

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 23 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on instruction from my Government, to submit to you a copy of a letter signed by Mari Bin Amude Alkatiri, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, requesting the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (see annex). I would highly appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) José Luis **Guterres**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

20 January 2005

Timor-Leste has benefited greatly from the support of the United Nations, most particularly through the United Nations peacekeeping operations, UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor) and UNMISSET (United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor). Together, we have traversed a long distance since the popular consultations organized in 1999 and Timor-Leste is now securely anchored on the path towards democracy, peace and development. We would like to take this opportunity to particularly mark our deepest appreciation for the assistance received from the United Nations and for the excellent and dedicated work conducted by dedicated peacekeepers, civilian, police and military, in Timor-Leste.

The completion of the mandate of UNMISSET on 20 May 2005 would mark a historic step in our journey towards self-reliance and self-sufficiency. However, we do strongly feel that additional assistance for a further year would be required in the following areas.

First, the continued presence of around 41 military liaison officers stationed along our yet to be demarcated land border with Indonesia to facilitate the contacts between the security agencies of Timor-Leste and Indonesia and also to contribute to capacity-building of the Timorese police force, particularly its Border Patrol Unit, which will eventually have the task of managing the border between Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The presence of United Nations military liaison officers would be necessary to strengthen the capacities of the Border Patrol Unit to ultimately take on the required tasks. We understand that in the light of the security challenges that face our globalizing world a small detachment of military officers may also be required to guarantee the security of the military liaison officers, as Timor-Leste cannot be expected at the current stage of our development to guarantee the security of international civilian or military personnel.

Secondly, around 58 civilian trainers, particularly in the fields of justice and finance, to ensure that our nascent and developing institutions can arrive at the critical threshold of self-sufficiency and sustainability and to ensure that the peace so diligently won and maintained with the assistance of the successive United Nations operations is not jeopardized by any perception in the Timorese society of a lack of transparency or absence of the rule of law. There is a particular need to strengthen technically the National Parliament, the Office of the President and the office of the Prime Minister.

Thirdly, around 62 police trainers, largely to complement and supplement the continuing mid-term bilateral police training programmes. The deployment of those police trainers would contribute significantly to the eventual emergency of the national police as a responsive, efficient, effective and accountable police force, governed by and committed to the highest standards of policing in a democratic country, and devoted to the promotion and protection of all human rights of all citizens and residents of Timor-Leste.

Finally, we think that a coordinated and coherent structure for the provision of this assistance that also includes the possibility of human rights and other advisers would be preferable as it would enable the Timorese institutions of sovereignty to have a single focal point of contact in times of need. The leadership of such a structure would also enable us to benefit from the best advice that the international community can offer to us.

We have the fullest faith that your recommendations to the Security Council would be critical in devising the appropriate mechanism through which the requirements outlined by us could possibly be met. We look forward to continuing discussions with you and your Special Representative, Sukehiro Hasegawa, in this direction.

We are also sending similar letters to the leaders of the countries that are members of the Security Council and we would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mari Bin Amude **Alkatiri**
Prime Minister
Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
