

JOINT DECLARATION
Dili, 29 August 2019

Strengthening Solidarity for Self Determination and Social Justice

We, the participants of the Conference to Strengthen Solidarity and Peace, On the occasion of commemoration of 20th anniversary of the Referendum Day, reaffirm our solidarity to the people of Timor-Leste and citizens of the world to continue our struggle against social injustice, undemocratic rules, human rights violations, climate injustice, and development that is not prioritizing people's needs.

All of us who gathered at this conference preoccupied with the following situations:

1. In Australia, the friends of the people of Timor-Leste and heroes of freedom of expression, Bernard Collaery and Witness K are facing prosecution. The pair exemplify the citizens of the world with conscious about the injustice Australia committed against Timor-Leste. And we, therefore, are concerned about their continue prosecution.
2. Climate Justice, including the proliferation of climate change is a global concern. There are 100 corporations emitting 70% of the world's gas emission contributing to the world's pollution. This is done through close cooperation with corrupt governments. Coal is the source of air pollution and cause of different diseases, including cancer, heart disease and other respiratory diseases.
3. The people of West Papua is and has been facing injustice in their own land and in Indonesia. Activists are arrested, tortured, jailed, and killed because they express their wish to self determination through referendum. Innocent people are displaced by violence committed by the Indonesian security forces.
4. The Philippines Government continue its military action against Bangsamoro. This act has caused widespread destructions and displaced the Bangsamoro people. Many people lost their homes and means of living. The Government of the Philippine and the leaders of Bangsamoro are still unable to find peaceful solution to the situation, leaving ordinary people continue to suffer.
5. The people and leaders in Western Sahara supported the people of Timor-Leste for their struggle of independence. Today, the people of Western Sahara continue to live under the oppression of the Moroccan Kingdom. The people of Western Sahara face repression on daily basis, no freedom of assembly and expression, and the movement for continue to suffer arrest, jail and torture for their struggle for self determination.
6. The struggle for self determination terminated on 30 August 1999, 20 years ago, occurred due to a good mixture of domestic and overseas components, particularly the international solidarity organizations. They showed solidarity to Timor-Leste with the view that dictatorship in many places like in Western Sahara, West Papua, Maluku, Bougainville, Kanak, Kurdistan, Hawaii and Patani.

In Timor-Leste, we continue to see that there are different progresses, but these progresses have missed the principles of self-determination, including the principle of people's liberation. We continue to note that:

1. The sense of solidarity amongst the national leaders are diminishing. The leaders start to ignore that independence that the people gained also thanks to international solidarity support. Solidarity with Timor-Leste from Europe, Asia, Africa and America dedicated their time, resources and their will for Timor-Leste to determine its own future.
2. After 20 years, the way of living of the people changed significantly. Many people start to concern only about themselves while many people still live in darkness. Unemployment rate drastically increased, due to limited employment opportunities and governance is full of corruption. Public health services started to be privatized and education be classified

between the children of the elites and ordinary people. The elites' children educated at good quality schools while ordinary children educated in public schools with many limitations.

3. The victims of the past human rights violations have been waiting for 20 years, but no justice to the crime against humanity in the past has been delivered. Actors of the violations remain free while their victims continue to suffer. 18000 people forcibly disappeared are yet to be found, with very few have been reunited with their families. The women, victims of sexual violence are yet to recover from their traumas and gain ability to continue their life. These are clearly outlined in the CAVR and CVA reports, but the State parties to the conflict, particularly Indonesia have largely ignored the implementation of recommendations from these reports.
4. Timor-Leste has lost its food sovereignty. Public Investment that only focuses on major infrastructure projects contributing to the diminishing good agricultural practices. There are changes in community's culture of consumption and their way of preserving their water, land and resources. There is high dependence on rice as the main staple, even though rice production is very low due to lack of water conservation. The development of education system deviates from the society's culture thus contribute to eliminating local wisdoms, including those of protecting forests and water.
5. The State of Timor-Leste commits violence against the human rights of its citizens, particularly the economic and social rights for neglecting the social and economic development of the people. People are left into poverty due to lack of access to clean water, quality education, and healthy food. Budget allocation has always been less than 1% to clean water, leaving many villages and households without access to clean water.
6. Economic development that does not give importance to the development of the people will contribute to Timor-Leste not achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Domestic workers find no place in the economy, as their works continue to be regarded as servants. Middle and elite households continue to exploit and treat domestic workers' service without dignity; paid less than minimum wage, and without protection of labor rights. The government and parliament have not considered any legislation to change this situation.
7. Household economy of Timor-Leste continue to benefit from remittance from Timorese workers overseas. The government counts them as State revenue. But Timorese workers overseas continue to face various problems, including mistreatments from their companies, no protection, small pay, no health insurance, no freedom to join union and sometimes no clear explanation provided on their wage cuts.
8. Women's participation in economic development faces many difficulties. Structural violence occurring regularly but the public institutions continue to adhere to patriarchal culture. Women, due to domestic works obligations, have limited access to public employments. Infrastructures and public security services give no consideration to women's participation as women continue to feel insecure for night time jobs and insecure on the streets at anytime.
9. The government continues to practice both colonial and capitalist development. Only thinking of how to gain revenue through forcing people to accept whatever the government imposes on them. These acts can be seen in the investment in mega projects while neglecting health, education and agriculture sectors. The Tasi Mane and other project would only depleting the Petroleum Fund, project with income to only a few and offer no benefits to the majority of the people.
10. Also considering that colonialism and capitalism are the root causes of climate crisis. People of many countries rich in oil continue to be poor. Many countries rich in oil live in conflict with their neighbors. People who live in oil exploration areas lost their lands, their agriculture and their culture.

Reflecting on the concerns emanated from this conference, we wish to call for attention of the following entities:

1. Civil Society Organizations must institutionalize the struggle of international solidarity as a best practice lesson from the struggle for self-determination.
2. Civil Society Organizations must continue watch and guard development of democracy and human rights not to be violated by States and leaders.
3. Civil Society Organizations must continue empower communities and turn them into actors of development and actors of social accountability for all government services.
4. Civil Society Organizations must continue the fight for justice for past Human Rights violations; in Timor-Leste and other countries, including West Papua, Western Sahara, Palestine, Rohingya, Bangsamoro, Bougainville, Kanak, Kurdistan, Hawaii and Patani.
5. The Government of Timor-Leste must ratify the international convention on enforced disappearance of persons and to establish a good quality mechanism to reintegrate stolen children into their families, communities and nation.
6. The Government of Timor-Leste must protect the domestic workers with a specific law that dignifies and respects their human rights and their works.
7. The Government of Timor-Leste must reconsider the bad practices in the usage of Petroleum Fund. The continuing irresponsible and unsustainable use of the fund jeopardizes the future of the people of Timor-Leste. This will be exacerbated if health, education and agriculture sectors are undeveloped.
8. The Government of Timor-Leste must invest more in the public education, where ordinary children are educated. Provide adequate facilities in health, sanitation, and good quality education equally to all children.
9. The Government of Indonesia must immediately stop human rights violations in West Papua, respect the West Papuans' aspirations and allow the entrance of international observers and international assistance to address the sufferings of the people of West Papua.
10. The Government of Indonesia must show responsibility for past human rights violations by taking care of and support victims of sexual violence, stolen children, and recover the victims' life.
11. The Government of Indonesia must implement the recommendations of the CAVR and CVA reports.
12. All movements against climate injustice to strengthen the solidarity in the fights against colonialism and capitalism, which continue to harm the environment, create inequality, poverty, and other social injustices.
13. To the government of Australia, we continue to show our support for Witness K and Bernard Collaery and call on the Federal Attorney General to drop all charges against them.
14. To the government of Australia must be smarter in its development and considering that using coal for industry increase climate injustice and put the people of Australia and the World in danger. Stop using coal for energy.
15. The Government of the Philippines must put a stop to the military actions against the people of Bangsamoro as military actions cause social and infrastructure destructions. Opt for pacific means in finding solution for the problems faced by the Bangsamoro.
16. We offer our support and solidarity with the national liberation movements in Western Sahara, West Papua, Palestine, Kurdistan, Bougainville, Kanak, Hawaii, Patani and Maluku as part of struggle to uphold human rights and self determination.
17. The Public to encourage their children and all adults to take part in the Children's movement for climate justice action scheduled to take place on the coming 20th September 2019.

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
LONG LIVE TIMOR-LESTE!
THE FIGHT GOES ON.

SIGNATORS: