



Friendship School Project A Brief Chronology of Timor-Leste

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- 1518 For almost 500 years, Timor-Leste was a Portuguese colony. One of the first Portuguese to visit the island, Duarte Barbosa, wrote: "there's an abundance of sandalwood, white, to which the Muslims in India and Persia give great value and where much of it is used". Dutch administrator Schulte-Nordholt also refers to the interest it represented for the Portuguese. Other products were exported such as honey, wax and slaves, but trade relied mainly on sandalwood.
- 1942 - 1945 Japanese occupy Timor-Leste throughout World War II. 40,000 East Timorese die as a result of the War.
- 1945 Portuguese administration of Timor-Leste continues.
- 01/05/59 Armed uprising against the Portuguese administration based in Wato Lari and Wato Karbau, near Viqueque. A series of riots and attacks on Portuguese posts occurred and the Portuguese were forced to raise a militia in the neighbouring area of Lospalos to put down the rebels.
- 25/04/74 The left wing coup, the Revolução do Cravos (the Carnation Revolution) takes place in Portugal, resulting in the first step towards Timor-Leste's decolonization.
- 05/74 Decolonization begins with the (Portuguese) Governor announcing general elections and calling for the establishment of political parties.
- 10/74 Indonesia begins a covert destabilization operation, including subversive radio broadcasts from across the border in West Timor.
- 03/75 General elections begin.
- 07/75 In local elections held under the auspices of the decolonization committee, 90% of the newly elected are FRETILIN.
- 10/75 Indonesia begins attacks across the border from West Timor. On the 16th five foreign journalists (including 2 Australians) are killed in Balibo.
- 28/11/75 FRETILIN declares "The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste"
- 30/11/75 The Balibo Declaration inviting Indonesians to liberate East Timor is signed by compromised UDT and APODETI leaders.
- 07/12/75 Indonesia launches a full-scale air and sea invasion on Timor-Leste.
- 12/12/75 The UN General Assembly calls on Indonesia to withdraw.



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- 22/12/75 The UN Security Council condemns the invasion.
- 02/76 60,000 East Timorese have been killed since the invasion.
- 07/76 President Suharto declares Timor-Leste as Indonesia's 27th Province.
- 11/76 More than 100,000 East Timorese have died.
- 28/11/77 The UN General Assembly rejects integration and calls for an act of self-determination for Timor-Leste (and the UN General Assembly continues to call for self-determination for the people of Timor-Leste by passing resolutions until 1982.)
- 10-11/06/80 An attack on Dili is mounted by resistance forces.
- 04/05/82 Elections are held in Timor-Leste in which the official Indonesian party Golkar win 98.8% of the vote.
- 03/11/82 UN General Assembly again condemns the annexation and calls for an act of self-determination. The UN Secretary General is instructed to initiate discussions with "all concerned parties".
- 1983 During the 1980s, Xanana Gusmão makes a number of attempts to come to a peaceful settlement with the Indonesian invaders. Along with war-weary Indonesian troops localized cease-fires are negotiated, and in March a regional cease-fire is agreed upon by Xanana Gusmão and Indonesian military representatives. But in August the Kraras massacre signals the end of the cease-fire. In September, a state of emergency is declared and a new Indonesian offence, Operation Unit, is launched.
- 18/08/85 Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke recognizes Indonesian sovereignty over Timor-Leste on behalf of his Labor Government.
- 24/09/85 After again deferring action on Timor-Leste, the UN oversees the first formal contacts between Portugal and Indonesia since the invasion.
- 09/12/85 Australian and Indonesian governments announce that they will jointly develop the petroleum reserves in the Timor Gap.
- 1987-1988: In a reorganization of the resistance structure, Xanana Gusmão declares FALINTIL (the armed wing of the resistance) a non-partisan 'national' army. In 1988 he relinquishes membership of the political party FRETILIN, believing the fight for a free Timor-Leste transcends political loyalties. He establishes the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM) and is declared leader.



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- 10/89 Pope John Paul II visits Timor-Leste and a huge demonstration in Dili signals the beginning of a phase of urban political demonstrations organized by the emerging youth resistance.
- Late 1991 The Resistance begins to prepare for the visit of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation, planning a formal ceremony.
- 28/10/91 Two youth are killed on the steps of a Catholic Church in Dili.
- 12/11/91 In Dili, hundreds of Timorese participate in a funeral procession for their two friends killed at the Catholic Church in Dili. Along the route to the cemetery, banners are unfurled, protesting the cancellation of visit of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation, while others call for freedom for Timor-Leste, in front of the Western journalists who were in Timor-Leste preparing for the visit of the Portuguese parliamentarians. The Indonesian troops descend on the funeral march and open fire on the unarmed students. Hundreds of Timorese are trapped inside the cemetery wall, and are killed. The journalists smuggle out the videotapes of the funeral march/demonstration and the events are shown on television worldwide.
- 11/92 Xanana Gusmão is captured by the Indonesian soldiers.
- 02-03/93 Xanana's Gusmão trial in Dili. He is sentenced to life imprisonment and refused to make a statement in his defence. Ma'Huno becomes the leader of the resistance in Timor-Leste but is soon captured. Nino Konis Santana then becomes leader of the resistance.
- 1994 Youth resistance begins campaign of entering foreign embassies in Jakarta.
- 01/94 UN Special Rapporteur on Timor-Leste visits Xanana Gusmão in Cipinang prison in Jakarta to formulate new initiatives for the next round of talks between Indonesia and Portugal.
- 06/95 The UN sponsors talks between pro- and anti-independence East Timorese (The All Inclusive Intra-Timorese Dialogue – AIETD)
- 07/95 Half of the East Timorese signatories to the "Balibo Declaration" retract.
- 08/95 Xanana Gusmão is put in solitary confinement for writing a letter to the UN sponsored Beijing World Women's Conference.
- 19-22/03/96 Second UN Sponsored Intra-Timorese Meeting. The final statement does not include the demands of the external Timorese resistance, including the release of Xanana Gusmão.



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- 27/06/96 Eighth round of Talks between Indonesia and Portugal; the only resolution is to build a Timorese cultural center in Dili.
- 10/96 The Australian Senate passes unanimous motion supporting Timor-Leste's self-determination.
- 12/96 The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded jointly to José Ramos Horta and Bishop Belo.
- 10/97 Third and final AIETD Talks.
- 04/98 The National Timorese Convention is held in Portugal, which establishes the CNRT (The National Council of Timorese Resistance) to replace CNRM. This non-partisan national organization is the new umbrella for Timorese resistance. It brings together different political nationalist organizations and unanimously elects Xanana Gusmão as President.
- 05/98 Indonesian President Suharto resigns following student pro-democracy pressure from the Indonesian public.
- 05/08'98 Agreement between Indonesia and Portugal at the UN to undertake, under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, negotiations on a special status based on a wide-ranging autonomy for Timor-Leste.
- 20/11/98 Portugal suspends talks with Indonesia after reports of a massacre.
- 01/99 The Australian government changes its foreign policy and support's Timor-Leste's right to self-determination.
- 02/99 Xanana Gusmão is moved to house arrest in Jakarta. He warns of further possible violence and calls for international armed peacekeepers in Timor-Leste.
- 03/03/99 Indonesian President Habibie announces that if, in a "process of consultation", the majority of East Timorese rejected autonomy in favour of independence, Indonesia would grant Independence. The CNRT and international solidarity groups, together with several countries, begin to call for a cease-fire, disarmament and real Indonesian troop reductions.
- 05/05/99 Agreement between Indonesia, Portugal and the UN to put a special autonomy framework to the East Timorese people through a "popular consultation" and for the UN to establish a UN Mission, UNAMET, in Timor-Leste to implement the referendum. The Government of Indonesia is made responsible for maintaining peace and security in order that the popular consultation could be "carried out in a fair and peaceful way in an atmosphere free of intimidation, violence or interference from any side".



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- 11/06/99 The UN Security Council formally establishes UNAMET through the end of August 1999. In resolution 1246 (1999) adopted unanimously, the Council endorses the Secretary-General's proposal for a mission including up to 280 civilian police officers to advise the Indonesian Police, as well as 50 military liaison officers to maintain contact with the Indonesian Armed Forces. The Council stresses again the responsibility of the Indonesian Government in the maintenance of peace and security in Timor-Leste to ensure the integrity of the ballot and the security of international staff and observers.
- 18/06/99 At a press conference in Dili, SRSG Ian Martin says that continuing violence has forced tens of thousands of East Timorese from their homes, creating a "serious obstacle" to preparations for the vote on the future of the Territory.
- 24/08/99 Indonesian authorities assure UNAMET that they will try to create a secure environment. Members of the UN Security Council express strong concern at the continuing campaign of intimidation and violence in Timor-Leste and call on the parties to fulfill their commitments to disarm and store their weapons.
- 26/08/99 The UN Security Council extends UNAMET's mandate until 30 November. In a unanimous vote, the Council adopts Resolution 126 (1999) endorsing the Security General's proposal to restructure the UN Mission in Timor-Leste for the interim phase after the 30 August vote.
- 30/08/99 Referendum is carried throughout Timor-Leste, and at key sites for Timorese living abroad. At least 95% of those registered, vote.
- 02/09/99 Pro-integration militias, at times with the support of elements of the Indonesian security forces, launch a campaign of violence, looting and arson throughout the entire Territory.
- 04/09/99 Results of the ballot are announced: 78.5% of East Timorese vote for independence by indicating the CNRT flag on the ballot (and thus rejecting the proposed special autonomy arrangement with Indonesia).
- 09/99 The pro-integration militias, with substantial Indonesian military backing, engage in a period of uncontrolled terrorism. An unknown number of East Timorese are killed, and over 200,000 are forcibly displaced into West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. Xanana Gusmão is released amidst military slayings in Timor-Leste. He takes temporary refuge in the British Embassy and then flees to Darwin after receiving death threats. From there he goes to the UN in New York to appeal for immediate armed intervention by the international community, as well as to seek humanitarian assistance for the Timorese.
- 15/09/99 The UN Security authorizes an Australian-led multinational force, INTERFET, to restore peace and security in Timor-Leste.



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Xanana Gusmão returns to a devastated Timor-Leste and makes emotional pleas for all Timorese to return home, to forgive and to rebuild.

- 25/10/99 The United Nations Security Council, by resolution 1272 (1999), establishes the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). The Mission comprises three main components: governance and public administration; humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation; and a military component with an authorized strength of up to 8,950 troops and 200 military observers. UNTAET is led by the Special Representative of the (UN) Secretary General (SRSG) Sergio Vieira de Mello.
- 27/10/99 The Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for East Timor, led by the World Bank, is launched in Geneva to request \$199 million to meet humanitarian needs through June 2000.
- 31/10/99 The last Indonesian troop leaves Timor-Leste.
- 27/11/99 The SRSG signs the first of a series of legal instruments setting out the terms of UNTAET's administration of the territory.
- 02/12/99 The SRSG signs Regulation 1999/2 on the establishment of the National Consultative Council (NCC), a 15-member joint East Timorese-UNTAET body, through which the representatives of the people of Timor-Leste can actively participate in the decision-making process during the transition period.
- 03/12/99 UNTAET establishes, by regulation 1999/3, a Transitional Judicial Service Commission comprising five individuals, three East Timorese and two internationals.
- 23/02/00 INTERFET formally transfers its military command of Timor-Leste to UNTAET.
- 27/03/00 The East Timorese Police Academy is established.
- 04/28/00 The East Timor Postal System commences operation.
- 12/05/00 The Dili District Court commences its first public proceeding.
- 30/05/00 At the opening of the Conference on Reconstruction, UNTAET proposes a period of co-governance between UNTAET and Timor-Leste prior to a full transfer of authority.
- 21/06/00 UNTAET and CNRT agree on a new composition and structure for consulting with East Timorese on legislative and policy matters, called the National Council. The National Council has 33 members, which includes 13 representatives from



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the districts, seven representatives from CNRT and three representatives from other political parties. Its other members represent youth, women's groups, and non-governmental organizations, as well as the Catholic, Protestant and Muslim communities, professional and farmer's associations, the labour movement and the business community. All members, including the chair of the NC are East Timorese.

- 12/07/00 The NC adopts a regulation establishing a Transitional Cabinet comprised of four East Timorese and four UNTAET representatives.
- The first 50 graduates of East Timor's Police Academy officially take up their functions as police officers.
- 06/09/00 Three UNHCR staff are murdered in Atambua, West Timor, following an attack by armed militias on the UNHCR office.
- 08/09/00 The UN Security Council adopts resolution 1319 which insists "that the Government of Indonesia take immediate additional steps, in fulfillment of its responsibilities, to disarm and disband the militia immediately, restore law and order in the affected areas in West Timor, ensure safety and security in the refugee camps and for humanitarian workers, and prevent cross-border incursions into East Timor."
- 12/09/00 The East Timor Transitional Cabinet approves the establishment of the East Timor Defence Force (ETDF) with former FALINTIL soldiers representing the core of the 3,000 strong force.
- 17/03/01 UNTAET begins civil registration.
- 09/06/01 The Timor-Leste resistance umbrella organization CNRT is dissolved to make way for a range of political parties to participate in the upcoming election for a Constituent Assembly.
- 15/07/01 The Transitional Cabinet and the National Council dissolve and elections begin for an 88 member Constituent Assembly, who's mandate will be primarily to draft the constitution of Timor-Leste.
- 30/08/01 Election for a Constituent Assembly, Timor-Leste's first democratic elections.
- 06/09/01 FRETILIN is declared the winning party, with 57.3% of the vote, in Timor-Leste's Constituent Assembly elections.
- 20/09/01 24 members of the new all-East Timorese Council of Ministers of the Second Transitional Government are sworn-in.



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- 22/10/01 The President of the Constituent Assembly signs a resolution approved by the Assembly that UNTAET hand over sovereignty to elected Timorese government institutions on May 20, 2002.
- 26/10/02 The first East Timor Defence Force battalion is formally inaugurated.
- 31/10/02 The Security Council endorses Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recommendations that the United Nations continue its role in Timor-Leste after the territory's independence next year, stressing that a premature withdrawal of the international presence could have a destabilizing effect in a number of crucial areas.
- 31/01/02 The UN Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 1392 (2002) extending the mandate of UNTAET until 20 May 2002.
- The Constituent Assembly votes to transform itself into Timor-Leste's first legislature upon final approval of the Constitution.
- 22/03/02 Timor-Leste's Constituent Assembly approves and signs Timor-Leste's first Constitution.
- 14/04/02 East Timorese presidential elections are held. Francisco da Amaral, Deputy Speaker of the Constituent Assembly and Xanana Gusmão stand as the only two candidates.
- 17/04/02 Xanana Gusmão is announced as President-elect of Timor-Leste after winning 82.7 per cent of the vote in the presidential elections.
- 20/05/02 Timor-Leste becomes an independent nation. Xanana Gusmão is formally sworn in as the first President of Timor-Leste. The first Cabinet of the Democratic Republic of East Timor is sworn in, with Mari Alkitiri as Prime Minister. The National Parliament votes unanimously for Timor-Leste to join the United Nations. This resolution is made before many leaders of the world, including the UN Secretary General, in Dili, Timor-Leste.
- 09/05/07 Jose Ramos-Horta is announced as the new President-elect of Timor-Leste having won nearly 70% of the national vote.
- 20/05/07 Jose Ramos-Horta is sworn in as the second President of Timor-Leste, coinciding with the fifth anniversary of formal independence for Timor-Leste.
- 08/08/07 Xanana Gusmão is sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, having been asked by President Ramos-Horta to form a coalition with other minor parties.

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