

MOTHER JONES: THE STRUGGLE FOR EAST TIMOR
http://motherjones.com/east_timor/

The site includes:

A. FEATURES

- i. **Timorese Skeletons in Holbrooke's Closet:** Richard Holbrooke is heading to Dili as a representative of the UN, but he's carrying the baggage of a shameful past of covering up for Indonesian human rights abuses.
- ii. **Economic Rebuilding:** If East Timor ever does become an independent country, becoming self-sufficient will be its first priority, and perhaps its biggest challenge.
- iii. **Domino Effect:** The impending vote in East Timor will certainly resound across Indonesia, especially in other restless provinces. As independence movements gain momentum in all corners of the massive archipelago, to conclude that the region is the next Yugoslavia is the natural—and common—academic conclusion. If East Timor breaks free, will Ambon, Aceh, Bali, and Irian Jaya necessarily follow? Experts disagree.
- iv. **US Military Aid:** Despite international condemnation of its violent occupation and administration of East Timor, Indonesia has remained a key U.S. ally and the recipient of billions of dollars in American military and economic aid over several decades.
- v. **Who are the Militias?** Squads of pro-integration East Timorese men patrol nearly every village in every district of East Timor. The Indonesian army clearly trains and arms them, but denies it. Experts say the Indonesians are trying to create the illusion of civil war. Who are these civilian terrorists, and why are they killing their neighbors?
- vi. **Torture Industry:** The Indonesian army and its henchmen among the militias have made torture both an art and a science. Political prisoners are forced to swallow metal rods, subjected to electric shock, hung by chains, thrown from helicopters, suffocated, and sliced with machetes.
- vii. **Raping the Future:** The Indonesian government's social policy toward East Timor has included the systematic violation of sexual and reproductive rights of East Timorese women.

B. COMMENT

- i. Hugging a Dead Man: A US citizen who was in East Timor as an election observer writes from exile in Australia of what he remembers, and what he can't forget.
- ii. Noam Chomsky: Why Americans Should Care About East Timor Since the Indonesian invasion of December 1975, East Timor has been the site of some of the worst atrocities of the modern era—atrocities which are mounting again right now
- iii. The East Timor Cynicism Quiz: If you believe you're getting the whole story on East Timor from the mainstream press or the US government, take this eye-opening little quiz.
- iv. Indonesia's Built-In Exit Strategy. The Indonesian military may use the United Nation's long, documented history of favoring independence for East Timor to argue that the entire referendum was biased. And unfortunately, they have a point. Can the threat of economic sanctions force Indonesia's hand? In theory, yes; in reality, probably not.

C. DOSSIER: Link to 1(a)(q) above (A relatively painless primer on the history of the conflict in East Timor)

D. EVIDENCE {Note: This link has a photo of a topless woman)

- i. Photos. These photos are deemed by Mother Jones to be too disturbing to be viewed by children. Unfortunately (fortunately?), the link was inoperative when accessed on July 13, 2001.
- ii. Witness to a Massacre: Allan Nairn was in East Timor on assignment for The New Yorker in 1991; a battalion of Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a crowd of East Timorese peaceably assembled in a cemetery for a pro-independence rally. Nairn recounted the events of that day, which claimed an estimated 271 lives, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1992.

E. ALT.NEWS: Current news

1 . REFERENCE

- a) Glossary: Definitions of acronyms and other terms in alphabetical order, from ABRI to Xanana
- b) Players: A who's who in the history and current events of East Timor, from Ali Alatas to General Wiranto.

- c) Resources: Links to pro-independence and pro-integration groups, human-rights organizations, and news on East Timor.
- d) Almanac: Facts and figures on Indonesia, East Timor, and, for comparative purposes, the United States.
- e) Q&A: Is Indonesia sincere about East Timor's self-determination? Nobel Peace Prize-winner José Ramos-Horta, Timor resistance leader Xanana Gusmão, and ETAN director John Miller respond.