

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Figueiredo, Miranda, Ainarði, Marset Campos, Sjöstedt, Morgantini, Theonas, Alavanos, Papayannakis, Manisco, and Seppänen

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the situation in East Timor

B5-0114/99

Resolution on the situation in East Timor

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on East Timor,
- A. whereas East Timor has been illegally occupied by Indonesia for the last 24 years, a fact which has prompted the UN to adopt a series of resolutions calling on Indonesia to withdraw and constantly reaffirming the right of the East Timorese people to independence,
- B. whereas the Indonesian occupying forces have repeatedly violated human rights and trodden them underfoot; and whereas a toll of countless thousands of victims and untold losses has been exacted from the East Timorese people,
- C. having regard to the New York agreement on East Timor, signed by Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the UN,
- D. having regard to the significant and unambiguous result of the referendum held on 30 August, in which the turn-out was 98.6% and an overwhelming majority of the East Timorese people – 78.5% - opted for independence,
- E. whereas the UN and the international observers believe, in spite of pressure from and the campaign of intimidation mounted by the anti-independence militias in the run-up to the referendum, that the voting was conducted freely and fairly,
- F. whereas the Indonesian authorities themselves have said that they consider the vote to have been free and fair,
- G. whereas paramilitary groups opposed to independence, aided and abetted by the Indonesian army and police, have been waging a systematic campaign of violent, criminal attacks on the East Timorese people, Unamet officials and the religious authorities, and observers and journalists, which have already claimed an unspecified toll of victims and compelled an unknown number of refugees to abandon their homes, more often than not destroyed by fire, to seek shelter and safety elsewhere,
- H. whereas the operations of the anti-independence paramilitary groups, carried out with complete impunity, are intended to terrorise the population and thwart their aspirations to independence, expressed incontrovertibly in the referendum,
- I. whereas the statements by President Habibie, bowing to international pressure, hold out hope that the current situation can be resolved by the deployment of a UN-sponsored international peace-keeping force,
- J. whereas, despite these statements, the situation on the ground remains extremely serious,

- K. whereas Xanana Gusmão, President of the National Council for Timorese Resistance (CNRT) has been released from prison,
1. Applauds the people of East Timor for their exemplary behaviour and the historic decision they took in the referendum, the reward for a selfless, heroic struggle, to end the Indonesian occupation and build a free and independent democratic nation, and reaffirms its support for their battle for the right of self-determination;
 2. Roundly condemns the massacres and criminal actions perpetrated by the anti-independence paramilitary groups, or militias as they are termed, which, with the backing of the Indonesian police and army, have already killed an unspecified number of people;
 3. Condemns the Indonesian authorities for breaking the promises they made in the New York agreement, since they have failed to guarantee the security of the referendum and the people of East Timor;
 4. Deplores the failure of the Security Council to respond promptly and properly to the gravity of the situation in East Timor in the manner required by the UN Charter;
 5. Appeals to the Council Presidency, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, and the international community to grant immediate humanitarian aid as a matter of urgency to the people of East Timor and to seek to ensure that refugees and displaced persons can return safely and non-governmental organisations, international observers, and journalists are allowed to enter the territory;
 6. Appeals to the UN Security Council to observe the principles of its Charter and ensure compliance with the law and the wishes of the people of East Timor, not least by sending a peace-keeping force as soon as possible and as a matter of urgency, laying down a clear-cut mandate for a predetermined period to help East Timor move towards independence;
 7. Maintains that there can be no possible doubt as to the status of East Timor, since it has been spelt out in successive UN resolutions calling for Indonesian withdrawal and constantly reaffirming the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination;
 8. Calls on the Indonesian authorities to show by their deeds that they respect East Timor's desire for independence, expressed tellingly and unequivocally in the referendum on 30 August, and will honour their obligations under the New York agreement;
 9. Calls on the Council Presidency and the governments of the Member States strongly to condemn Indonesia for its part in the current serious incidents and, exercising their respective powers, to do what is necessary to make to make Indonesia accept the referendum result;
 10. Calls for continuing pressure to be exerted on the Indonesian authorities, since, notwithstanding the statements by President Habibie, the situation on the ground remains extremely serious;

11. Praises the staff of the UN mission, Unamet, for their work on the ground and calls on the UN to maintain a presence in East Timor to enable the territory to move towards self-determination and independence;
12. Calls on the Council Presidency and the Member States to consider whether they might impose political and economic sanctions on Indonesia and ban exports of any type of weapons to that country;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Council Presidency to begin to take steps with a view to providing financial and logistical support for East Timor's transition to independence;
14. Welcomes the solidarity being shown with the cause of the East Timorese people and calls for it to be intensified;
15. Welcomes Xanana Gusmão's release from prison, but does not believe that he will be truly free until he is able to return safely to an independent East Timor, ending his current state of exile;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Government of Indonesia, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Committee on Decolonisation, and ASEAN.