



ANTI

Timor-Leste National Alliance for an International Tribunal (ANTI)

Press Release

30 August 2018

Commemorate and Dignify

30 August as POPULAR CONSULTATION DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR in 1999 and
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

“Commemorate POPULAR CONSULTATION Day: We CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE SEARCH
FOR THE WHEREABOUTS OF THOSE WHO WERE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES”

We remember what happened on 30 August 1999, before, during and after the referendum that resulted in two hundred thousand Timorese suffering torture, rape, forced removal from their residence, murder and many more were forcefully disappeared and remain lost until now and their whereabouts are unknown.

Popular Consultation Day is firmly rooted in the memories of the Timorese people as part of the fight for independence. 30 August was the culmination of the struggle to end the Indonesian military occupation that lasted for more than two decades.

It has been almost 20 years since the Timorese people gained their independence and escaped from the oppression of the Indonesian military but many Timorese disappeared and until now it is unknown if they are alive or dead.

All the people of Timor-Leste remember the historical day when the Popular Consultation took place, and today marks the 19th anniversary of the important day when all Timorese ended their suffering under the occupation of the Indonesian military regime. For almost two decades our Timorese brothers and sisters who have lost their families have been crying out and have never stopped trying to find their family members who went missing before and after the referendum.

Who are the victims of FORCED DISAPPEARANCE?

- ⇒ There is no information for families about the whereabouts of those who were arrested, detained etc by State agents during the armed conflict;
- ⇒ Victims of Forced Disappearances; Crimes of cruelty that were committed were “Crimes Against Humanity”.

On this important day families of the victims and survivors still hope and urge for the State organs of Timor-Leste, Indonesia as well as the United Nations to:

- Implement the recommendations of the Commission for Truth and Friendship, in particular to establish a committee to find missing persons
- Urge the State of Timor-Leste to support a policy to establish a social solidarity fund to help reduce the suffering of victims and the families of victims;
- Urge the Security Council of the United Nations to continue the investigative process and to find a suitable mechanism to provide accountability for serious crimes and crimes against humanity that occurred before, during and after the 1999 referendum.
- ANTI also urges the State of Timor-Leste to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

UN Working Group

Visit to TL (Feb 2011) "Recommends and Urges the Governments of Timor-Leste and Indonesia to fulfil their obligations to carry out the Recommendations of the CTF to Establish a Commission for Missing Persons to "DIGNIFY the families of Victims".

Dili, 30 August 1999-2018

Members ANTI

JSMP, HAK, Acbit, AJAR-TL, La'o Hamautuk, Asosiasaun Vitima

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/Visits.aspx