

14 September 1999

B5-0115/99

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council statement

pursuant to Rule 37 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Costa Neves, Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, van Velzen, Maij-Weggen, Doyle, Pereira, Nassauer, Van Orden, Oomen-Ruijten, Stevenson, Cushnahan and Scallan

on behalf of the PPE Group

on East Timor

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B5-0115/99

Resolution on East Timor

The European Parliament,

- recalling its earlier resolutions on East Timor and on the human rights situation in Indonesia,
- A. whereas on 5 May 1999 Indonesia and Portugal, under the aegis of the UN, reached an agreement which opened the way for a referendum on autonomy for East Timor,
- B. whereas the President of Indonesia repeatedly stated that a majority vote against autonomy would result in Indonesia accepting independence for East Timor,
- C. whereas the referendum on 30 August 1999 showed that a vast majority of East Timorese – 78.5% - supports the option of independence,
- D. whereas Parliament participated in the EU team which observed the referendum,
- E. whereas in the run-up to the referendum anti-independence militias, supported by units of the Indonesian army, terrorised the population and attacked international observers,
- F. whereas, following the declaration of the result of the referendum, these militias intensified their campaign of terror, resulting in hundreds of deaths, large-scale deportation of people within and from East Timor, attacks upon houses and churches, including Bishop Belo's residence and the UN Observers' compound,
- G. whereas martial law was declared in East Timor, thus making the Indonesian President and Minister of Defence/Chief of Staff directly responsible for the actions of the armed forces there,
- H. whereas on 6 September 1999 the five permanent Members of the UNSC reaffirmed that military intervention in East Timor could only take place under the aegis of the United Nations and with Indonesian cooperation,
- I. whereas the UNSC then sent a delegation to meet the Indonesian Government and this Delegation travelled to Dili together with Indonesian Defence Minister/Chief of Staff Wiranto,
- J. whereas on 12 September 1999 Indonesia finally declared its readiness to cooperate with the international community, agreeing inter alia to the arrival in East Timor of an international peace-keeping force without further delay,

- K. whereas on the Moluccan Islands in Indonesia violence continues, bringing with it further loss of life and destruction of property, and whereas both the Christian and Muslim communities there are reported to feel that the police and armed forces remain passive in the face of gross human rights violations,
1. Reiterates its support for the agreements that made it possible for the people of East Timor to exercise their right of self-determination and recognises their determined choice in favour of independence as the result of the referendum;
 2. Acknowledges that the political situation in Indonesia is a delicate one and recognises the need, once the crisis in East Timor is resolved, to assist the development of economic and political stability and the promotion of democracy and human rights in Indonesia;
 3. Expresses its dismay and anger at reports of the organised campaign of terror being waged by anti-independence militias in East Timor and the forced exodus of the population in many areas, with the collusion of units of the Indonesian army, and deems unacceptable the lack of action on the part of the latter to protect the population against these attacks;
 4. Recalls that under martial law conditions, the Indonesian President and Defence Minister/Chief of Staff have direct responsibility for the actions of their armed forces in East Timor, and calls upon them to put an immediate end to the militia's terror campaign, restore law and order, ensure the return of the East Timor people to their homes in conditions of security, and bring to justice those guilty of murder and other crimes;
 5. Urges the Indonesian authorities and armed forces to end their support for militias which continue to rob and murder East Timorese refugees in West Timor;
 6. Underlines that Indonesia will have to make its due contribution to the reconstruction programmes to be developed and implemented for East Timor;
 7. Notes the sustained pressure, notably by the UNSC, to obtain Indonesian cooperation in sending an international peace-keeping force to East Timor without delay, and welcomes President Habibie's statement on 12 September 1999 that Indonesia is now ready to accept such a force;
 8. Welcomes the leadership shown by Australia in establishing such an international force, drawn primarily from countries in the region, and calls upon the Commission, the Council and the Member States, within their respective powers, to contribute to humanitarian and longer-term efforts to build democracy and economic prosperity in East Timor;
 9. Furthermore, reiterates its call for restoration of the rule of law and peaceful co-existence between both communities on the Moluccan Islands, while stressing that if the Indonesian Government proves unable to protect its own citizens and one or the other of

the communities is attacked by militias or the regular armed forces, the situation may require UN intervention;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States, the Government of Indonesia and Xanana Gusmão.