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LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1983 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF VANUATU
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith, on instructions of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, a letter and the attached Amnesty International report on East Timor, from the Honourable Father Walter H. Lini, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, addressed to the President of the Security Council.

In this regard, we would greatly appreciate circulation of Prime Minister Lini's letter and the attached report as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Robert F. VAN LIEROP
Representative to the United Nations

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Annex

Letter dated 30 November 1983 from the Prime Minister of the
Republic of Vanuatu addressed to the President of the
Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith the Amnesty International report on East Timor.

In view of the critical situation prevailing in that territory and the importance of the above-mentioned report, I would highly appreciate that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) W. Hadye LINI
Prime Minister

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Enclosure

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Date: August 1983

Statement of Amnesty International's Concerns in East Timor

Amnesty International considers it an appropriate time to issue a comprehensive review of the conduct of Indonesian forces in East Timor and the violations of the human rights within Amnesty International's mandate which have resulted. Amnesty International has recently received evidence indicating that official policy has condoned violations of human rights of the most serious kind. It is Amnesty International's view that there is now strong evidence that, since the invasion of December 1975, Indonesian forces in East Timor have engaged systematically and persistently in practices of brutality.

It has been necessary to stress on each occasion that Amnesty International has issued a statement on East Timor that its information cannot be regarded as complete. The strict control imposed by the Indonesian forces continues to limit access to the territory and the free flow of information out of it. Violations of human rights in East Timor have occurred in a context in which the right to freedom of expression does not exist. People expressing that right have been detained and ill-treated. 1/ Movement and communication within and beyond East Timor have been tightly controlled. Amnesty International further understands that East Timorese recently permitted to leave the territory to be reunited with their families abroad have been warned routinely by Indonesian intelligence officers before leaving not to reveal information which might discredit the Indonesian occupation and have been threatened with reprisals against themselves and members of their family still in East Timor if they do so.

1/ These include the cases of:

- three people, at one time associated with the "integrationist" Uniao Democratica Timorese (UDT, who were arrested and beaten in July 1980, reportedly for having aired criticisms of the Indonesian occupation on the Tetum-language program of Radio Republik Indonesia, Manu-kokorek;

- two members of the Indonesian-appointed Regional People's Representative (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah, DPRD) arrested in November 1981 after they had written to President Suharto in June 1981 alleging serious misconduct by Indonesian officials and military personnel, including the killing of non-combatant East Timorese;

- persons who had communicated with visiting delegations and television crews being subsequently taken in for questioning.

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Despite the circumstances, it has been possible to accumulate a large body of evidence on the situation of human rights in East Timor. The cases cited in this statement are based on mutually corroborative testimonies from sources which were geographically dispersed and independent of each other.

While the evidence available to Amnesty International had long suggested a clear and consistent pattern of human rights violations, Amnesty International had not, until recently, received direct evidence that these violations had been officially condoned. Recently, however, Amnesty International received a copy of manuals and guidelines issued in July-September 1982 by the then Indonesian commander for East Timor and his intelligence chief to Indonesian military personnel serving in the Baucau district of East Timor.

Contained in these manuals are guidelines which:

(1) condone the use of physical and psychological torture in certain circumstances during interrogation and provide guidelines to prevent its exposure; 2/

2/ In the manual on *Established Procedures on Methods of Interrogating Captives*, a section entitled "Things to be Avoided" contains a sub-section (V.13) on the "Use of Force and Threats". While the use of force and threats is described in the introductory sub-section as something generally to be avoided, sub-section V.13 appears to condone the use of force and threats, including, in certain circumstances, torture. It reads:

"V.13 The Use of Force and Threats

It is hoped that interrogation with the use of force will not be implemented except in those situations where the person examined tells the truth with difficulty (is evasive).

However, if use of force is required there should not be a member of the local population (guards, members of the civil militia, ordinary people) present to witness it so that the antipathy of the people is not aroused.

The use of force often has the consequence that the person being interrogated under duress confesses falsely because he is afraid and, as a consequence, agrees to everything the interrogator wishes.

Avoid taking photographs showing torture (taken of someone being given electric shocks, being stripped naked and so on).

Remember that such documentation/photographs should not be printed freely outside/in Denpasar and obtained by irresponsible members of society."

- (2) condone the issuing of threats on the lives of persons undergoing interrogation to ensure their co-operation; 3/
- (3) prescribe a policy of transporting Fretilin supporters and the families of Fretilin members still in the bush to "determined places" including the island of Atauro. 4/

These instructions condone and prescribe policies whose implementation could be expected to result in the violation of rights recognized internationally as absolute and never to be violated in any circumstances. Amnesty International has consistently expressed concern at the employment by Indonesian forces in East Timor of practices which have included the use of torture, particularly against persons undergoing interrogation after capture or surrender, and extrajudicial executions, particularly of persons thought to be supporters of Fretilin. It has also stated its concern over the transportation of several thousand people to the island of Atauro, where they have been confined in conditions which seriously endanger their health and well-being.

It should be borne in mind that, while the Indonesian authorities have publicly enunciated a policy of transporting people to the island of Atauro, torture and extrajudicial executions are clearly at variance with publicly stated policies on the treatment of East Timorese held after capture or surrender. In August 1977, President Suharto personally announced an amnesty for surrendering "Fretilin remnants" which guaranteed their safety unconditionally. The initial

3/ In the Technical Manual on Methods for Village Authorities (Babinsa/Team Pembina Desa) to Break Up the Network of GPK (Fretilin) Support, section 3.c, there is a guideline which states:

"Point out that their friends are still alive because they have given honest confessions and have been prepared to help the armed forces in the prompt restoration of security."

Again, in the Technical Manual on the System of Security in Towns and Settled Places (section V.15.c.3), a technique recommended to interrogators is:

"Giving a guarantee of life to the person being interrogated provided that he gives an honest confession and is prepared to assist the progress of the Operation."

4/ Section 3.d of the Technical Manual on Methods for Village Authorities to Break Up the Network of GPK (Fretilin) Support states:

"Evacuate the network of GPK (Fretilin) support still existing in the settlements, as well as the families of GPK (Fretilin) who have not yet been evacuated, to Atauro or other determined places." (Emphasis in original.)

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amnesty offer was renewed after it lapsed on 31 December 1977. Leaflets, in which people who surrendered were assured of their safety, were constantly dropped in areas where there was believed to be a Fretilin presence. Persons who had surrendered or been captured were induced to make radio broadcasts and other forms of propaganda attesting that they had not been harmed. Instances are known of individual surrendering East Timorese being given guarantees for their safety.

Interrogation and Torture

Amnesty International has received many reports of the torture of East Timorese suspected of having opposed the Indonesian occupation. These reports often concern persons in precisely those circumstances described in the manual on interrogation quoted above, namely, people undergoing interrogation after capture or surrender.

A Timorese who had worked with Indonesian intelligence has described the procedure in these circumstances:

"The normal procedure was to interrogate the captives or those who surrendered. People who surrendered and were not soldiers who had engaged in battle with Fretilin would be permitted to go free after the interrogation but only after approval from intelligence headquarters in Dili.

During the interrogations they were normally tortured, especially if the interrogators thought they were Fretilin soldiers or leaders. They would be tortured by hitting them with a blunt instrument, by jabbing lit cigarettes into their faces around the mouth, or by giving them electric shocks, sometimes on the genitals.

The senior authorities would decide who was to be killed after interrogation. Most of the leaders or more educated ones, those who were talented, were killed. Their wives would also be interrogated, tortured and killed."

This description accords with information received by Amnesty International on individual cases concerning the treatment of captured and surrendered Timorese. In one such case reported to Amnesty International, the individual concerned surrendered to the Indonesians in December 1978 in the village of Berecoli in Baucau district with six other men and their wives and children. Large numbers of people under Fretilin control had at that time been driven by intensive Indonesian bombardment to Mount Matebian, and many of them surrendered with the agreement of the Fretilin leadership, who recognized that it was no longer possible to provide sufficient food to support a population of the size accompanying them. After his surrender, P. was held for one month in the garage of the pousada (inn) in Baucau which had been converted to use as a detention centre and where an estimated 600 others were then being held. Detainees were interrogated at night. P. was interrogated in the pousada but chiefly in the Baucau barracks. He alleges that while being questioned he was threatened with a pistol. Wires connected to a small electric generator were tied round his thumbs and he was given shocks. He said

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that others were also burned with cigarettes but he was not. After one month's detention in Baucau, he was moved to the warehouse of the San Tai Ho store in the Colmera district of Dili then used for interrogation by army intelligence. He was released from the San Tai Ho warehouse after a week. 5/

Amnesty International would particularly like to draw attention to two interrogation houses reported to be in current use in Dili as of the beginning of 1983. There have been persistent reports of the torture and ill-treatment of persons held in these places. They are:

- a warehouse attached to the house formerly owned by Francisco Babo in the Rua Abilio Monteiro in the Colmera district, now believed to be occupied by a unit of the RPKAD (Resimen Parakommando Angkatan Darat, paratroops), recently renamed Kopsandha;
- a house formerly owned by Joao do Rosario Martires in the Rua Alferes Duarte O Arbiru in the Farol district used since late 1979 for interrogation by army intelligence (A-I, commonly known as Intel).

Amnesty International has reports of persons taken to these interrogation houses who emerged bearing visible signs of torture. One such account referring to the Intel house reads:

"One of my Fretilin friends was tortured with electric shocks and burning in December 1980. After the shock treatment his lips were burnt and broken, as they had attached the wire to his lips. His body had also been extensively burnt with cigarettes. He was tortured because he was suspected of passing information to the Fretilin forces."

Among those held for interrogation and allegedly tortured were a number of women, some of whom had reportedly been picked up on suspicion of having communicated with relatives in the bush. Amnesty International has the names of several women held by intelligence who were reportedly raped and had burning cigarettes applied to their breasts.

An account of the RPKAD house in the Rua Abilio Monteiro attests to its fearsome reputation:

"If you go there, things are 99.9% hopeless. Those sent there had been caught in the mountains fighting against Indonesian troops, especially the bush commanders. They are tortured for information with cigarettes to the cheeks, breasts, ears, genitals and with electric shocks. Then they are killed."

5/ Until late 1979, army intelligence had used the San Tai Ho warehouse referred to above for conducting interrogations. Amnesty International also received frequent reports of torture of persons held in the San Tai Ho warehouse.

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Amnesty International also has the names of people who were held in either of the two above-mentioned houses who "disappeared" and are feared dead.

An informant who had access in mid-1982 to the warehouse behind the RPKAD house where prisoners were held reported seeing about 100 people there whom the informant judged from their appearance and dress to be predominantly village people from outside Dili. Amnesty International does not know the present situation of these people. However, there are grounds for concern for their safety in view of other reports indicating that people understood to have been taken to one or other of the interrogation houses in Dili have not reappeared.

One such case involves Venancio Gomes, a member of the Fretilin Central Committee, who was arrested in Dili in the first days of the Indonesian invasion in December 1975. Those arrested at this time who escaped immediate execution ^{6/} were first transferred to the Tropical Hotel and then moved to the Portuguese District Prison (the Cadeia Comarca, which is still known as the Comarca despite being renamed Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Dili by the Indonesians) in January 1976. Venancio Gomes was released from the Comarca in 1979. Following the Fretilin attack on a broadcasting station in Dare on the outskirts of Dili on 10 June 1980, Venancio Gomes was one of about 600 people reportedly arrested in Dili. He was initially held in the Comarca but after a week was taken to the Intel house in Farol. He never reappeared.

Amnesty International has received reports of persons dying as a result of torture and beating suffered during interrogation, and this may also have been the fate of others who are reported to have "disappeared". Orlando Marques, whom the Indonesians had appointed camat (sub-district officer) of Iliomar, Los Palos, reportedly died as a result of blows received during interrogation after being picked up on suspicion of disaffection shortly after returning from an administrators' course on Java. Afonso Freitas, who had surrendered in late 1978, reportedly died in his house in Vemasse in 1979 as a result of blows received while detained in the pousada in Baucau. Amnesty International has the names of 14 persons who reportedly died as a result of torture and starvation in prisons in Dili and Aileu following the Fretilin attack on 10 June 1980.

Amnesty International has received detailed information about the interrogation of 103 people arrested in connection with an alleged attack which Fretilin had planned to launch on the towns of Bazartete and Likisa in January 1981 all but three of whom were reportedly tortured. The 103 were taken in for interrogation in the months of March and April 1981 at the Likisa district military command (KODIM) headquarters. Those interrogated included farmers, students, teachers, government officials, members of the civilian militia (Hansip) and several members of the sub-district representative people's assembly, including its chairman. Amnesty International has received copies of two letters to a local administrator written by persons who had signed statements admitting their involvement in the alleged plan. One letter describes how its writer, after

^{6/} More than 40 prisoners are reported to have been executed on 11 December 1975 in the customs building on Ponte Cais where prisoners were initially held.

initially insisting that he had not been involved in the alleged planned attack, had been taken by the Indonesian authorities to see a former public servant detained in the local KODIM prison. This prisoner told him, "I did not do anything wrong, but in the end I spoke because I could not bear the suffering and punishment I received. It is better to lie and obey". The writer later met two others who had been arrested in connection with the alleged attack who said they, too, had also suffered severe ill-treatment and advised him to admit involvement. The writer of the second letter also asserts that he had not participated in the alleged incident. However, he adds, "I was forced to give way because I could not stand the beating, kicks and electric shocks. ... What is more, they even said that if I would not confess, I would be killed like the Fretilin heroes. But if it had not been for the beating, kicks and shocks and I had just been killed ... I would have had the courage to stick to the truth". Amnesty International does not know the subsequent fate of the 103 arrested in Likisa in March-April 1981. Some were reportedly sent to the island of Atauro. However, there is also disturbing evidence that many of them were subsequently murdered. In their letter of 3 June 1981 to President Suharto already referred to above (see footnote 1, page 1), the provincial assembly (DPRD) members cited a recently received complaint that:

"In the district of Likisa, tens of people were murdered by KODIM after having been tortured with electricity and other forms of burning without adequate reason".

Extrajudicial Executions and "Disappearances"

There is now a large body of evidence indicating that Indonesian forces in East Timor have resorted to extrajudicial executions on a large scale since the very first days of the invasion. Amnesty International now has lists of hundreds of people who were reportedly killed outside combat or "disappeared" between December 1975 and the end of 1982. Amnesty International's own investigations have concentrated on the period from early 1979 and have revealed recurring patterns of large-scale killings and "disappearances" as well as cases of what appear to be random killings of individuals and small groups.

Amnesty International believes that it is now firmly established that several hundred East Timorese were executed throughout the territory between late 1978 and September 1979. Some were killed immediately following surrender or capture, others some time after. Others still were people suspected of associating with Fretilin but who had not themselves joined Fretilin in the bush. An analysis attached to one list of 51 names of persons killed in the eastern part of the territory during these months states that the people on the list had held positions of second and third rank in Fretilin and that some were people in civilian occupations who had never participated in the fighting. Amnesty International's own investigation of these killings suggests that the worst affected areas were in the eastern part of the territory and, in particular, the district of Los Palos and the towns and villages in the vicinity of Mount Matebian. In the course of one operation in the vicinity of Mount Matebian between 15 and 17 April 1979, 118 people not engaged in combat were reportedly executed in Uatolari, Uatocarabau, Viqueque, Ossu, Baguia and hamlets on the southern slopes of the mountain. Amnesty International has the names of 31 people reportedly executed in Kelikai in May-June 1979. A report on the situation in this period states:

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"When they want to liquidate someone, they say that they have gone to continue their studies or that they have left for Jakarta or Lisbon, or that they were called urgently to Kelikai. Kelikai is an administrative post at the foot of Mount Matebian where they have carried out many murders. To speak of Kelikai makes our heart beat and our hair stand on end, for Kelikai means certain death for those called there."

Amnesty International has the names of 82 persons who reportedly "disappeared" or were executed in the Los Palos district in 1979. Amnesty International also has the names of persons who were reportedly killed or "disappeared" in parts of the territory other than the eastern region, including the districts of Aileu and Same and in the capital, Dili.

The following are typical accounts from this period:

Inacio de Fonseca, also known as Solan, surrendered in late 1978 near Ossu with his wife. He was reportedly personally assured by the commander of the regiment to whom he surrendered that he would be safe. He was reportedly killed a few months later in April 1979 in Kelikai. He was reportedly flown by helicopter from Baucau to Kelikai. "They landed near the administrator's office. Afterwards he was taken by four armed men to the hill behind the church. He had been the first to open the way to all those others who surrendered."

Antonio Sarmiento, a market gardener in Seloi, Aileu had surrendered to the Indonesians in January 1979. He was taken away one night in July 1979 by Indonesian troops reportedly as a Fretilin suspect and never returned.

Norberto Correia from the village of Seical, Baucau was taken to Kelikai in May 1979 and interrogated about his sons who were thought to be with Fretilin in the bush. He himself had never been with Fretilin. After being interrogated about his sons' whereabouts he is said to have been killed.

After surrendering to the Indonesians in Uatocarabau, Viqueque, in October or November 1978, Joao Andrade Sarmiento returned to his home in Los Palos and resumed his work as a nurse. In June 1979, he and a number of others were reportedly picked up and killed in Los Palos. Among those killed in this group were: Tome Cristovao, who had reportedly never been a Fretilin sympathizer and had worked with the Indonesians as an interpreter but who was reportedly suspected of disaffection because he had protested at the killings then being carried out in the Los Palos district; and Benedito Savio, who was working as an assistant to the bupati (district administrator) of Los Palos at the time of his death. There were others of those reportedly killed during 1979 who had been incorporated into the Indonesian administrative or military apparatus after the invasion. They included a military unit comprising 41 men led by one Joao Branco. All 41 were reportedly killed in Gari Uai, Baucau, on 3 July 1979 by members of Battalion 126. They had reportedly been accused of having betrayed the Indonesians during the attack on Mount Matebian in November 1978.

During 1979, there were also many reports of people "disappearing", particularly in Dili. An Indonesian who visited East Timor for several months in the first half of 1979 reported that in late March "the people of Dili were in a state of nervousness because of the news that the remaining Fretilin leaders had been kidnapped at night and no one knew of their whereabouts". Father Leoneto Rego, a Portuguese priest who had been allowed to leave East Timor in June 1979, described the situation in Dili at the time of his departure: "No one who had links with Fretilin is safe; at any time they can be taken without their family knowing and put somewhere else, put in a prison camp, or sometimes they just 'disappear'".

Several surrendered and captured Fretilin leaders "disappeared" in Dili and elsewhere at this time. Among them were several persons who had been members of the Central Committee of Fretilin and persons who had been appointed ministers when the Democratic Republic of East Timor had been proclaimed on 27 November 1975, including: the Minister of Education and Culture, Hamis Basarewan Bin Umar; the Minister of Justice, Antonio Duarte Cavarino; the Minister of Finance, Juvenal Maria de Fatima Inacio; the Vice-Minister of National Defence, Hermenegildo Alves; the Vice-Minister for Communications and Transport, Domingos de Costa Ribeiro; and the Central Committee members, Maria do Ceu Pereira Cavarino, Dulce Maria da Cruz, Sebastiao Montalvao, Afonso Redentor de Araujo and Leopoldo Joaquim.

Leopoldo Joaquim, a member of the Fretilin Central Committee, surrendered in Same in the southwest of the territory in early 1978. The event was considered sufficiently important by the Indonesian authorities for them to draw up a propaganda leaflet bearing his photograph and announcing his surrender. He was detained for several months after his surrender in the San Tai Ho warehouse. In April 1979, some time after his release, he was taken by Indonesian troops from his house and escorted to the home of his 17-year-old niece, Maria Gorete Joaquim. Maria Gorete Joaquim had been detained in 1976 as a member of the Fretilin student organization, UNETIM. Both were then taken away, purportedly to work in Baucau. Neither has been seen or traced since. Various unconfirmed reports of their execution have reached Amnesty International.

Several of those who "disappeared" from Dili were being held in prison at the time of their "disappearance". Among them was the Fretilin armed forces commander, Domingos da Costa Ribeiro, who had reportedly been captured and brought to Dili in 1977. He and ten other prisoners held in the Comarco were reportedly taken on the night of 18 April 1979 from the prison to a beach in the east of Dili called Areia Branca and executed by members of Battalion 745, a Timorese unit commanded by Indonesians. In this group of prisoners were also Filomeno Alves and Manecas Exposto, known in Dili before the invasion as members of a popular musical group, the Cinco do Oriente, both of whom had surrendered in Maubisse in January 1979. Two other prisoners held in the Comarca, Joao de Conceicao, formerly an official in the Public Works Department under the Portuguese, and Joao Bosco Sarmiento Quintao, formerly a military policeman in the Portuguese army. Both were taken by troops of the RPKAD one night in March 1979 and never reappeared. Amnesty International has received reports that these two prisoners were killed at Lake Tacitolu, west of Dili. Amnesty International has received frequent reports of persons being taken to Areia Branca and Lake Tacitolu to be killed.

Relatives of Nicolau Lobato, the Fretilin president, who was reportedly killed in combat in December 1978, were apparently singled out for execution. After a period of detention following surrender, the mother of Nicolau Lobato, Felismina Lobato, was reportedly killed with several of her children in March or April 1979 in Lacluta, Viqueque. Nicolau Lobato's sister, Maria Lobato, and her husband Moises Piedade were reportedly killed in Uai Bobo, Baucau, in March 1979. Nicolau Lobato's uncle, Paolo, "disappeared" in late 1980 in Dili some time after his surrender.

Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of "disappearances" and executions since 1979. Another wave of arrests, killings and "disappearances" occurred in Dili after the Fretilin attack of 10 June 1980. Aside from "disappearances" such as that of Venancio Gomes cited above, Amnesty International has received reports of outright killings by forces under Indonesian command in the immediate aftermath of the attack. Fifty families living in the neighbourhood of Dare where the attack took place were reportedly killed at random in reprisal for the raid. A report on some of the killings that occurred in Dare after the June attack was sent by the then Bishop of Dili, Msgr. Martinho da Costa Lopes, to the Archbishop of Jakarta. On 13 June 1980, one Norberto had reportedly surrendered in the company of the bishop and other priests to the local military commander who had guaranteed his safety. A few days later, Norberto was reportedly brought to the hall of Dare seminary where he was beaten and tortured by members of the civilian militia (Hansip). On 21 June, he was reportedly killed and his body thrown in a ravine. The bishop's letter also records the public torture and killing, again by members of Hansip, on 2-3 July 1980 of three men and a woman. Amnesty International has also been informed that following the attack of 10 June 1980, 18 persons were taken by truck to a place called Fatu Ha'i near Becora east of Dili on the road to Baucau by members of the RPKAD. These persons were reportedly shot as they descended from the truck, their bodies then being rolled down a hill and left. Amnesty International has the names of 74 persons who are reported to have been executed, to have "disappeared" or to have died as a result of torture in the Dili area following the attack of 10 June 1980;

During Operation Security (Operasi Keamanan) in July-September 1981, thousands of Timorese were deployed to form "fences" of people who were to converge on and flush out remaining Fretilin forces. Reports indicate that civilians recruited for this operation were placed in extreme danger to their lives. They were required to advance in front of Indonesian forces and were unarmed or armed only with primitive weapons. Amnesty International received many reports that those who returned to their homes after the operation showed signs of serious physical debility as a result of inadequate food rations. It is also clear that many did not return to their homes. It is not possible to gauge the numbers killed in the operation or to establish the precise circumstances of their deaths. Amnesty International received reports covering the period of the operation of persons being killed outside combat.

B., a 33-year-old former member of Fretilin who had surrendered in 1978, was taken from his home in the Grilos area of Dili one night in September 1981 by Indonesian troops. He was one of a group of about 500 forcibly conscripted in Dili at this time. In late September, the bodies of those of the group who had been killed in the operation were brought back to Dili. They included the body of B. who had been shot in the back of the head. Witnesses to his death alleged that he was one of several Timorese killed by Indonesian troops after a Fretilin unit had managed to evade capture.

Although Amnesty International has not received reports of large-scale killings and "disappearances" since the time of Operation Security in 1981, reports of individual killings have persisted, and there are grounds for concern that, in the absence of any clear intent to bring Indonesian forces within the framework of the law, circumstances may arise in which Indonesian forces resort to brutal measures on a large scale.

Amnesty International continues to receive reports such as the following:

- In November 1982, four persons, Jose Viegas, Augusto Bello, Augusto Gusmao and Cosmo Freitas were picked up by Indonesian troops in Vemasse, Baucau, on suspicion of having relations with Fretilin. Jose Viegas, a primary school teacher, was reportedly killed after his arrest. The others who were reportedly protected by the intervention of their families were taken to Dili where they were held for a period in the former Portuguese barracks in Taibesse.
- Also in November 1982, Joao Brito from Viqueque was reportedly executed by Indonesian soldiers in Veneilale, Baucau, after he had beaten an Indonesian soldier who had sexually molested his wife.
- In about October 1982, F., who had surrendered the previous month, was reportedly publicly burnt to death in Ainaro. After his surrender, he had reportedly been recruited to work with the Indonesians and had been sent back to the bush with the task of inducing Fretilin followers to surrender. Soon after his return from the bush, the town of Ainaro was attacked. The Indonesians reportedly accused him of betraying them and burned him to death publicly as an example.

Atauro and Other Places of Detention

Reports of the transportation of people to the island of Atauro began in mid-1980 when an unknown number of people were reportedly sent to the island for alleged participation in the attack of 10 June 1980 referred to earlier. G., who had surrendered in Manatuto in February 1979, was one of about 600 people arrested in July 1980 following the June attack. He was 13 years old at the time of the invasion and still only 17 at the time of his arrest. After a period of interrogation in the military district headquarters in the Colmera district and a period of detention in the Comarca prison in Dili, he was sent to the island of Atauro. He was arrested at work, and his family have never been officially informed of his whereabouts. Amnesty International received further reports of the

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transportation to Atauro in December 1980-April 1981 of several hundred more Timorese from the areas of Los Palos, Baucau and Liquica. Those sent to Atauro during this period were reportedly civilians suspected of being sympathetic to Fretilin rather than active guerrillas. The people known to Amnesty International by name who were sent during this period were, indeed, engaged in civilian activities as government employees, farmers, teachers and students prior to their arrest. However, the majority of those transported to Atauro were sent there in June-September 1981 during Operation Security, when more than 3,400 persons were sent to the island.

A high proportion of those sent to the island were women, children and old people. The case of J. is illustrative. Her husband was a member of Fretilin. She was picked up in Dili for interrogation by Indonesian troops in early 1981 and under interrogation stated that her husband was still alive. As a result, she, her sister, her mother and her three children were all sent to Atauro. Another case concerned an eight-year-old boy, one of 16 listed in official statistics as orphans, who was sent to Atauro because the Indonesian authorities had learned that his brother was a member of Fretilin still in the bush.

The conditions facing people sent to Atauro in 1980-81 were deplorable. At that time detainees were being provided with no more than one can of maize a week as their food ration and were supposed to supplement this by growing their own food. In practice, the infertility of the island and the composition of the population held there made this extremely difficult, and most were forced to forage for leaves, roots and other edible matter. Official statistics put the number of deaths among the detainee population between June 1981 and May 1982 at 176. However, reports received by Amnesty International indicate that at least twice this number of persons were reported to have died of malnutrition, gastroenteritis and malaria in the second half of 1981.

Families transported to Atauro were initially expected to build their own shelter, but in December 1981 the detainees were moved into newly built barracks, each measuring 20 feet by 60 feet and accommodating approximately 60 people. Following the visit to Atauro by a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in February 1982, the Indonesian authorities agreed that the Committee should undertake an emergency food and medical relief program on Atauro.

Despite earlier Indonesian assurances that Atauro would be closed, possibly by mid-1982, the number of detainees held there increased substantially during the year from 3,280 persons in February 1982 to more than 4,000 by mid-September 1982. Since the beginning of 1983, substantial numbers of people have reportedly been returned to the mainland. It is understood that the number of persons still held on Atauro had been reduced by August 1983 to about 1,600. Amnesty International has received reports that those sent back to the mainland were not necessarily returned to their home villages. One group of people who had been held on Atauro were reportedly sent not to their former homes in the eastern part of the territory but to "resettlement villages" near Maliana in the far west.

Amnesty International continues to receive reports of detainees held without charge or trial in places other than Atauro. It is now understood that the number

of political prisoners held in the Comarca in Dili is considerably lower than in 1979, when about 700 people were reportedly held in this prison, and that no more than 10 persons may now be held there for political reasons. Among those believed to be still held there are two cousins, Januario and David Ximenes, and Mariano Bonaparte, all of whom had been arrested after the incident of 10 June 1980; and a group of five persons ^{7/} who were doing national service in the enclave of Oecusse at the time of the Indonesian invasion and who were transferred to the Comarca in late 1977 and have been held there ever since. Amnesty International has, on several occasions, expressed its concern at conditions in the Comarca. It understands that there has been some improvement in the food and medical care given to prisoners since 1980. However, recent reports confirm that tuberculosis is prevalent in the prison. Amnesty International has the names of 11 former prisoners who died from tuberculosis believed to have been contracted in the Comarca. Amnesty International also understands that payments of money have had to be made by prisoners to secure their release from the Comarca and that at least some of those still held there may be held because they cannot afford these payments.

In addition to the small remaining group of prisoners held in Dili District Prison, Amnesty International has received frequent reports of detainees held without trial in other detention centres. Detention facilities attached to the local military and police commands exist in each of the 13 districts of the territory. Reports have been received of detainees held for political reasons in such prisons in Liquica, Uatolari, Viqueque and Baucau. There have also been frequent reports of special detention centres in Aileu and Atabae where political prisoners are reported to be held and of people arrested for political reasons being sent to islands other than Atauro offshore East Timor and to the Indonesian islands of Flores, Sumbawa and Bali.

Apart from a continuing program of visits to the island of Atauro, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has not been permitted access to any prisons aside from Dili District Prison and a prison attached to the military district command (KODIM) headquarters in Los Palos, and it is understood that visits even to these prisons have not been carried out since November 1982.

Conclusions

On 20 July 1983, Amnesty International wrote to President Suharto bringing to his attention its concern that the manuals referred to above appeared to officially condone the torture and possibly even the killing of Fretilin supporters. In its letter, Amnesty International urged President Suharto most strongly to issue immediate instructions of all forces under his command prohibiting the torture of prisoners in all circumstances.

^{7/} Their names are: Wenceslau de Carvalho, Vicente Nunes, Celestino da Conceicao, Jose Agapito and Espirito Santo.

Amnesty International reminded President Suharto that it had communicated to the Indonesian Government on a number of occasions in recent years its concern at repeated reports of serious human rights violations committed by Indonesian forces in the territory of East Timor. It recalled a previous letter written to President Suharto in April 1980 expressing concern about reports of serious human rights violations in East Timor, including reports that a number of people who had surrendered to or been captured by Indonesian forces had subsequently "disappeared" and may have been executed. On that occasion, Amnesty International urged President Suharto to instruct Indonesian forces in East Timor to ensure the safety of such people in compliance with the terms of the amnesty which he had personally offered in August 1977.

The Indonesian Government has responded to Amnesty International's statement of concern that serious human rights violations appear to have been officially condoned in East Timor by denying that the Ministry of Defence and Security has issued any manuals specifically covering East Timor. 8/

Amnesty International does not regard the Indonesian Government's response as satisfactory. Amnesty International has said that the manuals in its possession were issued not by the Ministry of Defence and Security, as the spokesman seemed to imply, but by the military command for East Timor, and Amnesty International has no reason to doubt that they are genuine.

In the absence of official assurances that the types of policies prescribed and condoned in the manuals are not to be countenanced, Amnesty International continues to be gravely concerned about the prospect for human rights in East Timor. In view of the substantial evidence now available that the human rights of individual Timorese have been systematically and persistently violated since the Indonesian invasion, and in view of the lack of evidence of any official desire to countermand what appear to be standing policies whose predictable outcome is the perpetration of such violations, Amnesty International remains deeply concerned that the human rights of the East Timorese will continue to be violated for as long as the people of East Timor express opposition to the Indonesian occupation.

8/ A spokesman of the Ministry of Defence and Security was quoted as saying, "we have never issued such a manual for East Timor". He added that there was a general manual issued to all Indonesian military units but declined to give details. He said that, as East Timor was considered part of Indonesian territory, no special manual would have been issued specifically covering East Timor.