



A-N-T-I
TIMOR-LESTE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COURT
Press Release

24 March is the International Day for the Right to the Truth

In December 2010 the UN General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth. This annual observance pays tribute to Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero from El Salvador who was murdered in church when he was conducting mass. Monsignor Romero was murdered by the totalitarian regime in El Salvador on 24 March 1980. 30 years later the UN General Assembly paid tribute to the sacrifice of Monsignor Romero who defended those without a voice who were seeking the truth and sacrificing their lives as human beings. The UN and the International Community strongly condemned the murder of Monsignor Romero as a human rights violation and crime against humanity.

In the context of Timor-Leste, during the Indonesian military occupation priests, sisters and brothers were targeted for murder by the Indonesian military, Indonesian police and pro-Jakarta militias at that time. East Timorese people remember the large scale murders that took place at the Liquica Church, 5-6 April 1999, the Suai Church, "Black September" on 6 September 1999 which resulted in the murder and disappearance of three priests and more than 200 Christians. Also Nuns and Priests were murdered by Tim Alfa Lospalos on 25 September 1999 in Apikuru-Lautem.

These murders were systematically planned by the main perpetrators in Jakarta together with their associates. The massacres that took place between 1975 and 1999 caused the death and forced disappearance of 250,000 people and the families do not know their whereabouts.

Moreover, the main perpetrators committed massacres in Timor-Leste such as the massacre on 10 June 1980 (Marabia-Dili Massacre), and the Craras-Viqueque Massacre in August 1983 known as the "Village of Widows" which caused the death and disappearance of more than two hundred people. The Santa Cruz Massacre occurred on 12 November 1991. These massacres were led and commanded by Prabowo Subianto who at that time was the Commander of the Indonesian Special Forces. Now Prabowo has nominated himself for the Indonesia Presidential Elections for the 2019 – 2024 period.

ANTI asks how a person with blood on his hands can become a leader of the very same people who he killed in the past!

- The culture of impunity continues to exist and prevails!

Therefore ANTI requests for members of the UN Security Council and the International Community to set up a new forum for Prabowo and his associates that has universal jurisdictions to try the perpetrators who committed crimes against humanity in Timor-Leste during the Indonesia military occupation.

Dili, 24-25 March 2019

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