

In recent years, a consensus Chairman's statement has been made at the Commission on Human Rights on the question of East Timor. At the last session, Indonesia agreed to conclude a memorandum of understanding with the High Commission for Human Rights and consider granting access to East Timor to a UN human rights programme officer based in Jakarta.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada supports the only international process in existence for dealing with East Timor's status, that is the UN-sponsored talks between Portugal and Indonesia. Canada also contributed financially to the second of the All-Inclusive East Timorese Dialogue meetings which was held in March 19-22, 1996.

Canada regularly registers its concerns regarding East Timor to Indonesian government officials. Canada took measures to penalize Indonesia for the Dili massacre by suspending three planned CIDA projects worth \$30 million. The Prime Minister raised human rights and East Timor in his meeting with President Soeharto during the January 1996 Team Canada visit. Minister of Foreign Affairs Axworthy also raised East Timor with his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas in July 1996 during ASEAN ministerial meetings in Jakarta. He followed up these discussions with letters to the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, encouraging them to redouble their efforts to find an internationally acceptable solution to the East Timor question at the UN-sponsored Trilateral Talks. In November 1996, Canada raised East Timor at the annual debate on human rights at the UN Third Committee in New York. The Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, raised this issue again with the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas when they met in Manila in November for the APEC meeting.

The Canadian development cooperation programme supports many local projects in East Timor. Canada has one of the largest aid programmes in East Timor, dedicating \$500,000 from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. CARE Canada also receives CIDA funding to help carry out its projects in East Timor. \$300 000 of multilateral support is also provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its East Timor programmes.