



A-N-T-I

**THE TIMOR-LESTE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
TRIBUNAL**

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Joint Statement

13 year commemoration of Liquica Massacre 5-6 April 1999 – 2012:

“Victim’s rights to justice have been ignored by the governments of Timor-Leste, Indonesia and the International Community (UN). We expect justice not amnesties!”

The Liquica massacre that was systematically carried out by the *Besi Merah Putih* (BMP) militia with the involvement of the Indonesian Special Police Force (*Brimob*) and the Indonesian Army (TNI) occurred exactly 13 years ago from this day (6 April 2012). This incident resulted in many deaths, injuries, tortures, missing people and damage to the Church that was being used as a hiding place by civilians.

This incident was similar to incidents that occurred across the entire territory of Timor-Leste before, and immediately after, the referendum in 1999. The brutal and cruel acts carried out by the BMP militia, Brimob and the TNI resulted in many people living in fear and suffering trauma, especially women, children and ordinary citizens.

In relation to those that died or were forcefully disappeared during the Liquica Massacre and other massacres, the United Nations (UN) and the Indonesian government have ignored their responsibilities. The Indonesian government must accept responsibility for all of the violations that occurred because the UN placed its trust in Indonesia to guarantee security for the entire territory of Timor-Leste during the referendum. Until this day, exactly thirteen years since the Liquica Massacre, no credible and fair trial process has provided the truth to the people of Timor-Leste, the victims and the families of victims.

The UN has already taken a number of positive steps to respond to the issue of justice for serious crimes for more than a decade, through the establishment of the Serious Crimes Unit (SCU) which is tasked with investigating and trying crimes that occurred during the Indonesian occupation in Timor-Leste, to hold accountable the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in 1999. In addition, the Special Panels have tried perpetrators of serious crimes and the Commission of Experts has been tasked with reporting on the effectiveness of judicial efforts including the Ad-Hoc Courts in Jakarta.

However these steps were not followed up by the Security Council, and also the mandate of the SCU and the Special Panels is limited to investigating cases that occurred in 1999 and has ignored 99% of the murders that occurred between 1975-1998.

Also the UN representatives in Timor-Leste always state that the UN does not tolerate 'impunity', however not one effective mechanism has been set up to fulfill the commitment that they talk about, to try the majority of perpetrator that until now remain free and enjoy the protection of the Indonesian government itself. The government of Timor-Leste also has not had any desire to date to talk about past crimes; rather they favor diplomatic relations with Indonesia.

Because of the political compromise made between the two governments (Timor-Leste and Indonesia) they have ignored Justice and Accountability for the victims and the people of Timor-Leste.

Based on this reality, the people, victims' organizations, families of the victims, human rights activists/promoters, students, NGOs and international solidarity groups have gathered under the umbrella of ANTI (National Alliance for an International Tribunal) to emphasize their position to demand JUSTICE and the establishment of an International Tribunal:

1. We urge the international community, especially the UN, to implement the reports of CAVR, the Indonesia Human Rights Commission and the UN Commission of Experts that recommended the establishment of an international tribunal because the trials carried out by the UN in Timor-Leste and by the Ad-Hoc courts in Indonesia have failed to bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against humanity or to break the chain of impunity in Timor-Leste and Indonesia.
2. ANTI totally rejects the statements or requests made by His Excellency the President Jose Ramos Horta that were published in the STL daily newspaper on 29 March 2012, requesting for the National Parliament to immediately draft an Amnesty law to close or put to rest the crimes that occurred between 1974-1999, because the request itself is in conflict with the Article 160 of the RDTL Constitution that states that serious crimes can be tried through national and international courts, and also the aim of the aforementioned request was to place no meaning on the CAVR report and to discredit the 'Chega' report with all of its recommendations. Therefore, ANTI considers the request for Amnesty as an act carried out by the State to INSULT and to increase the suffering of the victims who until now are still waiting for justice.
3. We request for the leading politicians in Timor-Leste to actively support the struggle for justice and accountability to provide an opportunity to process past crimes from 1975-1999, to ensure that the chain of impunity is broken and to show their respect for the applicable laws in this young nation.
4. We request for the government of Timor-Leste to organize a commemoration of the massacres that occurred in this country, such as the Liquica church massacre and the massacres that occurred across this territory of Timor-Leste where we are all currently

enjoying our freedom in this condition of independence, and it is necessary to recognize and commemorate days that bear significance in the locations where massacres took place to remember the dark history of Timor-Leste that the people went through during the protracted struggle towards achieving independence, in order to give greater respect to and uphold the dignity of victims their rights as human beings.

5. We request for the governments of Timor-Leste and Indonesia to locate those who were forcefully disappeared and to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to ensure that the forced disappearances of the past do not reoccur in the future.

Dili, 10 April 2012

The following organizations and individuals hereby sign this document:

1. **ASOSIASAUN VÍTIMA**
2. **La'ó Hamutuk**
3. **HAK (HAK Association)**
4. **JSMP (Judicial System Monitoring Program)**
5. **FONGTIL (Timor-Leste NGO Forum)**
6. **Fokupers**
7. **FTM**
8. **CDI**
9. **MDI**
10. **ICTJ**
11. ***Komisaun Justisa e Pas (Peace and Justice Commission)***
12. **STP – CAVR**
13. **KSI**
14. **KUP – UNDIL**
15. **Komite 12 Novembru**
16. **Front Mahasiswa Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Students Front)**