

POST-CAVR UPDATE: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

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"Chega!, the final report of the Timor-Leste Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CAVR), is easily the most important document on crimes against humanity to have emerged since the Timor crisis began to unfold in 1975." Jim Dunn, OA

Introduction

The Post-CAVR Technical Secretariat was inaugurated by President Xanana Gusmao in consultation with the Government of Timor-Leste on 20 December 2005 following the formal dissolution of the Comissao de Acolhimento, Verdade e Reconciliacao (CAVR) the same day. The Secretariat's functions are (a) to disseminate the CAVR Report *Chega!* and related products, (b) to complete a number of CAVR projects, particularly publications; (c) to care for the Comarca heritage site; and (d) to care for the CAVR archives. The Secretariat has 40 staff and is headed by Rev Agostinho de Vasconcelos. Funding is provided by Japan, Norway and Germany. UNDP and AVI (Australian Volunteers International) are providing two advisers. *Chega!*, the title of the CAVR report, is Portuguese for 'No more, stop, enough!'

Parliament silent on *Chega!*

Nothing has been heard from the Timor-Leste Parliament in response to the appeal by Post-CAVR Director, Agostinho de Vasconcelos, reported in our previous Update, that it is time the Parliament debated and responded to *Chega!*

Secretariat teams disseminating the Report in the districts have reported that many in the community have said at seminars that the Parliament should act on the Report. The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, observed in his July report on Justice and Reconciliation for Timor-Leste that "the Timor-Leste Parliament has not yet started debate on the report".

International Crisis Group urges adoption of *Chega!* recommendations

In its report on the current problems in Timor-Leste (Asia Report No 120, 10 October 2006), the International Crisis Group urges the Timor-Leste Government to adopt and implement the recommendations in the CAVR Report which it describes as 'detailed and practical and provide useful guidelines for policy changes' (p. 22) Recommendation 11 reads as follows:

*'Adopt the recommendatons of the Truth, Reception and Reconciliation Mission's (sic) report *Chega!* (Enough!), giving priority to those related to security of the person, the security sector, protection of the rights of the vulnerable and reconciliation, and disseminate the entire report widely'.*

The ICG report draws extensively on the CAVR report for its historical background and notes that *Chega!* 'constitutes an extraordinary history of the resistance'.

New staff

The Secretariat welcomed six new staff during September-October: Gloria Rosa (Finance Unit), Daniel Scoullar (Outreach Adviser to the dissemination program); Bree Nicholas (Senior Librarian and Adviser to the Manager of the Documentation Centre), Maria Angela Carrascalao (Senior Archivist), Januario Soares (Technical Assistant, Archives and Library), and Cormac Harty (IT Adviser).

National dissemination

“It is clear that many in the community who took part in seminars on Chega! over the last two months saw a strong connection between the findings and recommendations of Chega! and the re-emergence of violence and instability. Many asked why East Timorese leaders have failed to learn the lessons of the past.” Post-CAVR Secretariat field staff

Despite delays and false starts due to the uncertain security situation in Timor-Leste, dissemination of the CAVR Report *Chega!* and related materials proceeded on schedule during the reporting period. Though very anxious about security, including what was happening to families back in Dili, staff have not had any security problems in the field. The Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation to local authorities and agencies for their excellent support for our work.

As of the end of October, full dissemination has been completed in 8 districts: Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro (Maliana), Covalima (Suai), Ermera, Manatuto and Viqueque.

The dissemination was conducted by 4 teams of 4 staff apiece who spent a month in each district. After briefing key people and institutions, including the District Administrator, on their presence and program, the teams distributed the CAVR report and products to a list of contacts. Recipients typically included local government, NGOs, schools, churches, veterans, victims and others who contributed to the CAVR process. A full copy of the Report has been placed in each district for consultation by the community. Teams involved local media and visited as many villages in sub-districts as possible to distribute materials and hold small discussions on the findings and recommendations of Chega! Care was taken to provide materials to victims and others who were part of the CAVR process and where people cannot be located, teams passed on materials through families and friends.

Towards the end of their visit, teams organised district-level seminars at which they reported on their work, a presentation on Chega! was made, and community leaders and members discussed the Report. Attendance at seminars ranged between 50-100 people and they proved lively and fruitful events. Seminars were followed by small workshops to discuss in detail issues and recommendations from the seminar and to organise follow up and the establishment of a focal point. The focal point will serve as a long-term link between the Secretariat and each district and will play an important role in the local implementation of recommendations which are now widely recognised as an important contribution to nation-building.

It is clear from the seminars that the community believes the Parliament should debate the Report and its recommendations and that the Government should implement recommendations, including those relating to a program of reparations and the Police (PNTL).

Looking ahead to November and December

Starting on 7 November, teams will visit the 4 districts where dissemination was commenced in July but not completed owing to security concerns. These districts are: Oecusse, Liquica, Lautem (Los Palos), and Manufahi (Same). The focus of activities in these communities will be the conduct of four public seminars on Chega!, followed by a workshop in each district to organise follow-up. While dissemination is being completed in the above districts, a team will commence preparations for field work in Dili., the final and most challenging centre. Intensive dissemination and public discussion will take place in different parts of Dili during December.

Dissemination seminars are open to the public in Dili and the districts. For schedules contact: Jaimito da Costa 723 4916 or Daniel Scoullar 728 0991.

What has been distributed so far

Following is the total quantity of materials that have been distributed as of 30 October 06. Most have been individually distributed in Timor-Leste to targeted individuals and organisations.

Chega! full report (hard copy/ 5 vols each).....	68
Chega! full report CDROM.....	781
Chega! Executive Summary.....	1781
Introducing Chega! brochure.....	6462
Women and the Conflict.....	846
Massacres.....	911
Forced Displacement and Famine.....	860
Hear Our Voices.....	978
Audio version of Dalan ba Dame.....	106

The CAVR video *Dalan da Dame* has been shown to thousands of people in the districts.

The Secretariat also produces a weekly radio program entitled *Chega! Dalan ba Dame* (Chega! the Road to Peace). The program is broadcast at 7.00 am each Saturday by Radio Timor-Leste. Funds are sought to pay for its broadcast on community radio stations.

The animated TV program *Istoria ba Futuru* (History for the Future), which is based on Chega! continues to be screened on TVTL. It is the brainchild of Casa de Producao Audio-Visual in Taibesse.

International dissemination

In a previous update, we reported on a dissemination visit to Indonesia. Since then the Secretariat has distributed Chega! in Scandinavia and initiated or contributed to dissemination projects in Portugal, Ireland, Britain and Australia.

- *Scandinavia*

Rev Agostinho de Vasconcelos, Director of the Post-CAVR Secretariat, visited Norway and Sweden 20 September – 4 October as a guest of Life Peace Institute (LPI). He attended a peace conference, engaged in peace studies and distributed CAVR material to parliamentarians and government in both Sweden and Norway and to Upsalla University and other bodies.

- *Portugal*

Pat Walsh distributed CAVR literature, including Chega!, and held meetings in Lisboa during the first week of October. Organised by CIDAC, these meetings resulted in an undertaking to explore the following proposals (a) the publication of a Portuguese edition of Chega!; (b) the distribution in Portugal of Portuguese language versions of CAVR public hearing books; (c) launch and promotion of Chega! in Portugal and CPLP countries; (d) Portuguese support for the development of the CAVR archives, acquisition of new books on Timor published in Portugal, debate on Chega! by the Timor-Leste Parliament, a memorialisation project at the Balide Comarca and publication of additional public hearing books.

- *Ireland*

At a meeting with representatives of the East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign (ETISC) in Dublin on 3 October, it was agreed to examine ways of distributing Chega! in Ireland both in recognition of the Irish Government's support for CAVR and as a way of maintaining public interest in Timor-Leste. Sets of the Chega! CDROM and the Executive Summary were also distributed.

- *Australia*

Aniceto Guterres Lopes (former Chair of CAVR), Isabel Guterres (former CAVR Commissioner) and Pat Walsh will visit Australia in November as guests of the Australian Coalition for Transitional Justice in East Timor (ACTJET). Starting on 12 November, they will attend launches of Chega! and forums on Timor-Leste in seven cities.

- *Britain*

Several meetings were held in Bath and London respectively to discuss the promotion of Chega! in Britain. The Blair Government was one of CAVR's major donors. Following meetings at CAFOD and Westminster, it

was agreed that the Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG), chaired by Hon Ann Clwyd, would launch Chega! at Westminster on 28 November. Fr Jovito de Araujo, a former CAVR Commissioner currently studying in Rome, will present the report on that occasion. In view of Britain's funding of the Report and its relevance to the current crisis, the PHRG will also consider asking the British Government to provide additional funding to the Post-CAVR Secretariat and to urge the Timor-Leste Parliament to discuss and implement the Report.

Cambodian conference on Past Holocaust and National Reconciliation

Jose Caetano, Manager of the Post-CAVR documentation centre, delivered a paper on behalf of the Secretariat at an international conference in Phnom Penh, 28-30 September 2006. Organised by the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace with support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the conference heard presentations on past holocausts in Germany, Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone and Rwanda and discussed lessons learned for Cambodia and other situations. Jose Caetano noted that, unlike Timor-Leste, Cambodia – with the assistance of the UN – will prosecute the most serious cases of past human rights violations identified by the special mechanism established to address the past, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

Post-CAVR Documentation Centre

- ***Backing up our archives***

A project to back up some of CAVR's records off-shore will begin early November. Sponsored by the British Library under its endangered archives program and led by UCLA Associate Professor Geoffrey Robinson, the CAVR's public hearing records will be digitally copied and stored with the British Library in London. The copying is expected to take 12 months. The project will ensure the security of some 20,000 pages, 600 hours of audio and visual recordings, and 1000 photographs of victim and witness testimonies, research interviews and consultations and will also make these archives, whose content is already on the public record, available for international research in accordance with best practice access provisions for truth commissions. The project acquired new urgency after motorbikes were looted from the Post-CAVR premises in June during the height of the recent crisis.

- ***Thanks to the Australian Society of Archivists***

Out of concern to safeguard the security and future of CAVR's records following the recent violence in Dili, the Australian Society of Archivists invited the Post-CAVR Senior Archivist, Maria Angela Carrascalao, to present a paper on the issue at their annual conference. The Conference was held in Port Macquarie 18-21 October. Sra Carrascalao gave a power-point presentation on CAVR's records and provided background information on Timor's archives generally. She also visited the National Archives of Australia and Queensland State Archives to look at digitalisation, conservation and access issues. Sincerest thanks are due to Del Cuddihy, Rae Sheridan, John Sheridan and the Australian East Timor archives support network for their excellent support for Sra Carrascalao's visit.

- ***On-line with Argentina and Canada***

The Post-CAVR Secretariat has contributed to an online exhibition project under development by the International Council of Archives (ICA). The exhibition showcases archival collections of the world concerned with human rights violations. In addition to the CAVR archives which document human rights violations in Timor-Leste 1974-1999, collections relating to the military coup in Argentina (1976-83) and forced internment/deportation of Japanese Canadians in Canada (1942-45) are showcased. The site is still under construction and will be presented at the ICA Conference of the Round Table on Archives in Curacao, Netherlands, 20-26 November 2006.

Further information

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