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Further information on Extra 127/99 (ASA 21/140/99, 9 September 1999) and follow-ups (ASA 21/151/99, 14 September 1999; ASA 21/164/99, 23 September 1999 and ASA 21/182/99, 6 October 1999) - Fear for safety

EAST TIMOR **The population of East Timor**

Since the launch of this action, the security situation in East Timor has improved, notably since the arrival of the multinational force (INTERFET) and the withdrawal of the Indonesian National Army (TNI) and many of the militia groups. In addition, humanitarian organizations have been able to help large numbers of East Timorese people, including the internally displaced, some of whom are still living in the hills.

Amnesty International is still concerned about the security of the Timorese people, particularly East Timorese refugees in West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. Many reportedly continue to be threatened, intimidated, abducted and attacked by militia groups, supported by the Indonesian security forces. The repatriation program, initiated under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has enabled some of these people to return home but there are still reportedly some 200,000 East Timorese refugees in West Timor. The UNHCR has not been able to gain access to many refugees in West Timor and Indonesia has not yet disarmed or disbanded the militias.

The widespread and systematic attacks on the people of East Timor, committed by the Indonesian security forces and the militia groups, constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes. As the population of East Timor starts to rebuild the country, it is imperative that those responsible for grave human rights violations be brought to justice.

Amnesty International will continue to campaign for the protection of the East Timorese in East and West Timor using various action forms. No further action is needed on this Urgent Action at this time. Many thanks to all who sent appeals and campaigned on behalf of the people of East Timor.