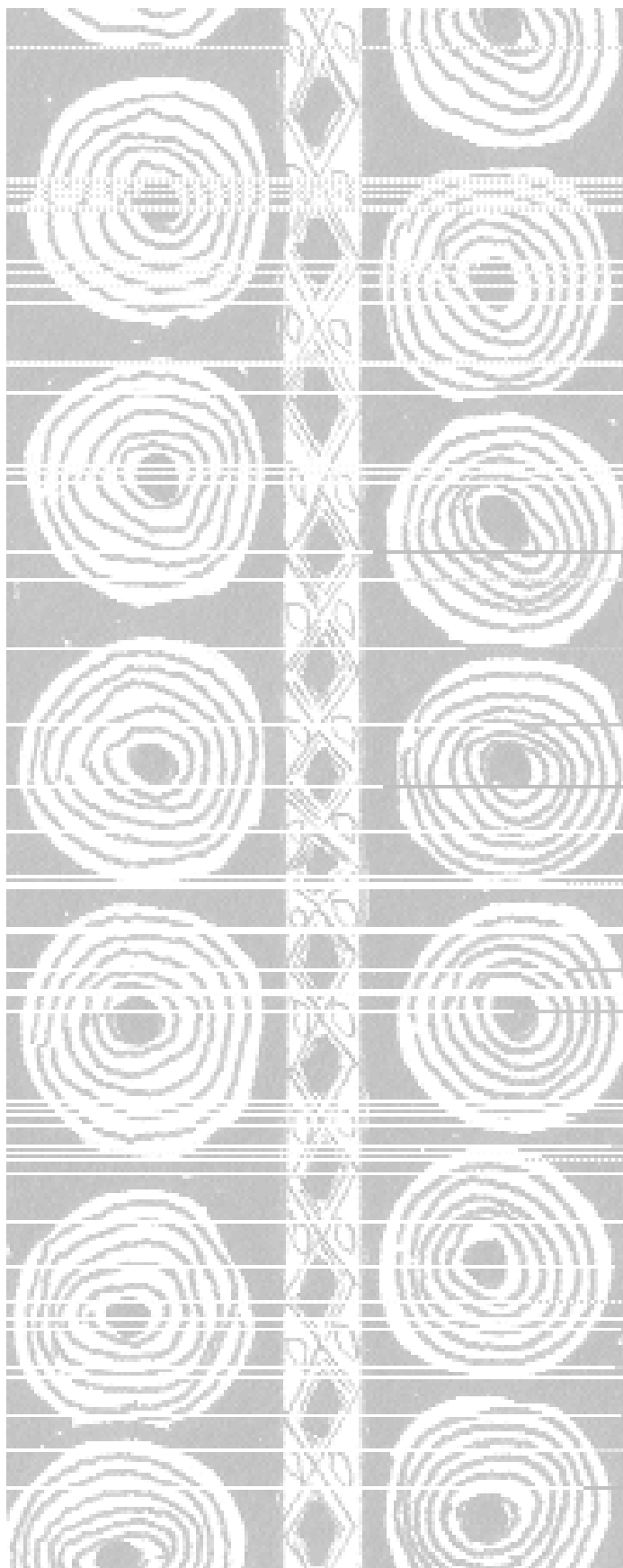


# East Timor *Update*

April 2001



## **Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Political Development .....</b>	<b>1</b>
National Council	
Transitional Cabinet	
Political Overview	
<b>Economic Development.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Agriculture	
<b>Institutional Development.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Civil Registry	
Taxes	
Border Service	
<b>Rule of Law.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Judiciary	
Civilian Police	
East Timor Police Service	
<b>Peace and Security.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Security Situation	
Troop Rotations	
<b>Social Affairs.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Labour	
Health	
Education	
<b>Human Rights.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Refugees	
<b>Media Development.....</b>	<b>11</b>
TVTL	
Radio UNTAET	
Publications Unit	
Media Development Unit	
<b>Trust Fund Update.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>East Timor Transitional Administration.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Acronyms.....</b>	<b>14</b>



## **I n t r o d u c t i o n**

**O**ne of the most significant events in April in East Timor was the resignation of Xanana Gusmão as President of the National Council.

On 28 March, Xanana Gusmão sent a letter to Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello announcing his resignation. Mr. Vieira de Mello said that he sympathized with Mr. Gusmão's decision and that his role as National Council President had been crucial, especially for the approval of a consensual regulation on the elections and the registration of political parties, which was signed on 16 March. He stressed that as of now, Mr. Gusmão would have more time, as CNRT President, to work for reconciliation and national unity, and to work with the East Timorese people and UNTAET/ETTA to ensure a peaceful and responsible process towards independence.

Manuel Carrascalão, the business representative in the National Council, replaced CNRT President Xanana Gusmão as the Speaker, when he was elected on 9 April (*see Political Development*).

The second round of Timor Sea talks, which were held in Melbourne, Australia, took place in early April, with discussions between ETTA/UNTAET representatives and the Government of Australia (*see Economic Development*).

UNTAET Chief of Staff N. Parameswaran led a delegation in mid-April to meet thousands of refugees in camps in West Timor, in order to inform them of the situation in East Timor (*see Human Rights*).

As of 26 April, 196,032 East Timorese have been registered by ETTA's Civil Registry Unit (*see Institutional Development*).

Progress has been made with regard to transitional justice. On 25 April, the National Council endorsed, in principle, a draft regulation on the establishment of a Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (*see Political Development*).

There were several official visits to East Timor in the past month.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique, Leonardo Santos Simão, left East Timor on 24 March after a two-day visit and extensive discussions with several UNTAET and East Timorese officials, including Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello and CNRT President Xanana Gusmão.

Mr. Santos Simão and the East Timor Cabinet Member for Foreign Affairs, José Ramos-Horta, discussed the possibility of hosting East Timorese diplomats in Mozambique's embassies and consulates. This would enable East Timor to start its diplomatic representation faster and at a lower cost.

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sir William Deane, came to East Timor for a two-day visit with the purpose of participating in ANZAC Day Ceremonies.

The Governor General took part in a church service on 26 April in Dili and lay a wreath at a memorial for those who fought the Japanese in East Timor during the Second World War. A small memorial was also held for the Australian and New Zealand personnel who have died in East Timor since its vote for independence.

Mr. Ramos-Horta left East Timor on 27 April, for a three-week trip to Australia, Algeria, the Netherlands and the United States.

Ramos-Horta returns to East Timor on 20 May and is temporarily replaced in the East Timor Transitional Cabinet by the Cabinet Member for Economic Affairs Mari Alkatiri.

In related news, Mr. Ramos-Horta was sworn in as Cabinet Member for Foreign Affairs by the Acting Transitional Administrator, Jean-Christian Cady. Mr. Ramos-Horta resigned from the National Council to return to his former post in the Cabinet, stating that his skills would be of better use in his old post. He is expected to be replaced in the National Council by Paulo Assis, nominated by the CNRT.



## **P o l i t i c a l   D e v e l o p m e n t**

### **National Council**

On 25 April, the National Council endorsed, in principle, a draft regulation on the establishment

of a Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The draft regulation, endorsed by the East Timor Transitional Cabinet on 28 February, gives the Commission a truth-telling function that will provide a historical record of past human rights violations between 25 April 1974 and 25 October 1999. It also establishes a Community Reconciliation Process for dealing with less serious offences that will not be prosecuted by the justice system.

National Council member Aniceto Guterres suggested that the regulation be forwarded to a special Reconciliation Commission of the National Council to analyze the regulation more closely and to hold public hearings. This motion was passed by a majority of the National Council.

Manuel Carrascalão, business representative in the National Council, was elected Speaker of the National Council on 9 April, after a motion failed to delay the election of a Speaker until May.

Two members were nominated as candidates; Clementino dos Reis Amaral, representing KOTA, a political party, nominated José Ramos-Horta, CNRT representative; and the Dili District representative nominated Manuel Carrascalão.

The vote, which for the first time was carried out by a secret ballot, resulted in a tie with each candidate receiving 13 votes. There was one blank vote. Mr. Ramos-Horta withdrew his name from consideration and the Deputy Speaker declared Manuel Carrascalão as Speaker.

Mr. Carrascalão replaced CNRT President Xanana Gusmão as the Speaker, who sent a letter to Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello announcing his resignation as President of the National Council on 28 March.

On 27 March, the National Council defeated a draft regulation on the establishment of national and district constitutional commissions introduced by the Standing Committee on Political Affairs. The draft regulation was defeated with five votes in favor, seven against and eight abstentions.

The proposal was to establish a formal mechanism to consult the East Timorese people at district and sub-district levels and to provide their input to the Constitution Assembly to be democratically elected on 30 August.

Aniceto Guterres, National Council representative for NGOs, presented the motion, noting the broad support of NGOs for the proposal and its implementation. The proposal was presented as having the support of civil society in general and was backed by members of the Committee on Political Affairs, among them CNRT and Former National Council President Xanana Gusmão. UNTAET was also supportive of a formal consultation process, and will now consider other options.

### **Transitional Cabinet**

The East Timor Transitional Cabinet recommended on 19 April that the Transitional Administrator sign a regulation governing firearms, ammunition, explosives and other instruments, such as knives and machetes, when used as weapons.

The regulation will take into account the National Council's proposed amendments made by the Standing Committee on Judicial Affairs, when the regulation was approved by the Council on 2 April. In particular, Cabinet agreed that knives and machetes be included in the regulation.

Cabinet also agreed with the National Council's proposal to increase the penalties for unauthorized activities connected with the above types of weapons.

The regulation is to control the production, manufacture, possession, sale, import and export of firearms, ammunition and explosives, in order to help ensure security in East Timor.

Cabinet endorsed a draft regulation on 4 April establishing the East Timor Police Service and the East Timor Police Academy. The text includes provisions on the general duties and powers of police officers, and the structure of the Police Service, reflecting the organization and practices put in place since UNTAET was established. The text will be submitted to the National Council for its consideration.

Cabinet also endorsed a regulation formally establishing the Prison Service of East Timor, which will be submitted to the National Council. The decision to formally establish the Penal Service was made by Cabinet on 14 February.

The regulation provides the framework for the operation and management of East Timorese

penal institutions, the treatment of prisoners, and the rules of conduct for prison officials. It also specifies the human rights principles that are to underpin the operation of these institutions and establishes a Penal Oversight Team. The Team will be comprised of three persons, who will be appointed by the Transitional Administrator. Their task will be to receive and investigate complaints from inmates and make recommendations, among other things.

Cabinet approved an interim National Disaster Management Plan and a related United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded project to support the development of a national disaster management capacity in East Timor. The objective of the Plan is to provide arrangements for a coordinated response to emergencies and disasters. The Project focuses on developing East Timor's capacity in relation to disaster preparedness, including public awareness and the initial stockpiling of relief supplies.

On 28 March, Cabinet further considered the issue of consulting the people of East Timor on their future constitution. Cabinet endorsed the Transitional Administrator's policy of supporting NGO initiatives on constitutional issues, in conjunction with the Transitional Administration's civic education efforts.

In addition to the overall effort, Cabinet recommended that the Transitional Administrator also establish consultative mechanisms in the districts, which would seek the views of the East Timorese people on constitutional issues and make these available to the Constituent Assembly. In this regard, Cabinet explicitly acknowledged that the future Constituent Assembly retains the prerogative to establish any mechanisms it wishes to facilitate consultation on constitutional issues.

This consideration follows the vote of the National Council defeating a draft regulation on the establishment of national and district constitutional commissions.

Cabinet agreed on 21 March to revisions to the Unfunded Priorities List, following Cabinet discussions on 14 March. The list includes priority projects for which the East Timor Transitional Administration seeks donor funding.

The list was forwarded to the National

Council for information, and provided to donor countries at the Dili Interim Donors' Meeting on 29 March.

In addition, Cabinet discussed a long-term revenue strategy for East Timor. This strategy, once adopted, will determine the fiscal parameters relating to the 2001-2002 Budget.

### **Political Overview**

ETTA's Census and Statistic Unit of the National Planning and Development Agency carried out a four-day pilot test of its upcoming poverty assessment of East Timorese households.

Twenty households in seven districts - Ermera, Liquiça, Maliana, Manatuto, Baucau, Viqueque and Lospalos - participated in the pilot test, which ended 21 April.

Households were asked about their income and spending, their access to water and electricity, health facilities, and housing standards, among other things.

The actual survey of household poverty will commence on 26 May. Between 1,500 and 2,000 households will be surveyed during three months. The data will be used to target and increase the quality of development assistance to the country's poorest families.

The Agency has already completed a poverty survey of all 448 Sucos (neighbourhoods) in East Timor. The project is implemented in partnership with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and UNDP.

The National Steering Committee for Civic Education started a week-long training on 20 April for trainers on the civic education campaign. Fifty-two representatives from four organizations from all 13 districts took part in the training. The training focused on the elections, human rights, the constitution, peace, stability and security, democracy and participation.

The participants, from CNRT, the NGO Forum, the East Timor Women Network and the Student Solidarity Council, will form a national team of trainers and serve as community facilitators for the civic education campaign. The trainers will use the same information material and will launch a campaign in East Timor starting by late April and will go on until the August elections, when it will be evaluated for further civic

education work. The campaign will be conducted through face-to-face education, radio, television, print media and community initiatives such as debates, concerts and school activities.

The training was jointly coordinated by UNTAET's Civic Education Unit and members of the National Steering Committee for Civic Education - the Catholic Church, CNRT, NGO Forum, East Timor Women Network, University of East Timor, the primary and secondary schools, Student Solidarity Council, UNTAET and UNDP.

A Working Group on Post-UNTAET Planning has been established to conduct extensive consultations and produce detailed recommendations for the Transitional Administrator on the required level of international assistance in East Timor after UNTAET's mandate.

The Working Group, chaired by the Head of the National Planning and Development Agency, Emília Pires, consists of eight representatives from the National Council, UNTAET and UNDP. Half of the group is East Timorese.

The Working Group will produce a report by the end of May identifying specific positions, functions and skills that need to be urgently filled at the end of UNTAET's mandate. The report will also clarify which positions still need to be filled by international staff. In addition, the report will give some indications on policy directions and strategies for training, among other things. Non-Governmental Organizations, the Church, CNRT and the National Council, among others, will be consulted on the design of the follow-up mission.

The Independent Electoral Commission held its second meeting with political parties on 4 April. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer briefed political party representatives on the procedures for party registration and distributed the corresponding application forms.

Political parties can start gathering the information required to register with the Independent Electoral Commission, in order to be able to present candidates for the forthcoming Constituent Assembly elections on 30 August.

As part of the requirements, political parties may start collecting signatures from their supporters on the special forms distributed by the Independent Electoral Commission.

Political parties cannot submit their applica-

tion to the Independent Electoral Commission until the Board of Commissioners has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

Thirty-nine future East Timorese diplomats have completed a month of training in Portugal, Norway and Malaysia. While overseas, the group received training in areas such as international economic and trade relations, international and regional organizations, diplomatic protocol, management of embassy and consulate and basic training in public speaking, among other things.

For this fiscal year, 2001-2002, twenty trainees will be recruited to fill the available positions in the Transitional Department of Foreign Affairs.

On 31 March, Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello signed a Memorandum of Understanding between UNTAET and the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to continue support by that office for the Office of the Inspector-General of the East Timor Transitional Administration.

OIOS supervises and inspects the general functioning of the United Nations. The investigation services will be provided through the OIOS Investigations Section Office in Dili (ISD), which will be staffed by four persons. The office will also provide fraud and corruption prevention assistance in the form of advice, consultation and training for UNTAET and East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) program managers, among other things. The Chief of the Investigation Section of OIOS in New York will carry out the operational supervision.

A group of former pro-integration East Timorese leaders returned to Kupang, West Timor, on 30 March, after meeting CNRT President Xanana Gusmão, the Bishops of Dili and Baucau and Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello during a two-day visit to East Timor. The group also visited Baucau and Maliana Districts.

Prior to departing, the delegation's head, Filomeno de Jesus Hornay, said at a press conference that the visit was part of the reconciliation process and that the group wishes to return and live in East Timor. He also said that his delegation would share the information they received and the

progress they have seen in East Timor with the refugees in the West Timorese camps. Furthermore, he said that they agree that suspects of committing serious crimes should face justice, and they would relay messages of reconciliation of the Bishops to the refugees.

The visit, which was the first since September 1999 for some members of the delegation, followed the last reconciliation meeting between UNTAET/CNRT and representatives from the pro-autonomy umbrella organization UNTAS in December in Surabaya, Indonesia.

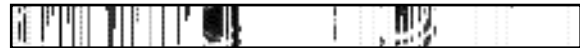
A French foreign ministry delegation visited East Timor from 28-30 March. The delegation stressed its commitment to assisting East Timor in the field of diplomacy. In October and November, East Timorese diplomats will be sent to France for further training and a French expert on international treaties and policy issues is expected to come to East Timor to assist the Department of Foreign Affairs.

ETTA's Civil Service and Public Employment Service (CISPE) reported that as of 20 April, a total of 8,275 East Timorese-- 78 per cent of the staff approved by the National Council for the fiscal year, which ends in June 2001-- have been recruited for the East Timor Transitional Administration.

Following UNTAET/ETTA's policy to encourage a gender balance in the new Timorese public administration, almost two thousand of the new civil servants hired are women.

In addition, CISPE has provided training for more than 2,200 East Timorese in various areas such as governance, leadership management for top civil servants, basic management and local governance, human resources management, as well as computers skills, English and Portuguese.

Following the riots in mid-March, around 30 representatives from Viqueque and Uato Lari sub-districts, including all village chiefs, and representatives of the Catholic church, CNRT, Justice and Peace Commission, and UNTAET met in Viqueque town on 21 March and established a Reconciliation Committee. The Committee has 17 members, including Viqueque District Administrator Ilda Maria de Conceição and priests from Viqueque and Uato Lari sub-districts.



## Economic Development

Cabinet Member for Economic Affairs Mari Alkatiri and Cabinet Member for Political Affairs and Timor Sea Peter Galbraith jointly led the UNTAET/ETTA delegation at the second round of talks on the Timor Sea, which took place in Melbourne, Australia, from 4-6 April, with the Government of Australia.

Speaking to the media upon his return to East Timor, Mr. Alkatiri described the talks as a "set-back." He said that UNTAET/ETTA's position on the Timor Sea is that if East Timor would apply current international law, 100 per cent of the resources of the cooperation zone would belong to East Timor. "But since there is an overlap of claims, international law advises that a solution be found through negotiations," said Mr. Alkatiri.

East Timor's delegation also had an informal meeting with the Australian Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, Senator Nick Minchin. This meeting was "the most fruitful of all negotiations," according to Alkatiri, adding that at this point he could not elaborate.

The next round of talks has been set for the end of April or beginning of May. It is expected that the talks will be more political, rather than technical.

UNTAET/ETTA's position is that a deadline for a political solution to the dispute should be 15 July, when the campaign for the 30 August elections starts in East Timor. At that time, the Transitional Cabinet is expected to be dissolved and negotiations would become difficult as the Timorese political leadership would be replaced by a technocratic cabinet.

In early May, the East Timor Transitional Administration's Division of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will conduct a month-long national survey to identify which of East Timor's 4,160 registered companies are operational. The Division is also investigating which companies already in operation have not registered and will require them to register immediately.

A report that was made in January by the Division's Business Facilitation Unit, in which 668 companies in Dili District were surveyed,

showed that 20 companies, both international and national, were operating without having registered. After they were given two weeks to register, all companies complied.

### **Agriculture**

A pilot agroforestry project based on coffee production has been launched in Bobonaro District, aimed at helping 170 families grow coffee and fruit trees to help control soil erosion, improve soil fertility and crop production.

The project is carried out by ETTA's Division of Agricultural Affairs and the Catholic Claritan Mission in East Timor and is expected to result in the launching of similar projects elsewhere in the country. The establishment phase of the US\$15,000 project is six months.

Acting Transitional Administrator Jean-Christian Cady and the Government of Portugal signed two Memoranda of Understanding on 5 April, in the sectors of agriculture and water rehabilitation.

Five experts from the Ministry of Agriculture of Portugal will oversee the establishment of a technological center in Ermera for coffee production and a horticulture and forestry center in Aileu. The project is valued at US\$1.41 million.

The Portuguese Government also pledged US\$900,000 to continue its program of the rehabilitation of the water system in Baucau and Aileu districts, which was initiated last year.



## **Institutional Development**

### **Civil Registry**

As of 26 April, 196,032 East Timorese have been registered by ETTA's Civil Registry Unit.

Civil registration started on 16 March and from an initial average of 5,500 persons registered each day, the number has now risen to 7,500 persons per day. The national civil registration will continue until 20 June.

By the end of April, additional computers and eighteen additional international registration staff are expected to help speed up the process.

A national public information campaign on civil registration has been carried out by ETTA's

Civil Registry and UNTAET's Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI), which has included posters, brochures, news articles, and radio and TV interviews.

### **Taxes**

On 2 April, the Commissioner of the East Timor Revenue Service, Thomas Story, announced details of the first prosecution to be sought for tax offences under the new tax system for East Timor. An indictment issued by Dili District Court prosecutors alleged that the proprietors of the *Oasis Inn*, a hotel in Dili, failed to file tax returns with the East Timor Revenue Service for services tax on eight separate occasions. The alleged offences carry fines of up to US\$1,000 for each failure to file a tax return, or imprisonment for up to three years.

Mr. Story noted that the action of the prosecutors was necessary given the repeated offences that are alleged.

Services tax is a 10 per cent tax on hotels and restaurants and other service providers and it was introduced on 1 July 2000. Officers of the East Timor Revenue Service have conducted 18 special audits of businesses to check services tax obligations. Additional tax and penalties amounting to US\$36,000 has resulted from these audits.

The East Timor Revenue Service was created on 1 July 2000. So far, it has collected over US\$8 million in taxes from the Timor Sea, wages tax and services tax.

### **Border Service**

The Border Service of the East Timor Transitional Administration and CivPol have begun to investigate the import and sales of illegal pornographic video CDs in East Timor.

In mid-April, the Border Service confiscated almost 150 pornographic VCDs at two private addresses and one VCD rental outlet in Dili. Another 200 VCDs were found when an East Timorese male was stopped in a checkpoint in Atabae, Maliana District. The VCDs had been smuggled in from Indonesian West Timor.

The investigation into this trade, illegal under the Indonesian penal code, is ongoing.

On 12 March, the Border Service of the East Timor Transitional Administration seized around

40,000 cigarettes in Atabae, Maliana District, which had been smuggled from Indonesian West Timor into East Timor in a car belonging to an international NGO.

The East Timorese driver, employed by the NGO, stated that he had been asked by a friend in East Timor to deliver the cigarettes as a favor.

In the same area three weeks earlier, the Border Service seized 1,200 cartons of cigarettes, hidden in the tank of a fuel truck.

The Border Service has seized dutiable goods, mainly cigarettes and alcohol, with assessed penalties for the amount of around US\$300,000 since July 2000.



## **R u l e o f L a w**

**F**reedom House, a US NGO in Dili which receives funding from USAID, organized a four-day conference in Laleia, a sub-district of Manatuto District, from April 25-29, on community police and justice.

More than 160 people participated from Cairui, Haturalan, and Lifau, the three villages of Laleia, and discussed issues such as the role of police in their villages, the legal status of the village chiefs, traditional and systemic justice, and domestic violence and the police. In a town hall type of meeting, participants were given ample opportunity to ask questions of speakers, who included Paulo Martins, Director of the East Timor Police Training College, East Timor Police Service (TLPS) officers of the Vulnerable Persons Unit of CivPol, representatives of East Timor Women's Organization (OMT), and East Timor Jurists Association, among others.

Freedom House received support for the conference from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Philippine Battalion.

### **Judiciary**

Former Dadurus Merah Putih militia member Manuel Gonsales Bere was sentenced on 25 April to 14 years imprisonment for the murder of independence supporter Joao Gonsalves in September 1999 near Maliana in Bobonaro District. The sentence was carried out by the Special Panel for

Serious Crimes at the Dili District Court.

In related news, an indictment was filed by the Office of the Prosecutor General, charging three members of the Saka Loromonu militia with murder and maltreatment during the campaign of violence that followed the 1999 popular consultation in East Timor.

Rueben Monteiro Gonsalves, alias Alu, Lino de Carvalho and Ruben Pereira Tavares are accused of the murder of independence supporter Sabino dos Santos in September 1999 in Batugade, Bobonaro District.

Lino de Carvalho, who is currently detained in Becora prison in Dili, is also accused of beating three persons in Batugade and Balibo sub-districts, Bobonaro District, in April and May 1999. Rueben Monteiro Gonsalves and Ruben Pereira Tavares are believed to be residing in West Timor, Indonesia.

Prosecutors from ETTA's Prosecutor Service condemned Indonesia's downgrading of charges against six people accused of killing three UNHCR workers in the West Timorese border town of Atambua in September 2000.

On 23 March, Indonesian prosecutors at the trial of the defendants recommended that they be charged with "mob violence resulting in death," rather than manslaughter. They asked for sentences ranging between two and three years in prison, while under Indonesian law manslaughter carries a 20-year jail term.

Chief Prosecutor for ETTA, Mohamed Othman, expressed concern that the sentencing does not reflect the severity of the offences and that the suspects should be charged with manslaughter.

### **Civilian Police**

Three persons suspected of murder committed in Viqueque during a riot on 12 March, were arrested on 17 April in Viqueque and Baucau by CivPol and the Peacekeeping Force.

The suspects, who are from Baucau and the villages of Olobai and Boromatan in Viqueque, have been brought to Dili for questioning.

Clashes between youth groups from two villages in March left two people dead, some 40 houses burnt and 25 partially destroyed. The situation in Viqueque has since been calm.

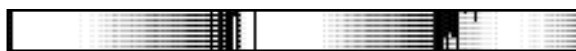
### East Timor Police Service

The East Timor Police Service marked its first anniversary on 27 March, with a ceremony celebrating National Police Day and the promotion of the first 27 Timorese police officers to the provisional rank of Sub-Inspector.

The program started with a mass by Dili Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo at the Cathedral, and was followed by a parade with all East Timorese police officers and cadets in front of UNTAET's Administration building.

So far, 450 East Timorese police officers have graduated and been deployed throughout East Timor and 200 cadets are currently undergoing training at the Police College.

The first 50 East Timorese cadets began their training at the Police College in Dili on 27 March 2000.



### Peace and Security

A bridge at Iliomar, Lospalos District, was opened on 16 April by the Republic of Korea Battalion (ROKBATT) engineers, who completed the project in ten weeks. ROKBATT repaired, constructed and developed the road surface. The project will benefit the local community of Iliomar, who now have access to Lospalos. It was the last major task by ROKBATT before the battalion's return to Korea.

From 7-11 April, marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit with sailors from the three ships of the USS Boxer amphibious ready group (ARG) completed their largest ever operation in East Timor in just three days. This operation was part of the United States continuing support for East Timor.

Marine transport helicopters were launched from the USS Boxer to deliver supplies to eight districts. Working around the clock for three days, 20 helicopters delivered 140 tons of food, roofing and construction materials, and donations of clothing and toys.

In Lospalos and Dili Districts, 400 sailors and marines repaired three schools and two communi-

ty centers by painting walls, installing doors, electric power, lights, ceiling fans, and window frames. Doctors and dentists also provided medical and dental aid to 1200 people in Dili and Lospalos.

Meanwhile, the USS Cleveland deployed off the Port of Com to support operations in Lautem District and the Navy's hovercraft transported 180 tons of supplies and pallets of donated clothing to Atauro Island and Oecussi.

In a letter sent to Indonesian Attorney-General Marzuki Darusman, Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello formally requested the transfer to East Timor of Yacobus Bere, who is suspected of killing New Zealand Peacekeeper Leonard William Manning on 24 July 2000.

The request was made under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation in legal, judicial and human rights related matters signed on 6 April 2000 between the Government of Indonesia and UNTAET. Attached to the letter was the indictment filed against Yacobus Bere, who was a member of the Laksaur militia group, a warrant for his arrest and for the search and seizure of evidence relating to the case.

A ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction of the new East Timor Defence Force training center in Metinaro took place on 3 April. The center will be established on a 17 square km site formerly used by the Department of Agriculture and as a TNI training center.

The center will include an accommodation building, administration offices, classrooms, shooting ranges and sport facilities.

The US\$3 million project is funded by the Australian Government and construction is expected to be completed by June 2001. The first 250 recruits have already commenced their training at a temporary site in Aileu District. The construction and the training program are overseen by the Office of the Defense Force Development, under the direction of Roque Rodrigues, an East Timorese.

### Security Situation

On 1 April, two suspected militiamen were fired

upon by a United Nations peacekeeper as they approached an AUSBATT position at Junction Point Bravo, eight kilometers east of Balibo.

One of the suspects, armed with a rifle and dressed in camouflage fatigues, attempted to open fire at the peacekeeper, who responded by firing three rounds in self-defence.

Both suspected militiamen sought cover in the trees and withdrew into West Timor.

The local Indonesian Army (TNI) commander was informed and deployed a patrol in an effort to apprehend the two men involved.

Four separate incidents took place during the night of 2 April along the border.

A Fijian position at Junction Point Foxtrot, approximately 22 km west of Suai, came under fire. The peacekeepers returned fire in the direction of the shots. No peacekeepers were injured in the exchange of fire.

Villagers reported to PKF troops that grenades were thrown at houses in Lebos and Maupeko, Bobonaro District. No persons were injured. AUSBATT deployed troops to Maupeko and increased patrolling along the border in response to this incident.

In a separate incident in Nanura, Bobonaro District, UN troops heard shots near their position and deployed a force to investigate. They found a 20-year old woman suffering from a gunshot wound to the thigh, treated her injuries and evacuated her to Maliana Hospital. The woman was evacuated to Dili the next morning by UN helicopter, but later died in the ICRC hospital.

Despite the four incidents, the situation along the western border is calm. PKF reports that the East Timorese in the area have given a positive response to PKF actions and presence.

### **Troop Rotations**

During the month of April, the rotation of nearly 5000 peacekeepers from more than eight nations took place in East Timor.

The major rotations involved troops from the Pakistani Force Communications Unit and Engineer Battalion, who have been serving in East Timor for the past 14 months; a Nepalese Company from Zumalai; Australian Battalion (AUSBATT) and Republic of Korea Battalion (ROKBATT), with smaller contingents from

Singapore and Mozambique. An additional company for Portuguese Battalion (PORBATT) arrived on 3 April.



## **S o c i a l   A f f a i r s**

### **Labour**

On 19 April, Deputy Transitional Administrator Jean Christian Cady nominated five persons for the National Committee for Arbitration of Labour Disputes, which was established by an executive order of the Transitional Administrator on 5 February.

The Committee was established in order to hear and decide disputes between employees and employers arising from labour contracts and is independent. Under current applicable law, employers and employees must first attempt to resolve disputes bilaterally, after which they can resort to mediation and then to arbitration. Previously, under Indonesian rule, the provision for arbitration was never implemented.

The Department of Social Affairs will provide the necessary funding and technical and administrative support for the Committee.

The Division of Labour and Social Services held a three-day follow up conference of the Tripartite Consultations on the Proposed Labour Laws of East Timor at the end of April, leading up to the 1 May Labour Day celebrations. Following the signing of the draft regulations, they will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and approval, then to the National Council for final approval.

The Division of Labour and Social Services is planning a joint survey with the Division of Education, Youth and Cultural Services on the labour market in East Timor. The survey will be done in order to assess the skills that need to be developed and thus assist in setting up a framework of technical and vocational education.

The Division of Social Services and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are jointly organizing an awareness raising campaign to involve youth in the upcoming elections and in

democracy building. A series of consultations will take place in June in the districts as part of the campaign.

### **Health**

The Division of Health Services of the East Timor Transitional Administration is setting up a Timorese Working Group on Sexually Transmitted Diseases/AIDS. The group, consisting of twelve members from NGOs, the Church, women's groups and medical associations, among others, will work as an advisory body for the Transitional Administration and the future Government in STD/AIDS prevention and care in East Timor.

The decision to form a working group resulted from a two-day orientation workshop on AIDS prevention, which was held at the National Center for Health Education and Training in Dili. Some of the key issues addressed in the workshop included the role and responsibility of the Working Group, policy and program framework of AIDS prevention and care activities and lessons drawn from other countries combating AIDS.

### **Education**

USAID is providing support to the Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestao (Economic and Management Institute) in Dili, for civic education training for some 600 students and the production of a training manual on the basic principles of democracy. A core group of students will conduct a pilot training in early May in Bazartete, Liquica District, to develop the program and materials for a village level civic education program.



## **H u m a n   R i g h t s**

**U**NTAET's Human Rights Unit conducted a one-week training of trainers from 23-28 April in human rights. The training is part of the Unit's work to strengthen civil society in its capacity to promote and protect human rights.

East Timorese human rights workers from all 13 districts were trained in international human

rights norms as well as in methodology of participatory training. Other topics included human rights and democracy, human rights and justice, violence against women, children's rights, reconciliation and land rights. Participants also designed their own human rights curriculum and returned to their districts to conduct their own training.

The training was jointly organized with East Timorese NGOs such as Yayasan Hak, Fokupers, and the East Timorese Jurists Association and facilitated by the Indonesian NGO INSIST.

### **Refugees**

A delegation led by UNTAET's Chief of Staff N. Parameswaran met thousands of refugees during a visit from 9-15 April in camps in Indonesian West Timor. The visit took place in order to talk with the East Timorese refugees and inform them of the actual situation in East Timor. It was described as very successful.

"The main concern of the refugees who want to return is their personal security, and we were able to assure them that East Timor is stable and safe," Mr. N. Parameswaran said in Dili.

The visits to the camps in Kupang, Soe, Kefamenanu and Atambua were initiated by the Udayana (Bali and West Timor) Commander Major General William da Costa, who accompanied the delegation for the entire visit. The East Timorese delegation consisted of representatives from UNTAET, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Peacekeeping Force and UN Military Observers. The Chief of Staff also met with the Bishops of Kupang and Atambua, as well as pro-autonomy leaders.

Thousands of posters, brochures and other information materials prepared by UNTAET's Office of Communication and Public Information were distributed among the refugees.

The refugee ship Patricia Ann Hotung left Dili on 20 April to pick up returning refugees from camps in Indonesian West Timor. The vessel returned to Dili on 22 April carrying some 52 returnees. The operation was organized by IOM, UNHCR, and UNTAET.

The Human Rights Unit's District Human Rights Officers monitored the security of returnees from West Timor, which is an on-going

part of the Unit's work that was intensified during April due to the large number of returnees in March. A total of 2735 East Timorese returned from West Timor during March. In response, District Human Rights Officers were actively involved in monitoring the security of returnees and coordinating with relevant agencies, including CivPol, PKF and UNHCR, in relation to protection cases.



## **Media Development**

**U**SAID supported a visit by five journalists from West Timor and Jakarta from 23 to 27 April. In addition to Dili, the journalists visited Lospalos, Baucau, and Manatuto Districts to meet with families of returned refugees, in order to gain an understanding of the situation in East Timor.

The visit was facilitated by UNHCR in coordination with the Timor Lorosa'e Journalists Association.

### **Televisaun Timor Lorosa'e (TVTL)**

The Television Unit of the Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI) has produced 1000 VCDs in Indonesian and Tetun about the Civil Registration and Electoral processes, which are currently being distributed to educate and inform the population throughout the country.

The Unit is working on the second batch of 1000 VCDs, which will contain information on Human Rights, Democracy, Safety and Stability, Respect and Tolerance, and similar issues. The Unit also produced a VCD for UNHCR containing images of modern life and reconstruction in East Timor, which will be distributed in West Timor.

### **Radio UNTAET**

Radio UNTAET is in the process of hiring some twenty new reporters from districts throughout East Timor. The trainees will be in Dili for a month of training during the months of May and June, and will be in place in their districts for election coverage. This project is jointly financed by

USAID and the World Bank-funded Community Empowerment Project (CEP).

Radio UNTAET is focusing on information regarding civil registration, the electoral commission and basic information regarding the election process. This is being done through the development of a special Civic Education program, which is being produced in three local languages, and duplicated on cassettes for distribution and replay on tape recorders. Another programming initiative is the "Refugee Program," which focuses on issues important to Refugees through interviews and songs. Radio UNTAET is also moving to develop other refugee radio initiatives.

### **Publications Unit**

The Publications Unit of OCPI came out with an Easter poster with a message encouraging the refugees in West Timor to return to East Timor. The Unit is also in the process of producing a poster on land and property issues. The last bi-weekly issue of Tais Timor came out in the last week of April, after which the paper became a monthly one.

### **Media Development Unit**

The Media Development Unit has been discussing a pilot course in journalism with the rector of the National University of East Timor. The Centre of International Journalism at Queensland University has indicated interest in acting as an implementing partner -- under the aegis of the National University. An Advisory Committee will be formed with representatives from the rector's office, UNTAET, the Centre of International Journalism and donors.

The unit has completed the compilation of a media list, for donors, of all local media -- excluding UNTAET media -- in East Timor. The list includes radio stations, national and community publications.



## **T r u s t   F u n d   U p d a t e**

**A**n Interim Donors Meeting, co-chaired by the United Nations and the World Bank, took place on 29 March in Dili. Thirty-six delegates from sixteen countries attended the meeting, as well as ETТА Cabinet Members, representatives of multilateral agencies and NGOs. UN Agencies attended the meeting as observers and were represented in the discussions by the UN Development Coordinator.

CNRT President Xanana Gusmão, Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello and Country Director for East Timor of Asia and Pacific Region of World Bank Klaus Rohland delivered the introductory public remarks.

Mr. Gusmão and Cabinet Member for Political Affairs and Timor Sea Peter Galbraight addressed the Political Transition, followed by talks delivered by National Planning and Development Agency Head Emilia Pires on Monitoring the Transition Strategy. Cabinet Member for Internal Administration Ana Pessoa discussed the Administrative Transition and Cabinet Member for Finance Michael Francino addressed the Fiscal Strategy.

The all-day meeting provided an opportunity for a mid-term review of East Timor's transition strategy towards independence. The participants discussed progress against benchmarks, with special focus on the political, public administration and public finance sectors, to ensure that the right institutional environment is in place to foster East Timor's transition to independence.





## A C R O N Y M S

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>OXFAM</b>	Oxfam International
<b>AMI</b>	Medical International Assistance	<b>PKF</b>	UN Peacekeeping Force
<b>AusAID</b>	Australian Agency for International Development	<b>QIP</b>	Quick Impact Project
<b>CARE</b>	CARE International	<b>SRSG</b>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
<b>CIVPOL</b>	UN Civilian Police	<b>TFET</b>	Trust Fund for East Timor
<b>CNRT</b>	National Council of Timorese Resistance	<b>TLJA</b>	Timor Lorosa'e Journalist Association
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development	<b>TLPS</b>	Timor Lorosae Police Service
<b>ECHO</b>	European Community Humanitarian Organisation	<b>TNI</b>	Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian National Armed Forces)
<b>ETTA</b>	East Timor Transitional Administration	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>FALINTIL</b>	Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>GOAL</b>	GOAL Ireland	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>HAER</b>	UNTAET Humanitarian Pillar	<b>UNMO</b>	UN Military Observer
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross	<b>UNTAET</b>	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration		
<b>NPDA</b>	National Planning and Development Agency		
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance		