarships

Many teky and toke are also trying their luck with scholarships abroad.

More than 2,000 students have applied for scholarships to Portuguese universities this year, out of which 500 will be selected.

Last year, Australia offered 20 undergraduate scholarships to East Timorese students and has allotted 53 new slots for this year. A number of young Timorese also left for other destinations like New Zealand (10 students), Norway (two students), Egypt (five students) and the United Kingdom (12 students).

Ms. da Silva herself had applied for a scholarship to Australia last year and says she will try again this year. “It’s another experience, another country different from Timor,” she says with a smile. ■



University Rector Armindo Maia.

On 5 and 6 January, a Vatican envoy led talks between bishops from West and East Timor on how to reconcile the rival East Timorese factions.

Bishop Petrus Turang of Kupang travelled to Dili to meet with Dili’s Bishop Carlos Ximenes Filepe Belo and Baucau’s Bishop Basilio do Nascimento. Bishop Anton Pain Ratu of Atambua, a West Timor border-town with a large number of refugees, joined talks in the hill town of Dare outside Dili. The talks focused on reconciliation between pro-independence and anti-independence East Timorese, with the aim of resolving the refugee problem. An estimated 100,000 refugees remain in West Timor camps.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the two-day conference, the four bishops said that many East Timorese refugees in Indonesian-ruled West Timor wanted to return to their homeland and called for a smooth return of the refugees. The statement also said the church was ready to promote reconciliation between pro-independence East Timorese and those who opposed the territory’s breakaway from Indonesia.



ETTAnews

East Timor Transitional Administration



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

Deputy Transitional Administrator Jean-Christian Cady (left) and CNRT President Xanana Gusmão, holding his newborn son, Alexander, cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Central Civil Registry Office last December in Dili.

Transitional Cabinet

In its first formal session of the year, the East Timor Transitional Cabinet endorsed a draft regulation that would establish a Central Civil Registry for the country. The draft regulation will now be forwarded to the National Council for its consideration.

The Central Civil Registry will register all residents of East Timor and provide them with an identity card. The draft legislation makes registration mandatory for all residents. The Civil Registry will also issue civil documents confirming births, deaths and marriages, and collect data to be used to compile electoral lists by the duly authorized bodies.

The Civil Registration process is one of the biggest projects of UNTAET taking place early this year and it is part of the final phase of establishing structures for an independent state. There will be Civil Registration in every sub-district and every village in order to ensure registration of the entire population.

The Cabinet also approved in principle two grant agreements that would provide technical assistance to train and build capacity in the economic and finance activities of the East Timor Transitional Administration.

National Planning and Development Agency (NPDA)

The National Planning and Development Agency (NPDA) has launched two new initiatives. The Agency will create a database with an inventory of development assistance by district and sector and will carry out a poverty assessment by conducting a survey in all 500 sucos (neighbourhoods) in the country. Once the inventory has been completed, the information will be taken back to the communities to obtain their response.

Communities will be asked about the quality and grasp of the development assistance so far, and how it could have been done better.

In carrying out the poverty assessment, the Agency will survey 500 sucos by March and 1,500 to 2,000 households by July, followed by a survey in 25 communities on the nature, causes and consequences of poverty. The programme will be implemented in partnership with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

NPDA Director Emília Pires briefed the East Timor Transitional Cabinet on the initiatives and explained that they were intended to build community ownership and community participation in local development.



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

Emília Pires, Director of the National Planning and Development Agency.

Central Payments Office

The Portuguese bank Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) has been issued an indefinite license by the Central Payments Office (CPO) to operate as a commercial bank in East Timor.

After getting special permission from Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello, BNU started operating in East

Timor in late November 1999, though it received its full banking license only in December 2000.

The initial purpose of the bank, which operated in East Timor from 1906 to 1975, was to resume payments for East Timorese pensioners. It also provides other banking services such as money exchange, international transfers, deposits and loans.

The CPO has also issued a preliminary approval to the Australian and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) - which is expected to open an office in Dili later this month - and a currency exchange bureau.

Department of Police and Emergency Services

Office of National Disaster Management

An Office of National Disaster Management will be in place by next month within the East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA). The Office, to be staffed by five Timorese and two internationals, will be responsible for the implementation of a disaster response structure for use during the upcoming wet season, among other things. Three of the Timorese have already been hired and are currently undergoing training.

The office is following a National Disaster Management Plan, which was drafted by a UNDP consultant who recently visited East Timor and staff from a Disaster Preparedness Working Group, comprised of UNTAET departments, the UN Peacekeeping Force, UN agencies and NGOs.

The Plan recommends the design of a co-ordination system to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, as well as giving practical advice, such as keeping drainage canals clear, reinforcing roofs and keeping food reserves. It also identifies areas especially vulnerable to heavy rains in East Timor; for example, steep slopes with

poor vegetation due to deforestation, and other areas where the soil is unstable.

Department of Justice

On 10 January, the first preliminary hearings of persons suspected of committing serious crimes in East Timor took place at the Dili District Court.

There were two separate preliminary hearings, one involving a former militia member and the other involving a man belonging to the pro-independence movement.

The former Dadurus Merah Putih (Red White Tornado) militia member admitted to killing the village chief of Ritabou village in Bobonaro district on 8 September 1999. The admission of guilt was accepted by the court, which convened again on 16 January for sentencing.

In the second hearing, a 30-year old pro-independence activist pleaded not guilty to the charges of murdering a militia member in Gleno, Ermera District on 26 September 1999. The trial was set for 6 February.

Meanwhile, the Portuguese Representative Office in Dili invited four East Timorese members of the judiciary to participate in two months of training at the Portuguese Center for Judiciary Studies (CEJ) in Lisbon. The Portuguese Mission is supporting the travel and the Portuguese Ministry of Justice will support all accommodation and living expenses, as well as tuition fees, books and materials. The jurists will be leaving at the end of January.

Department of Economic Affairs

Division of Agricultural Affairs

The Animal Vaccination Campaign is about to be completed. Over 100,000 buffalo and Bali cattle have been vaccinated against acute haemorrhagic septicemia, a fatal bacterial disease.

The campaign, which was launched last October, was scheduled to finish by the middle of January, with over 112,000 animals vaccinated.

In other related news, following a survey carried out by the Division, cases of hog cholera, an infectious disease found in



The aftermath of floods last year in Suai.

Photo by OCP/UNTAET

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pigs, have been discovered in East Timor. To prevent the disease from spreading, a campaign to vaccinate pigs has been launched. It is expected that up to half of the country's estimated 260,000 pigs will be vaccinated before mid-February.

in Dili and has met with the Division to discuss the possibility. Some of the obstacles for the hotel chain are the uncertainties over land-tenure and the 30 percent tax rate on businesses in Dili.

Women currently make up about 20 per cent of all civil servants in East Timor.

become part of the Electoral Management Body in charge of organizing and conducting next year's elections.

Department of Political Affairs

An electoral "Planning and Designing" team is preparing the initial plans and designing the appropriate tools necessary for preparing, conducting and managing credible UN-led elections in East Timor.

Within that framework, special emphasis will be made on considering sustainability and capacity-building in all aspects of electoral planning. The purpose of this focus is to position the East Timorese to hold elections with minimal external assistance.

The team is working within the Electoral Affairs Division and will operate up to 31 January, at which time it will

Department of Infrastructure

Division of Transportation
The Vehicle Registration Unit has ordered some 6,000 license plates from Australia, expected to arrive by the end of this month. Some 150 license plates have already arrived to be used on government vehicles.

The registration of public vehicles will start as soon as the Regulation on Vehicle Registration has been approved by the National Council, which was expected in January.

There are an estimated 25,000 cars, trucks and motorcycles in East Timor, 15,000 of them in Dili. ■



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

The Division of Transportation will soon begin registering vehicles in East Timor and issuing standard license plates.

Investment Institute

The Institute and a local newspaper, Timor Post, have agreed to produce a business directory. Interested companies will be listed for free provided that they are already registered with UNTAET's Business Registration Unit. About 400 business will be included in the directory. The directory will be printed in English and Tetun and will be on sale in early March. The proceeds will go to Timor Post to cover the printing cost.

Division of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

Around 40 Japanese and Australian ecotourists have visited East Timor since the beginning of December 2000. The tourists visit East Timor to scuba dive in the areas of Atauro Island, Manatuto and Liquica. Their numbers remain small, reportedly because a lack of accommodation and infrastructure, as well as the relatively high costs. Obrio, an India-based hotel group, has looked into the prospect of building a four-star hotel with 150 rooms

Department of Internal Administration

Civil Service and Public Employment Service (CISPE)

In order to recruit more Timorese women into the Civil Service, the Office, the National Planning and Development Agency's Gender Affairs Unit and the Civil Service Commission have requested that a rapid, nation-wide survey be carried out of unemployed Timorese women who hold a diploma in higher education.

Forms have been delivered to women through East Timorese women's organizations, the NGO Forum and the District Administrations, in order to gather more information about women's skills.

A list of possible candidates will be compiled by February, representing the first stage in creating a database of qualified women that could be recruited into the Civil Service.

QIP Shop QIP Shop QIP Shop QIP Shop



The QIP Shop, a locally owned store stocked with hand made traditional East Timorese products, is now OPEN!

Goods available include:

- Traditional East Timorese musical instruments
- Bamboo and wooden furniture
- Books and postcards of East Timor
- A variety of handcrafts such as miniature traditional Timorese houses
- A services centre, which will have contact details for locally available services including: carpentry, plumbing, electrical works, dressmaking, catering and many more.

Location: Jln Bidau Akadiru Hun (next to Restaurant Maubere) , travel along the esplanade road towards the Jesus statue, make a right turn just before crossing the canal and head towards the ICRC hospital. The QIP Shop can be found a few hundred metres on your right.

Supported by the the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

From right, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão, Bishop Carlos Belo and Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello greet Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (chequered shirt) upon his arrival at the Dili Airport.

During his visit, President Cardoso announced that Brazil's priorities in cooperating with East Timor were education, illiteracy eradication, training and capacity building. "Our goal is to give an effective contribution to education and capacity building, so that the East Timorese can take their destiny into their own hands as soon as possible," he said in a special session of the National Council.

President Cardoso also inaugurated the Centre for Professional Training and Business Development in Dili, a project funded by the Brazilian Government, and announced that Brazil would send a military hospital unit to East Timor. Other areas of cooperation would include exploitation of natural resources and distance education.

The Brazilian President also paid a visit to the Santa Cruz Cemetery to pay his tribute to the East Timorese who died in the struggle for independence. President Cardoso was accompanied on his trip by the Ministry of External Relations, the Army Commander, Federal Deputies and the Head of the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations.



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

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Tree Planting Day

A National Tree Planting Day was organized for the first time in Dili on 12 January. The initiative came from a local group of professional foresters, the East Timor Foresters Group (ETFOG), and was intended to raise awareness about the problems of deforestation, such as soil erosion, flooding and deteriorating soil fertility.

The group has been growing thousands of tree seedlings which will be planted in selected parts of the capital in the coming weeks.

The tree-planting ceremony, attended by Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello and CNRT President Xanana Gusmão (below, right), took place on two of the most eroded hillsides in Dili.

The initiative is expected to become an annual community event and was supported by the Dili District Administration, the Forestry Unit of the East Timor Transitional Administration and Caritas Australia.

of women and children in the media.

The TLJA was formed on 22 December 1999 as an independent, non-governmental organization for the purpose of promoting press freedom and freedom of expression in East Timor.

Journalists attending the congress declared their desire to build an independent and free press for their new nation out of the ashes of destruction left behind by the Indonesian occupation. More than 150 delegates attended the five-day meeting, representing 14 new media organizations formed in the UN-administered territory since a 1999 referendum voted overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia.

The congress was broadcast live on Radio Ramkaban, a new student-run Dili community radio station which timed its debut to coincide with the congress. There are four radio stations in the territory, two daily newspapers and eight other publications, all of which have begun operating since late



1999. The pro Indonesia militia initiated violence that followed the referendum destroyed almost all media infrastructure in East Timor.

The congress was organized locally and supported by UNTAET, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Press Freedom Committee, the Freedom Forum, the Alliance of Independent Journalists (Jakarta) and the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance of Australia.

Official Visits to East Timor

Harri Holkeri (above photo, left), the President of the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, arrived in East Timor on 12 January for a two-day information-gathering visit. "I am also here to encourage the East Timorese, who have the backing of all member states of the United Nations," he said upon arriving at the airport.

Meanwhile, Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama arrived in Dili on 16 January, for a four-day visit as a follow-up to his visit with the Portuguese President in February 2000.

Mr. Gama met with several UNTAET senior officials, including SRSRG Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN Peacekeeping Force Commander Lt. General Boonsrang Niumpradit and CivPol Commissioner José Costa e Sousa, as well as Timorese leaders, such as CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and Cabinet Members. Mr. Gama was also scheduled to visit Oecussi, Aileu and Lospalos Districts.

On 17 January, the Foreign Minister presided over the inauguration ceremony of the Portuguese Cultural Center of Dili.

SRSRG Meets with Member of Indonesian House of Representatives

On 12 January, SRSRG Sergio Vieira de Mello met with Rekso Ageng Herman, a member of Indonesian House of Representatives. Mr. Rekso represents

PDIP, the Democratic Indonesian Party, which is part of the Government coalition. He is also a member of the Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

The SRSRG urged the Committee to discuss a solution to the problem of pension payments to East Timorese formerly employed by the Indonesian civil service, and measures to encourage the refugees to return to East Timor. The SRSRG also stressed the problem of propaganda and misinformation in the refugee camps and said that he was encouraged by some measures taken by Indonesia to disband the militia.



Historical Day for East Timor

The sixth batch of fifty East Timorese police cadets graduated on 26 January from the Police College of East Timor in Dili, receiving their certificates from Paulo Martins (above), who was appointed the first East Timorese director of the Academy on 15 January.

In his address Mr. Martins reiterated the importance of serving the people of East Timor without prejudice based on colour, race and religion. "If required the East Timor police force should be ready to sacrifice their lives for the people of East Timor just as the nation's heroes had done during 25 years of Indonesian occupation" he said.

The Director also emphasized that serving as part of the East Timorese police force required professionalism "because a police officer without professionalism, only his uniform identifies him or her as such", and that the new police force ought not to follow the 08-00-05 model of Indonesian times: start at 08:00 a.m., do nil (00) all day and clock out at 05:00 p.m.

The 50 police officers will now undergo three months of field training and will subsequently be deployed in all 13 districts. 350 former cadets are already serving in the districts; 150 cadets are currently undergoing basic training, part of a year-long training programme. ■



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

Television

UNTAET's Televizaun Timor Lorosa'e started broadcasting on 8 January a 15-minute news programme. The 7 p.m. show is on the air Monday to Friday and will be expanded to half-an-hour as soon as additional resources become available.

A weekly one hour magazine programme is planned for February, and will contain documentaries on East Timor, as well as a weekly roundup of the news.

Journalists Congress

The Timor Lorosa'e Journalists Association (TLJA) held a congress from 10 to 13 January (right).

The topics of the congress, held in the CNRT auditorium, ranged from the freedom of press and media ethics to the protection



Tiu answers questions about... Elections

Hello friends. So here it is already 2001. It's hard to believe that we're already well into our second year as an independent nation. Remember how we won our independence, chanting: Lori pregu hodi tu kuak sinal nebe imi fahir (Use the nail to pierce the symbol you will choose)? With those nails, we punched our ballots, literally punched our way to freedom.

This year, if all goes to plan, we're headed to the ballot box again, although the exact date is not yet certain. We will be electing a Constituent Assembly, a group of people who will be our delegates to the government and represent the aspirations of all the Timorese people. Each of us, as free citizens will make a conscious choice with our vote as to who we believe can best meet our needs and those of the country. And once we have cast our votes, we must be prepared to accept the results. As you know, various parties will be campaigning and we will hear all kinds of divergent views on how Timor Lorosa'e should be run. Listen in to a conversation I had with my niece and a few old friends about the up-coming elections:

Tiu: Good morning, Antonio, you finally decided to come back to East Timor?

Antonio: G'day, Tiu. Ah, you know how it is. I'm retired and there's no point in lingering on in a foreign country when my own has its freedom.

Paulo: That's good to hear, Antonio. I only wish more Timorese living in the Diaspora felt the same and were eager to come home and help re-build their country.

Tiu: Oh, I'm sure they'll come in time, particularly as our new government takes shape. Which leads me to the topic at hand - the upcoming elections.

Paulo: What? Have they finally decided when it's going to be? I've heard all different dates - July, August, September, even October. Or, for that matter, what exactly will we be voting for? The parties haven't even started campaigning or presented us their platforms.

Pedro: I've heard that elections are set for 30 August 2001. Is that right, Tiu?

Tiu: Well, that's the latest date that's been discussed. But, regardless of the exact date, elections are expected to be held sometime this year.

Carlos: And Kai Rala Xanana Gusmão a shoe-in, who will be the runners-up for president? It should be you Tiu! Come on guys Tiu for president! Tiu for President!

Tiu: Very funny, gentlemen, but seriously, Carlos, the elections being held this year will be to elect a Constituent Assembly, not a President.

This was a decision made on 17 November last year when a session was held at UNTAET to discuss the election process. CNRT's President Xanana Gusmão and the leaders of various political parties and East Timorese Cabinet Members reached a consensus and agreed that the first democratic election in East Timor ought to be for a Constituent Assembly.

Further electoral events will of course take place in the future and these could include a referendum and general or presidential elections. By the way, UNTAET currently has an electoral team preparing the plans for conducting and managing the UN-held elections in East Timor. One of its priority tasks is to establish the basis for a voter education/information campaign for East Timorese both in East Timor and West Timor.

Maria: What exactly is a Constituent Assembly, Tiu?

Tiu: My understanding of a Constituent Assembly, based on what I have read, is that it is basically a group of people representing the viewpoints of various individuals and group, who meet to discuss general issues of national interest.

Maria: And what exactly does a Constituent Assembly do?

Tiu: Consider the Constituent Assemblies in other countries. The Constituent Assemblies of India, Canada and Israel, for example, had the task of drafting their country's constitutions in which the laws and basic rules that laid down the foundations of their system of government and the rights of individuals would be enshrined. And that is something that in principle, the Constituent Assembly of East Timor will be required to do. It will produce a legal document that will establish the preferred system of governance for the people of East Timor. It could ultimately be presidential, monarchical or prime ministerial in design.

Carlos: And how will decisions be made? Who will ratify it once the Constituent

Assembly decides on the model of government?

Tiu: In the Canadian model, after the election of the Constituent Assembly, its representatives or delegates discussed issues and came up with sets of propositions representing the general public's view points. This formed the Constitution that Canada ultimately adopted. Then the public was consulted about these propositions by way of a national referendum. If you remember, this was what we did in 1999. We had a popular consultation, a national referendum on what kind of future we wanted for East Timor.

Maria: What kinds of people and how many will be included in the Constituent Assembly?

Tiu: These are all decisions that still need to be made by the electoral planning and design team and the National Council. But, look at a country like Venezuela: with a population of 23,410,158 in 1998 and with 11,022,031 registered voters, the National Constituent Assembly had 131 members: 104 being regional members, 24 national members and 3 indigenous members, all directly elected by simple majority vote.

There are two key considerations in making a decision regarding the number of members and how they get elected - it must be sufficiently small in number to be efficient in reaching agreement, but large enough in numbers to be representative of the population. The larger the assembly, even though it might be more representative of the entire population, tends to have greater difficulty in reach agreement. That can mean spending more time and money in the long run.

For example, in India, the Constituent Assembly took close to three years to complete the drafting of that nation's Constitution. It held 11 sessions covering a total of 165 days. Now, a smaller assembly would cost considerably less and it might be able to reach a consensus on issues faster, the only possible drawback being that it would run the risk of being less representative of the population.

Paulo: The team from UNTAET will have a lot of work to do especially when it comes to registering all the Timorese to vote. Just think about all the refugees in West Timor and the Timorese still residing in the Diaspora. August isn't that far away.

Tiu: That's why the team has suggested (and this is still only being discussed) that only those East Timorese who are physically in East Timorese territory will have the chance to register and cast their vote. So all those wanting to participate in East Timor's first elections will have to return and be in East

Timor in time to register. And if there ever was a reason why the refugees who are still in Indonesia should come back home, this is it.

Maria: The refugees, Timorese in the Diaspora, and all of us living here - the Constituent Assembly will have its hands full!

Tiu: It's really important that the Constituent Assembly be an all-inclusive body representing and making decisions based on the viewpoints of the whole of society, not just some powerful sections of society.

This is why the registration process is so important, so everyone participates in this democratic process. By the way, you should know that a group of United Nations Volunteers has already been deployed to register the population. These volunteers are the first of a total of 130 who will coordinate the initial registration of the population at the district level. Information is being gathered to issue identity cards to everybody above the age of 16, and to gather all the necessary data on eligible voters for the elections. This is a process every Timorese has earned the right to be a part of.

Antonio: Tiu, I have to tell you, that's one big reason why I came back. I wanted to be here to participate in East Timor's first democratic elections. Just think of it, each of us finally has a say in our political future.

Tiu: Yes Antonio, it's true. The election will be a historic occasion and who wouldn't want to be a part of it?

Let's all keep an ear out for fresh developments. And as soon as we get more news about the elections, I'll invite you for coffee again. It's very important that we are all fully aware of what the elections can mean for us as a people. We will soon stand as a totally sovereign nation and as such we cannot afford to make the mistakes of the past - to disrespect each other, to resort to violence rather than settle our difference through the peaceful political process, as do most of the nations of the world.

Carlos: But is it possible, Tiu, after so much violence and revenge?

Tiu: Well, only time can heal the wounds. We just have to be patient and remain calm. The elections will be the perfect opportunity for us to prove how much we as a nation have matured in 25 years.

OK, my friends, I have to go now. I still have to take Maria to see her auntie in Comoro. Remember, keep informed so that we can, in turn, inform and educate our friends and neighbors about this critical democratic process.

Let's work on recreating that immense national spirit that carried us all to the ballot boxes in August 1999. Till next time be safe! Ciao. ■

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For the latest news and information about East Timor, tune in to RADIO UNTAET

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Voices of Timor Lorosa'e



Libania Flor
senior high school student, Becora
ETTA is East Timor's Transitional Administration, an organisation preparing the present government for independence. ETTA's other function is to make sure East Timor prepares its own people and recruit those who can be posted in the various departments such as the Political Department and the Economic Department. Being a student I have to study hard in order to build my country and to work with ETTA. ETTA knows how to run the country because Timorese are running ETTA's administration.



Jacob Dos Reis Calar
Language assistant with UN Civilian Police (CivPol), Becora
ETTA is the East Timor Transitional Administration. Now there are two missions in East Timor, one from the United Nations that is UNTAET, and the other one a local mission that is ETTA. The leaders of East Timor are creating ETTA because UNTAET does not have the capacity to overcome or rebuild this country and ETTA will take into consideration the local people's concerns to organize the reconstruction of East Timor now and into the future.



Adão dos Santos
University student, Liqueça
ETTA in East Timor is the Transitional Administration. The United Nations established ETTA in the lead up to a definitive future government anticipating the United Nations departure. Some people said it would recruit local civil servants but in fact it has not. ETTA is to prepare the Timorese who are qualified to work in the future independent government. ETTA encompasses some departments including the Education Department, Agriculture Department and the Infrastructure Department. These departments are being prepared to run the future government of Timor Lorosa'e. ETTA recruits those who demonstrate that they have the capacity and it places each one in its own area of expertise. That is what I think ETTA is.

What is ETTA?

East Timor Transitional Administration



Noemio
Journalist for Contrás, Becora
Based on what I know, ETTA is an institution set up by UNTAET to prepare human resources in East Timor leading up to independence. ETTA and the National Council voice the aspirations of Timor Lorosa'e to UNTAET on how to prepare the East Timorese for the time when UNTAET hands over responsibility to them. Basically ETTA is a transitional government leading up to independence.



Domingos Gusmão
ETTA security Barioquite
ETTA is East Timor's Transitional Administration. I think that UNTAET gives us an opportunity to work together. UNTAET also serves as an advisor on how we should run our Timor in the future. That is why ETTA is working alongside UNTAET. I am still a bit confused as to who is actually governing East Timor, if it is UNTAET or ETTA. So I would like to ask who is running the country.



Christina Freitas
Editor Televisaun Timor Lorosa'e, Delta Comoro
ETTA is the East Timor Transitional Administration. People who are working for ETTA must be professional. They should be prepared for professional work because they will run the government when UNTAET leaves. I am not sure but ETTA falls under UNTAET, which means UNTAET has a supervisory role over what ETTA does. ETTA is responsible for the whole administration or the governing of East Timor. I think that ETTA is very good because it is preparing the Timorese for the future. That way ETTA determines and carries out its own work not having to rely on UNTAET.



Elia Fernandes
University student, Bairro Pite
ETTA is an organisation established under UNTAET to prepare the Timorese for the future of Timor Lorosa'e. Being a student, I ask the leaders working in that organization to dedicate themselves to work hard for the people and for the future of Timor Lorosa'e. Otherwise our nation will become like Indonesia, facing now so many problems. This is my opinion of what I think the model of ETTA is.



Thomaziana
University student Delta Comoro
I believe that ETTA is an organization established under UNTAET to prepare the future of Timor Lorosa'e leading to the transition period. Therefore, as a student, I would like to ask our leaders who work within that organization to dedicate themselves to work for the well being of the people and for the future of the country.



João
ETTA security Bebonuk
In my opinion, ETTA is like this: since entering East Timor one and a half years ago the Malaes have been giving us guidance during the transition period that we sometimes accept and that we sometimes refuse to accept because it goes against our customs and beliefs. It is very important that our leaders build peace and unity within Timor Lorosa'e for the sake of our future.



Ernesto Reis
Teacher, Delta Comoro
In my opinion ETTA is now the Administration of Timor Lorosa'e. ETTA falls under UNTAET. It received its mandate from UNTAET to prepare the Timorese for the future of Timor Lorosa'e. And with ETTA the Timorese are receiving training to take over responsibility so that when UNTAET leaves we will be ready for independence. Timorese who work in ETTA will prepare themselves to perform the duties required by the nation in the future. We ordinary people put our trust on our educated Timorese to take responsibility over the country.



José
Administrative assistant, Becora
ETTA is East Timor's Transitional Administration. So persons who work in ETTA are those who have skills, like computer skills and other skills that will help the future government of East Timor. In East Timor we lack computer skills and such. Now I see East Timorese having the opportunity to learn computer skills, training in management and other training such as diplomacy training. The Timorese are confident in the future. The country will be able to develop. This is what I know about ETTA.



Nini
Elementary school, student Becora
Based on my knowledge and on what I have heard from my teachers, ETTA is the Transitional Administration in Timor Lorosa'e. Being a student I want to tell the leaders to recruit more Timorese to work with in ETTA and to entrust responsibility in the East Timorese.



Hilario Guterres
Driver for the Central Payments Office, Bairro Pite
Well, ETTA is East Timor's Transitional Administration and is being prepared by UNTAET to carry on this work. And ETTA and UNTAET are preparing the East Timorese for this purpose. Today, I am a simple driver for ETTA. I see my fellow East Timorese empowered. For example in the last few months I have seen Timorese going abroad and some are now in Singapore and so many more are getting ready in the CPO's office. Even though I am only a driver, I still know that these Timorese have capacity.



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The name Tais Timor conjures the image of the careful, time-honoured process that goes into making the traditional Timorese cloth used in all important life events. As the different "ingredients" that make up East Timor come together during the transitional period to rebuild the country, Tais Timor aims to record and reflect those events that weave the beautiful tapestry that is Timor Lorosa'e.

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