

14 September 1999

**Further information on EXTRA 127/99 (ASA 21/140/99, 9 September 1999) -
Fear for safety**

EAST TIMORThe population of East Timor

Amnesty International remains concerned for the security of the entire population of East Timor, despite the Indonesian authorities' recent decision to accept a United Nations international peace-keeping force in the territory.

Independence supporters in both East and West Timor remain at high risk of attack by the Indonesian National Army (TNI) and/or militia groups. Nuns and priests, who have frequently helped to shelter independence supporters, appear to be particularly vulnerable.

Hundreds of thousands of people remain internally displaced in East Timor, many living in the hills without adequate shelter or supplies of food or water. There are reports of people trying to survive by eating berries and roots. Recent reports suggest that the TNI may be surrounding and attacking cantonment areas controlled by Falintil, the armed resistance movement, where thousands of displaced people are reported to be sheltering.

An estimated 120,000 East Timorese have either fled the territory or been forcibly relocated to West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. Many of these people are now living in makeshift camps in West Timor which appear to be run by the TNI and militia groups, which are also active in West Timor. Foreign observers and humanitarian workers, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), have not been able to enter the camps to verify their living conditions and assess their needs.

There are reports of East Timorese refugees in West Timor being threatened and attacked by pro-integration militias. East Timorese refugees in other parts of Indonesia may also be at risk.

Some militia members have reportedly stated that they were forced to commit human rights violations by the TNI. Amnesty International is concerned that militia members who make such claims may be at high risk of reprisals by the authorities.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in your own language:

- expressing your continued concern for the safety of East Timorese people both inside and outside East Timor;
- calling on your government to put pressure on the Indonesian authorities to ensure immediate and unconditional access for humanitarian agencies and other independent monitors to internally displaced people in East Timor and refugees in West Timor and other parts of Indonesia;
- calling on your government to urge the Indonesian authorities to facilitate the investigation of all allegations of human rights violations;
- urging your government to ensure that all of the above concerns are addressed in any UN intervention, and that any personnel provided to the proposed international peace-keeping force for East Timor are fully trained in international human rights and humanitarian standards.

APPEALS TO:

Your President or Prime Minister

Your Foreign Minister

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 October 1999.