

Movement Against the Occupation of the Timor Sea

Movimentu Kontra Okupasaun Tasi Timor

10 December 2013

Press Release

Today, 10 December 2013, the whole world celebrates the 53rd International Human Rights Day. Recalling the torture, violations, massacres and suffering which the people of Timor-Leste endured during many years, we, the **Movement Against the Occupation of the Timor Sea**, an alliance of students, youth, resistance members, civil society and popular organisations in Timor-Leste, have chosen to celebrate this day, in front of the Australian Embassy to declare:

A. Our Objections

1. From the beginning, the Government of Australia supported Indonesia's invasion of Timor-Leste, which killed nearly 200,000 Timorese people. The Government of Australia must take responsibility for their mistakes of the past and apologise to the people of Timor-Leste.
2. Regarding Australian Intelligence which spied on Timor-Leste during the negotiation of the CMATS (Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea) Treaty, this act showed disrespect for the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL), devaluing principles of human rights, justice and democracy.
3. The seizure of the passport of Timor-Leste's main witness for the CMATS arbitration case violates fundamental principles of human rights, including freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of testimony, as well as the concept of a free and fair trial.
4. These acts by the Australian Government demonstrate a manifest unwillingness to be a good neighbour and to find a just and sustainable solution to resolve the maritime boundary between Timor-Leste and Australia. We urge Australia to be ready to settle this issue according to international legal principle, using the median line to define our respective Exclusive Economic Zones. Both Timorese and Australian people have the right to justice, and a median line is the fairest solution for both of our peoples.

B. Our Demands

1. **To the Government of Australia**
 - a. To free the principal witness to travel and respect the professionalism of attorney Bernard Collaery.

- b. To respect the sovereignty of Timor-Leste and cease further espionage against Timor-Leste.
- c. To show good will in discussion a maritime boundary based on the median line.

2. To the People of Australia and Timor-Leste

- a. Our bonds of friendship have been developed through periods of adversity, beginning with the Second World War in which 40,000 Timorese people gave their lives, then in 1975 when the five journalists working for Australian media were killed in Balibo, and when you supported us in 1999. We ask the people of Australia and Timor-Leste to pay attention to their Government leaders so as to ensure good-faith cooperation based on the principles of non-interference, a fair trial and free and open testimony, as well as those principles in international conventions which promote of peace, the reduction of poverty, prevention of hunger and respect for human dignity.
- b. The Australian people must scrutinise and demand accountability of their Government in the expenditure of taxes, particularly regarding AusAID in all countries where they operate, so that the program is not used for spying.
- c. We, the Timorese people, must continue to assert our rights to land and maritime territory which is rightfully ours under international legal principles. The Australian people are our friends, and many have given their time, their future and their lives four our rights. We want to strengthen our genuine relationship between the people of our two nations, based on mutual respect of each other's rights.

Viva Povu Australia // Long Live the Australian People

Viva Povu Timor-Leste // Long Live the Timorese People

Dili, 10 December 2013

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