

AUSTRALIA-EAST TIMOR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

(Formerly Campaign for an Independent East Timor)
C/o Global Education Centre, Torrens Building, 220 Victoria Square,
Adelaide 5000

Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties on the "Lombok" Treaty

The Australia-East Timor Friendship Association (SA) Inc. urges the Committee to recommend ratification only if the following conditions are met:

1. That West Papua and all other parts of Indonesia be opened up to journalists and non-governmental organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and human rights NGOs. We understand that this condition might be better expressed other than in the wording of the treaty, but failure to ensure that such access is absolutely guaranteed before the treaty is ratified would condemn the treaty before it begins (it could perhaps be renamed the Papuan Genocide Treaty). We note that DFAT deputy secretary Gillian Bird says access to Papua is an important issue, but DFAT's attempts to "get embassy officials there recently" were totally inadequate.
2. That the proposed "human rights training" & instruction of Indonesia's military in international human rights law obligations be made meaningful by a set of benchmarks and timetables to prove that the training is effective. We remind the Committee that Australia has been down precisely the same road with the Indonesian military before, from 1991 to 1999. Then we were repeatedly assured that ADF were giving them human rights training, and everything was OK. It wasn't OK. 8 years of extensive Australian training ended in the 1999 bloodbath in East Timor, directed by several Kopassus officers, & resulting in the deaths of 1000 people. Bland assurances by Foreign Ministers are absolutely inadequate. We demand meaningful and enforceable benchmarks and timetables included in the wording of the treaty to prove progress.
3. That all those responsible for crimes against humanity such as occurred in East Timor during the Indonesian occupation and in 1999 be brought to justice before international tribunals. Australia to support UN initiatives to make this happen.
4. That the Indonesian military's territorial command structure be dismantled and the Indonesian armed forces placed under civilian control and that a non-negotiable timetable for this be included in the wording of the treaty. We remind the Committee that the Senate Foreign Affairs and Trade References Committee in its 2000 report "**Australian Defence Cooperation with Indonesia**" said in paragraphs 8.51 and 8.53 that the dismantling of the territorial command structure should be a pre-condition to defence cooperation. The Committee said that the Territorial structure threatened Indonesia's fragile democracy & that it enabled gross human rights abuses. The Committee said that it would be "anathema" for Australia to support the military or any other element not strengthening democracy. Given that 7 years have passed with no progress at all towards dismantling the territorial structure, we demand that the treaty include in its wording that this structure be completely dismantled within one year or the treaty is void.

Yours faithfully

Miriam Tonkin, Chairperson, AETFA (SA) Inc.
William Fisher, Research Officer, AETFA (SA) Inc.