

Hold Henry Kissinger Accountable for Crimes against the Peoples of East Timor & West Papua

ON DECEMBER 6, 1975, then Secretary of State Kissinger and President Gerald Ford met with Indonesia's dictator in Jakarta. At their meeting, Ford gave Suharto an explicit go ahead for the invasion of the Portuguese colony of East Timor, which was seeking independence. Indonesia launched its brutal invasion the next day. According to East Timor's Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) up to 183,000 died as a result of the invasion and illegal occupation which lasted until 1999. Declassified and leaked documents clearly show that Kissinger understood that Suharto was balking at invading, concerned that the U.S. would cut off its supply of weapons and military training. Kissinger guaranteed continuation of weapons shipments and increased them the following year. For more on Kissinger's role in East Timor, see <http://etan.org/news/kissinger/>.



Kissinger, Suharto, and Ford meet.

The Indonesian dictator then raised the Timor issue, saying, "We want your understanding, if we deem it necessary to take rapid or drastic action." Ford, accompanied by Kissinger, replied: "We will understand and will not press you on the issue. Kissinger said "you appreciate that the use of U.S. weapons could create problems," adding "It is important that whatever you do succeed quickly." (Quotes from Embassy Jakarta Telegram 1579 to Secretary State, 6 December 1975)

Indonesia first invaded West Papua, then Netherlands New Guinea, in 1961. Henry Kissinger, in his capacity as the Secretary of State, played a personal role in insuring that West Papuans were not given the opportunity to have a genuine independence referendum in 1969. The sham "consultation" that took place instead, the so-called "Act of Free Choice," condemned the West Papuan people to decades of terror under an Indonesian occupation, which continues today. Kissinger later served on the Board of Directors of Freeport McMoRan, the U.S. company which controls the some of the world's largest copper and gold mines in West Papua. Kissinger defended the company's interests in post-Suharto Indonesia.

KISSINGER committed or facilitated war and other crimes in Vietnam, Angola, Cambodia, Chile, Bangladesh, Cyprus and elsewhere throughout his diplomatic career. His well documented actions concerning East Timor and West Papua resulted in indiscriminate slaughter, torture, rape and disappearances and brutal oppression. Instead of treating him as a respected member of the community, Henry Kissinger should be brought to justice.

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