Act for justice & peace in East Timor

For more than 24 years, the U.S. provided political and military support for the illegal Indonesian occupation of East Timor. More than one-third of the population -- over 200,000 people -- were killed. After East Timor voted for independence in 1999, the Indonesian military (TNI) finally left the country. But as they left, the TNI and their militias killed, raped, and ravaged the country.

The people of East Timor demand justice. Instead, the U.S. is rushing to resume military engagement with Indonesia, as part of the "war on terror". Just like a pre-emptive war on Iraq, U.S. military support for Indonesia will increase terror, not fight it!

What you can do:

* Call your Representative and ask her/him to sign the Congressional letter by Rep Lane Evans (D-IL) calling for an international tribunal for East Timor. Call your Representative through the Congressional switchboard: 202-224-3121. Other contact info is at www.congress.gov.

* Call your Senators & Representative to tell them the U.S. should NOT support the Indonesian military until it is under full civilian control, stops violating human rights, and its members are held accountable for past atrocities in East Timor and Indonesia. Call 202-224-3121.

Contact Us:
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East Timor acts for justice & peace

This weekend, East Timorese and international activists will rally in Dili, East Timor’s capital city. They will march to the U.S., British and Australian embassies demanding Hapara Funu! ("Stop the war!" in Tetum, East Timor’s lingua franca).

The Hapara Funu organizing committee wrote a letter to the three embassies, stating:
For 25 years, the East Timorese people have experienced war, and we know how much suffering it brings to civilians. Now, we want peace not only for our own country, but also for the whole world.

From the poem "Se-karik..." ("If...") by East Timorese activist, lawyer and former parliamentarian Aderito de Jesus Soares:

Se-karik ha’u bele hamaran mina-rai
Ha’u sei hamaran mina-rai iha Iraq
Ba fulan ida, nian laran
Fo tempu ba Bush, Powell hodi hanoin tan...

Se-karik ha’u anzu
Ha’u sei fo liras ba labarik sira hotu
Hodi semo
Wainhira bomba tun iha Iraq...

If I could remove oil
I’d remove it from Iraq’s soil
for one month
to give Bush and Powell time to ponder...

If I were an angel
I’d give wings to every child
to fly
when the bombs fall on Iraq...