

Shatter the Silence! Acknowledge the Crime!



A scene from Joshua Oppenheimer's documentary *The Look of Silence*.
Courtesy of DraftHouse Films and Participant Media.

“There was lots of foreign support for the genocide and that is used as an excuse not to apologize.... It's my hope that the U.S. will also take responsibility for its part...” —Joshua Oppenheimer, co-director *THE LOOK OF SILENCE*

50 years ago, the Indonesian army led by General Suharto unleashed a murderous campaign of terror against suspected communists and alleged associates, including activists, artists and intellectuals, peasant's groups and labor unions. Backed by the West, Suharto soon took over as president, and his hardline authoritarian rule in for decades to come.

Hundreds of thousands of victims of the anti-communist purge were killed, disappeared, raped and imprisoned. Between October 1965 and March 1966, an estimated one million people were killed and some 1.7 million more were imprisoned without trial. This was one of the worst mass murders of the 20th century.

These crimes were committed by the Indonesian army, as well as by army-sponsored civilian mobs, gangsters and para-military groups of the kind featured in *THE LOOK OF SILENCE* and *THE ACT OF KILLING*.

Not one person has been brought to justice for the massive violations of human rights committed over a sustained period. The killers are instead applauded by the government as national heroes.

Indonesia has made progress in its transition to democracy

since the downfall of Suharto in 1998, but the perpetrators of these and other gross violations of human rights in Timor-Leste (East Timor), Aceh, West Papua and elsewhere have also evaded justice and even occupy prominent positions in Indonesia.

Break the Silence!

The films have fueled a debate within Indonesia and drawn attention internationally to events long kept out of U.S. history books: events that the U.S. government facilitated and celebrated. Join the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) and other human rights groups in calling to account those in the West who encouraged and assisted in the mass violence in Indonesia.

Go online and sign ETAN's petition, <http://chn.ge/1v50Edj>, urging the U.S. government to take two immediate steps:

- 1) declassify and release all documents related to the U.S. role in the mass violence, including details of the CIA's covert operations, and
- 2) formally acknowledge its role in facilitating the 1965-66 violence and its subsequent support for the brutalities of the Suharto regime.

For additional information and things you can do, see www.etan.org/shattersilence

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