



**House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA**

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24 January, 2006

Fransisco Guterres (Lu'Olo)
President of the National Parliament
National Parliament
Dili
Timor-Leste

Dear Mr. Guterres,

I am writing on behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group (“PHRG”), which I chair, following our launch in the UK Parliament of the report of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in Timor-Leste (CAVR). Further to the event held on 28 November, and co-sponsored by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, TAPOL (the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign), and Progressio, the PHRG is calling upon the National Parliament of Timor-Leste to formally consider CAVR’s report, to support its recommendations, and to take primary responsibility for monitoring and overseeing their implementation.

Many members of the PHRG supported the struggle for human rights in Timor-Leste, some having campaigned actively since the Indonesian invasion in 1975. We are impressed by the remarkable achievements of the CAVR in documenting the truth about the widespread and systematic violations of human rights perpetrated between 1974 and 1999. We believe that the CAVR’s recommendations, if implemented, will help to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated and will play an important part in building a nation based on justice and reconciliation.

This year’s breakdown in law and order in Timor-Leste may have been caused, at least in part, by the culture of violence and impunity which prevailed in the country during Indonesia’s 24-year military occupation. This reinforces the need for those

now in power in Timor-Leste to learn the lessons from the CAVR report and act on them as a matter of urgency.

The PHRG was encouraged by a message from Prime Minister José Ramos-Horta recorded for the UK launch and a similar one in Australia. In it, he acknowledged the far-reaching nature of the CAVR's recommendations and undertook, on behalf of the Government and the Parliament, to endeavour to implement the recommendations as far as possible.

The role of your Parliament is particularly important since members of the international community, including the UK government and the United Nations, are reluctant to act on the report until the views of the democratically-elected representatives of the Timor-Leste people are known. The UK government has said that it will not respond – even to those recommendations that directly concern the UK – until the report has been considered by your Parliament. In his recent report on justice and reconciliation in Timor-Leste, the UN Secretary-General drew attention to the fact that ‘the Timor-Leste Parliament has not yet started debate on the report’.

More generally, your Parliament may wish to look into joining the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), the international organisation of Parliaments worldwide. It enables Parliamentarians to co-operate on matters of international concern, and to promote the human rights of their fellow Parliamentarians. The IPU will hold its next assembly in Bali in April/May 2007 and we hope that East Timorese Parliamentarians will be able to attend that assembly, or one in the near future.

Finally, please let us know whether the PHRG, or the UK Government, can assist your National Parliament in any way in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to the report.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Clwyd', written in a cursive style.

ANN CLWYD MP

Chair

All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group

Copies sent to:

Jacob Fernandes, Vice-President, National Parliament;

Vicente Faria, Chair, Commission A, National Parliament;

Jose Fernandez, Fretilin, c/o National Parliament;

Joao Boavida, Vice President, Partido Democratico (PD), c/o National Parliament;

Mariano Sabino Lopes, General Secretary PD, c/o National Parliament;

Joao Gonclaves, Partido Social Democrata (PSD), c/o National Parliament;

Giall Alves, Secretary General, Associacao Social Democrata Timorese (ASDT), c/o National Parliament;

Arianca Araujo, Vice President and Parliamentary Leader of Partido Nacionalista Timorese (PNT), c/o National Parliament;

Senora Quiteria da Costa, Uniao Democratica Timorese (UDT), c/o National Parliament;

Manuel Tilman, Klibur Oan Timor As'wain (KOTA), c/o National Parliament;

Clementino Amaral, KOTA, c/o National Parliament;

Antonio Ximenes, President, Partido Democrata Cristao (PDC), c/o National Parliament;

Arlindo Marcal, PDC, c/o National Parliament;

Nelson Correia, President, Partido Socialista de Timor (PST), c/o National Parliament.