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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Letter to UN Secretary-General on East Timor Commission of Inquiry**

Amnesty International has today sent a Letter to UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, recommending certain criteria to ensure a thorough, independent and effective inquiry into serious human rights violations committed in East Timor in the context of the United Nations Consultation process.

Among its recommendations, Amnesty International urges the UN Secretary-General to ensure that:

members of the Commission of Inquiry are chosen for their impartiality, competence, independence and expertise regardless of their ethnicity or nationality;

the Commission should determine individual responsibility for specific violations, including through the principle of command responsibility;

the Commission should be allowed unhindered and unrestricted access to East Timor and should be allowed to travel to other countries to collect evidence and testimonies, including in Indonesia.

the Victims, complainants, witnesses and those collaborating with the investigation, and their families must be protected against intimidation or acts of reprisal;

Commission should have the authority to compel officials and any person allegedly involved in any human rights violations or breaches of international humanitarian law to appear before the Commission;

INTERFET and UNAMET should have clear guidelines, resources and powers to collaborate fully with the Commission, including providing protection and logistical support to the investigative teams, identifying and detaining alleged perpetrators and securing evidence and sites of massacres for forensic investigations;

clear guidelines are issued on the nature and scope of cooperation with the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights;

the Commission's recommendations should be submitted to the UN Security Council to identify and recommend judicial measures, including through the establishment of an international criminal tribunal, to ensure that the identified perpetrators are brought to justice.

ENDS.../

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**For further information or to receive a copy of the Open Letter please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK on + 44 171 413 5566 or Judit Arenas in Darwin on: + 44 (0)468 792397 or + 61 (0)419 006 817. Alternatively you can visit our website at [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)**