

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 191

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding East Timor and supporting
the multinational force for East Timor.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding East Timor
and supporting the multinational force for East Timor.

Whereas on May 5, 1999, the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia and the United Nations signed an agreement that provided for an August 8, 1999, ballot organized by the United Nations on the political status of East Timor;

Whereas the agreement gave the people of East Timor an opportunity to accept a proposed special autonomy for East Timor within the unitary Republic of Indonesia or reject the special autonomy and opt for independence;

Whereas on August 30, 1999, 78.5 percent of the people in East Timor voted for independence;

Whereas after the voting was concluded, the militias in East Timor intensified their ongoing campaign of terror;

Whereas it has been reported that thousands of people have been killed and injured since the violence began in East Timor;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that as many as 200,000 of East Timor's residents have been forced to flee East Timor;

Whereas it has been reported that East Timor militias are controlling the refugee camps in West Timor, intimidating the refugees and denying access to the UNHCR, relief agencies, and other humanitarian nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas it has been reported that a systematic campaign of political assassinations that targeted religious, student, and political leaders, aid workers, and others has taken place;

Whereas the compound of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was besieged and fired upon, access to food, water, and electricity was intentionally cut off, and UNAMET personnel have been killed, forcing the closure of the UNAMET mission in East Timor;

Whereas Catholic leaders and lay people have been targeted for killing and churches have been burned in East Timor; and

Whereas on September 12, 1999, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie announced that Indonesia would allow a United Nations Security Council authorized multinational force into East Timor: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate hereby—

1 (1) congratulates the people of East Timor for
2 their heroic vote on August 30, 1999;

10 (4) commends Australia for its readiness to
11 lead the multinational force for East Timor and wel-
12 comes the participation of other nations in this
13 force, especially Asian participation;

14 (5) expresses approval for the United States to
15 assist in this effort in an appropriate manner;

16 (6) commends the professionalism, determina-
17 tion, and courage of the United Nations Mission in
18 East Timor (UNAMET) personnel;

19 (7) recognizes the overwhelming expression of
20 the people of East Timor in favor of independence;

21 (8) condemns the violent efforts of the East
22 Timor militias and elements of the Indonesian mili-
23 tary to overturn the results of the August 30, 1999,
24 vote;

1 (9) notes the failure of the Government of Indo-
2 nesia, despite repeated assurances to the contrary,
3 to guarantee the security of the people of East
4 Timor and further notes that is the responsibility of
5 the Government of Indonesia to restrain elements of
6 the Indonesian military and paramilitary forces and
7 restore order in East Timor;

14 (11) urges the Government of Indonesia to
15 allow unrestricted access to refugees and displaced
16 persons in West Timor by UNHRC and other relief
17 agencies and to guarantee their security; and

18 (12) calls upon the Government of Indonesia to
19 hold accountable those responsible for the violence,
20 human rights abuses and atrocities and to cooperate
21 with the international community in establishing an
22 international commission of inquiry to investigate
23 human rights abuses in East Timor as a first step
24 in bringing to justice those responsible.

