



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Timor-Leste Government reaffirms full support for Australian and NZ troops

The Timor-Leste Government has today reaffirmed its total support for the work being done by Australian and New Zealand troops in helping to restore law and order in the country.

First Deputy Prime Minister Estanislau da Silva said the Government deeply appreciated the efforts the Joint Task Force was making to help bring peace and security to the community.

“These soldiers are completely neutral and are conducting themselves professionally under very difficult circumstances,” Mr da Silva said.

“It is important to remember they were invited here by the President of the Republic Xanana Gusmao; the President of the Parliament of East Timor Mr. Francisco Guterres "Lu-Olo"; and the Prime Minister of the I Constitutional Government of Timor Leste Dr Mari Alkatiri. All three pillars of State invited these soldiers to Timor-Leste.

“The Security Council of the United Nations passed a resolution setting up the new UNMIT Mission to Timor-Leste and this includes UNPOL and JTF631. They work cooperatively side-by-side and command each other’s respect.”

There are 1000 Australians and 110 New Zealanders in Joint Task Force 631 (JTF631).

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