

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 251

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the escalating violence in East Timor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16 (legislative day, JULY 15), 1999

Mr. LUTHER (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HORN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MINGE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. STARK, and Mr. CAPUANO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the escalating violence in East Timor.

Whereas a May 5, 1999, agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Portuguese Republic provided for the establishment of a United Nations mission in East Timor;

Whereas that mission enables the Secretary-General of the United Nations to effectively carry out the referendum on the independence of East Timor;

Whereas the Secretary-General of the United Nations has postponed the United Nations-organized August 8, 1999, vote on the future of East Timor;

Whereas United Nations outposts have been attacked on at least five separate occasions between June 29 and July 8, 1999, and personnel have been threatened and injured;

Whereas militiamen opposed to a referendum on independence for East Timor fired at a convoy of foreign and local humanitarian workers;

Whereas the United Nations staff members are unarmed and rely on the Indonesian police for protection; and

Whereas increasing violence by armed militia groups, backed by the Indonesian military, designed to intimidate the population, has led to the withdrawal of United Nations staff from the towns of Liquica and Maliano: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the May 5, 1999, agreement be-
3 tween the Republic of Indonesia and the Portuguese
4 Republic on the question of the independence of
5 East Timor;

6 (2) expresses its concern about the unabated es-
7 calating violence in East Timor;

8 (3) urges the Indonesian Government to guar-
9 antee the protection of United Nations staff mem-
10 bers assisting in the preparation of the referendum;

11 (4) demands that the Indonesian Government
12 ensure that the vote in East Timor is carried out in
13 a secure atmosphere by—

1 (A) ceasing Indonesian military (known as
2 the TNI) and police support for paramilitary
3 forces;

4 (B) disarming paramilitary units in fulfill-
5 ment of its responsibilities under the terms of
6 the May 5 agreement;

7 (C) opening access to East Timor to inde-
8 pendent international monitors, observers, and
9 relief workers; and

10 (D) allowing the return of exiled East
11 Timorese and securing their safety;

12 (5) endorses the purpose of the United Nations
13 Assistance Mission in East Timor to carry out a free
14 and fair vote; and

15 (6) encourages the Administration to support
16 United Nations action to secure United Nations per-
17 sonnel and to better supervise the vote in East
18 Timor.

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