



June 2015

No. 32

Members and Supporters are invited to:

the AETFA AGM/Public Meeting

Sunday, 14 June 2pm/3pm

FILEF Centre, 15 Lowe St Adelaide

- **2pm AGM:** Committee Report, Finance Report, Election of Office Bearers and Committee - *Short break* -

- **3pm Public Meeting:** Guest speakers: 1. **Senator Nick Xenophon;** 2. **Dr Richie Gun, AO, volunteer at Bakhita Clinic, Ermera, TL;** 3. **Pedro Ximenes, rep. from East Timor Students Assoc. SA.**

Discussion on Timor Sea Justice campaign, recent events, development issues, 40th anniversary of Balibo 5 killings on October 16.

Refreshments provided.

East Timor 'reactivates' bid for new maritime boundary with Australia

Tom Allard *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 June 2015



East Timor Prime Minister Rui Araujo. *Photo: Reuters*

An espionage operation by Australia's foreign spy service underpins a new bid by East Timor to establish a maritime boundary between the two countries and gain a bigger share of the lucrative Timor Sea oil and gas fields.

Australia's tiny neighbour said on Wednesday it would reactivate arbitration proceedings in The Hague to nullify the treaty governing the \$40 billion in oil and gas deposits and force Australia to negotiate a new boundary.

The long-standing dispute between Australia and East Timor took a dramatic turn in 2013 when it emerged the Australian Secret Intelligence Service had installed listening devices in East Timor's government offices during treaty talks in 2004.

The revelations from a former senior ASIS officer who oversaw the operation prompted the government to authorise [ASIO raids](#) on the ex-spy, as well as East Timor's Canberra-based lawyer Bernard Collaery, seizing documents and data. After legal action was taken in the International Court of Justice, Australia [returned the documents](#) from Mr Collaery's home and office 16 months after they were taken in the raids.

East Timor, also known as Timor-Leste, will now drop its action in the ICJ, to the dismay of some of its supporters. However, it will restart the underlying arbitration case over the Treaty on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea (CMATS), which came into effect in 2007.

In a statement on Wednesday, Prime Minister Rui Araujo said the country would "reactivate" the arbitration, which has been paused since September last year to allow the two parties to reach a settlement privately.

"Timor-Leste's expectation that the dialogue would produce a road map for structured talks on the delimitation of permanent maritime boundaries has not been met," the statement said.

The former ASIS operative, known as Witness K, was East Timor's key witness in the arbitration but his passport was suspended by the Australian government after the ASIO raids, preventing him from travelling to The Hague. His passport has not been reissued.

East Timor argues the eavesdropping on its government offices rendered the CMATS treaty void because it means it was not negotiated in "good faith" as required.

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DEMAND FREE AND OPEN ACCESS TO WEST PAPUA!



Rally at Parliament House on 29 April (*photo: Asbjorn Kanck*) as part of the Global Day of Action for Media Access in West Papua. Similar protests were held in other States, New York, London and Edinburgh.

EDITOR: Bob Hanney (bohan@bluebottle.com). Assisted by AETFA committee members and supporters.

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A boundary equidistant between East Timor and Australia would place more of the reserves within the territory of the half-island nation of 1 million people.

But there are differing views on what would happen with the massive Greater Sunrise reserves under such a boundary change. The \$40 billion project has yet to be developed because of the boundary dispute.

The Australian government, and some observers, say the lateral boundaries that divide the Timor Sea are key to which country can claim ownership over Greater Sunrise, and note that those boundaries are shared with Indonesia.

A spokeswoman for Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop said it was hoped the two countries would resolve their differences amicably, noting that East Timor got 50 per cent of the Greater Sunrise revenues.

Tom Clarke, of the Timor Sea Justice Campaign, raised concerns about the dropping of the ICJ case as an apparent act of "good will".

"It's important to keep in mind that Australia has never done anything to demonstrate its willingness to negotiate in good faith," Mr Clarke said.

"Time isn't on East Timor's side and the Australian government knows this. It has been willing to stonewall Timor's requests for negotiations again and again, and it is more than happy to make things drag on and on. To starve Timor out."

ACTU CONFERENCE 28 May 2015:

International guest from TL Unions KSTL, Almerio Vila Nova, Secretary, General Workers Union, was present for the following vote:

Timor Sea Resolution -

"Congress recognises that the people and government of Timor Leste are still seeking justice in a fair division of resources in the Timor Sea in the Greater Sunrise Oilfields.

Congress calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Acknowledge its unlawful and unjust claim to a continental shelf boundary north of the median line between Australia and Timor Leste and adhere to the principles of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea impartially and fairly; and
2. Commence immediate negotiations to settle the eastern and western boundaries of the Timor Gap between Australia, Timor Leste and Indonesia."

(Moved: Paul McAleer, MUA Seconded: Brad Parker, CFMEU)

VISIT TO ADELAIDE OF TIMOR LESTE VETERANS

The most important event that AETFA was involved in over the past year was the visit to Australia by about 50 FALINTIL (Armed Resistance) veterans who were guests of the RSL in several centres. Five veterans came to Adelaide and were special guests at the

ANZAC Day March and other ANZAC events in Adelaide. The main purpose was to learn from the RSL what services they provide to Australian veterans and what it does to build support for veterans in the community.

AETFA SA worked with Dr Ian Leitch, the Timor-Leste Honorary Consul to SA and the East Timor Students Association SA to have a dinner with the veterans, a reception at the RAAF Mess and a barbecue to honour the veterans.

AETFA felt that this was in effect a de facto acceptance by Australian authorities that the East Timorese who supported Australian commandos in WW2 should have been welcomed to ANZAC Day events after that war. It was also an acceptance that their resistance against the Indonesian military occupation of their country was a valid struggle.



The five East Timorese FALINTIL veterans, Francisco Sarmiento, Lucio Marques, Lucas Salsinha, Pedro de Oliveira and Paulo Sarmiento are welcomed by the ETSA SA President, Ligia Soares at the Reception.

Also visiting Adelaide were ten English Language Teachers from Timor Leste.

These English teachers from various regions of Timor Leste were here to take part in a five-week training project organised by the Rotary Foundation. They were awarded certificates at an ETSA SA and Rotary organised function on 23 May to celebrate the Restoration of Independence Day (20 May 2002) and to farewell the Vocational Training Team.

As Australia continues to turn a blind eye, protests, arrests escalate in West Papua as regional summit draws closer

Sunday, 7 June 2015 Red Flag

More than 500 activists have been arrested over the past month across West Papua as protests, demonstrations and meetings build in the lead up to the Melanesian

Spearhead Group (MSG) Summit in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

Ronny Kareni, a Melbourne-based spokesperson for the Free West Papua Movement, told *Red Flag* that the crackdown by Indonesian police has been widespread – from the highlands to the cities.

“There is a growing fear that more Papuans will be detained and arrested just for coming out in support of the application ... A lot of the prominent, key organisers and leaders in the movement are still being detained unlawfully.

“They are being mistreated – no access to any medical treatment. As far as I know, two weeks ago there was a mass arrest in Manokwari [capital of the province of West Papua], where up to 70 people were detained and the key KNPB [National Committee for West Papua, an advocacy and media organisation] leader, for up to 48 hours was not able to talk – he couldn’t even eat ... A large number are still detained.”

The MSG summit will consider an application by the United Liberation Movement of West Papua for membership of group, which consists of Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, along with the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia.

West Papua has been occupied by Indonesia since the 1960s, but there is an ongoing campaign for self-determination and for international recognition of West Papuan claims for independence.

“The message from us to the Melanesian Spearhead Group leadership is that this is an important moment”, Kareni said. In recent months there have been protests and solidarity actions in a number of countries in the Pacific. “There is growing support from the grassroots ... We know that there is an upward pressure on the various governments. A lot of the NGOs have come on board, the church groups have come on board and opposition political leaders have come on board [in support of the membership application].”

The MSG leaders have to this point been divided over the issue. PNG prime minister Peter O’Neill in particular has supported Indonesia and opposed West Papuan claims for self-determination. Fijian leader Frank Bainimarama has not declared a position on the issue.

“There are bigger interests at play”, Kareni said. “A couple of months ago the foreign minister of Indonesia went around with a briefcase of US\$20 million, promising [MSG members] that if they support Indonesia’s bid to become an associate member, then the \$20 million will be used for capacity development projects for the MSG ... Fiji has been funded and supported by the Indonesian military ... and Indonesia is bidding for PNG to become an ASEAN member.”

United States Imperial interests come before Freedom! (Ed.) -

Press Release: West Papua Human Rights leader denied entry by United States

West Papua Action Network (US) 15 May 2015

At 2:00pm, May 13, 2015 the United States (US) office of Homeland Security stopped West Papuan Human Rights

campaigner Mr Benny Wenda from boarding a Virgin Atlantic flight from London to Los Angeles where he was set to embark on a speaker tour of California and Hawaii at the invitation of human rights groups supporting the Free West Papua Campaign.

Pending an explanation from the US Government, the busy two-week schedule of events is moving forward without Mr Wenda. Free West Papua campaigners in California are now even more determined to raise the voice that Indonesia seeks to silence.

The Free West Papua tour of California and Hawaii is moving forward with West Papua independence campaigner Herman Wainggai who has been residing in the Washington D.C. area as an international advocate for West Papua. According to the Free West Papua campaign in the UK, after check-in staff found an alert on their passport system, Mr Wenda was questioned by an official from the US Homeland Securities bureau office at London’s Heathrow Airport. Mr Wenda told the official: *“I am a Human Rights campaigner from West Papua, I am exiled and am campaigning for West Papua.”*

After making phone calls the US official told Mr Wenda that his US visa had been revoked, but declined to say why. He told Mr Wenda to contact the US embassy.

Mr Wenda was issued the ten year business visa in October 2014 and has already made one visit to Congress staff on Capitol Hill in Washington using it.

Attempts to get answers by the Free West Papua Campaign (FWPC) in both London and Washington have so far met with silence. The FWPC is keen to know why Benny Wenda’s legitimate right to free speech in the US has been quashed and is working to try and get his visa reinstated. Mr Benny Wenda said:

“I hope that US officials respond to my situation soon so that I can join the tour. Concern is growing from people, politicians and UN officials in the United States about the ongoing genocide in West Papua. I am keen to follow-through their invitation to address these audiences and to urge political action by the US Government.”

As West Papua Human Rights campaigners in the US, we ask our Senators and Congressmen to remove the information block and expedite the red tape as to why Mr. Wenda was stopped by Homeland Security and why his business visa has been revoked.

Timor-Leste Government Tribute to Fernando La Same de Araujo:

The Loss of a National Hero

Minister of State and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and
Official Spokesperson for the Government of Timor-Leste

Dili, June 2nd, 2015

The loss of a National Hero

“The youth must love this country and work hard for it”

The last words of La Sama

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It is with deep regret that the Government of Timor-Leste received news this morning of the unexpected passing of Minister of State H.E. Fernando La Sama de Araújo. On behalf of the Government, Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo offered his heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the Minister of State on this sad day for Timor-Leste.

Minister of State H.E. Fernando de Araújo was a leading historical figure in Timor-Leste's struggle for self-determination and went on to serve the country after the restoration of independence as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation [2001-2002], President of National Parliament [2007-2012] and as senior member of Government since 2012. At the time of his passing His Excellency was Minister of State, Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Education.

Fernando La-Sama de Araújo was born to farming parents in Ainaro on the 26 of February 1963. His calm and traditional upbringing was forever interrupted by the 1975 occupation of Timor-Leste. In that year his family was massacred and life as part of a refugee community in the mountains began. As a 12 year-old boy he became deeply conscious of principles that would guide his actions for the rest of his life - the right to life and freedom from torture, fear and injustice.

After completing his secondary education in Dili, La Sama went onto study literature at the University of Udayana in Bali. He used this platform to begin organizing student movements in Bali against the Soeharto regime and the occupation of Timor-Leste. In 1988 along with some of his colleagues, La Sama formed *Resistência Nacional dos Estudantes de Timor-Leste*, the student resistance movement usually referred to as RENETIL. This group was a critical part of the resistance movement and the eventual restoration of independence.

In 1991 La Sama was arrested by the Indonesian Military and in 1992 convicted of subversion against the state. He was imprisoned until his conditional release in 1998.

La Sama then played a key role in the 1999 Referendum and the Restoration of Timor-Leste's independence in 2002. He established and was President of the Democratic Party since it's formation in 2000. In 2001 he served in the II UNTAET Transitional Government as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Between 2007 and 2012 La Sama served as the President of National Parliament and then 2012, with the Democratic Party as a part of a coalition Government, he served as Vice Prime Minister and Coordinator of Social Affairs. In the Sixth Constitutional Government, sworn into office in February this year, he was appointed as Minister of State, Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Education.

Spokesperson for the Government of Timor-Leste, Minister of State Agio Pereira noted "today Timor-Leste has lost a National Hero. The unexpected passing of La Sama is a great loss. His closeness to the suffering and hopes of our people motivated a life of service, humility, honesty and simplicity. He served us well, with class and compassion, and will forever have a place in our history, and in our hearts".

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INVITES INDONESIAN WAR CRIMINAL TO ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

In late September 2014, there was a conference in Melbourne to observe the 15th anniversary of the UN peace-keeping force that went to Timor after the 30 August 1999 independence referendum there. Speakers included former Indonesian lieutenant general, Kiki Syahnakri, the Timor-Leste PM, Xanana Gusmao, and Australian Governor-General and former commanding officer of the UN peace-keeping force in Timor, Peter Cosgrove.

It should be of concern to all Australians to know that Kiki Syahnakri was able to attend this conference at all as an indictment was filed against him in 2003 for the crimes of murder, forced deportation and persecution. The UN Serious Crimes Unit (SCU), which was founded after the 1999 crisis, filed the indictment against him and seven others, including TNI general Wiranto, who was recently a candidate during the Indonesian presidential elections.

The SCU also requested a warrant for Syahnakri's arrest. He and the others accused of mass murder have never been sentenced for any crime. Indeed, they have never been brought to justice and are allowed to freely roam the world. Their terrorist crimes are easily on a par with ISIS, the organisation currently causing so much bloodshed in Iraq and Syria and which US Vice President, Joe Biden, admitted recently that the US had been supporting.

Andrew Alcock, Oct 2014 Letter to Advertiser

Australia knew about Indonesia's napalm plans in Timor Leste

May 9, 2015 Philip Dorling www.smh.com.au

The Australian and United States governments knew Indonesia was prepared to use napalm against the people of Timor Leste but made no protest, according to secret documents unearthed by an Australian researcher.

Associate Professor Clinton Fernandes from the Australian Defence Force Academy has found previously classified Australian diplomatic papers that call into question repeated Indonesian denials that incendiary weapons were used in Timor Leste during Jakarta's 24-year occupation of the former Portuguese colony.

The discovery is a breakthrough in Dr Fernandes' long running research to establish the extent of the Australian Government's knowledge of Indonesian war crimes in East Timor.

Associate Professor Clinton Fernandes has found documents which say the Australian government know Indonesia planned to use napalm.

One of the documents found by Dr Fernandes at the National Archives of Australia is a September 1983 letter from the Australian consul in Bali, Malcolm Mann, to Dennis Richardson, then counsellor in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, to report a conversation with the United States consul in Surabaya, Jay McNaughton.

The American had told Mr Mann that he had "seen intelligence reports that the Indonesians were fitting napalm tanks to their F5 aircraft for use in Indonesia".

The Indonesian Air Force had acquired from the United States a dozen Northrop F-5 ground attack aircraft three years earlier. Mr McNaughton explained that "American experts had been asked to help with the fitting of the napalm tanks as the Indonesians were having difficulty in trimming the aircraft".

Mr Richardson asked the US Embassy in Jakarta to confirm the Indonesians had approached the United States for assistance in fitting napalm tanks and was told that US contractors had been engaged "because the napalm tanks were made in Italy and modifications were needed in order to fit them to F5s".

In early November 1983 Richardson forwarded a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra in which he added that "the United States assumed that, given the recent military build-up in East Timor, the approach had been made in connection with East Timor".

Following international outcries generated by the use of napalm in the Vietnam War, use of the incendiary weapon against civilians was effectively banned by a 1980 United Nations convention that prohibits conventional weapons which are "excessively injurious" or have "indiscriminate effects".

However Indonesia did not and has not signed the convention.

The Department of Foreign Affairs files examined by Dr Fernandes show the Australian Embassy in Jakarta took no action to protest against Indonesia's use of napalm and there was no reaction in Canberra, where then prime minister Bob Hawke's Labor Government was eager to improve relations with Indonesia and open negotiations with Jakarta on the oil and gas resources of the Timor Sea.

In 2006, following the publication of allegations of Indonesian napalm use against Timorese civilians in the report of Timor's United Nations-sponsored Truth and Reconciliation Commission, then Indonesian defence minister Juwono Sudarsono declared that such attacks "never happened".

"How could we have used napalm against the East Timorese? Back then we didn't even have the capacity to import, let alone make napalm," Mr Sudarsono.

One witness quoted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Lucas da Costa Xavier, recalled: "The trees and grass would burn when the bombs hit them ... Many civilians died from drinking the water contaminated with shrapnel from bombs dropped from the planes, and many died of burns – it was the dry season, so the grass burned easily."

Dr Fernandes said the Foreign Affairs department documents were significant "because they are the first hard

evidence of napalm from the official records, and not just the testimony of survivors."

"The documents show that the East Timorese and the small group of international activists who supported them were telling the truth," Dr Fernandes said

"The Labor government that came to office in 1983 knew that the Indonesian military were committing crimes against humanity, including burning people alive with napalm, but they said and did nothing."

Dr Fernandes has been engaged in a protracted legal battle in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court to secure the declassification of Australian intelligence and diplomatic records relating to Indonesia's occupation of East Timor.

The Australian government claims declassification of the papers would reveal still sensitive intelligence and damage Australia's relations with Indonesia. Much of the government's evidence has been suppressed following the issue of a "public interest certificate" by Attorney-General George Brandis.

"The current government should declassify all relevant records so that the full truth can come out," Dr Fernandes said.

Balibo Five: Police drop investigation into killings of Australian journalists

The Guardian 21 October 2014

AFP say 'insufficient evidence' reason for abandoning 39-year-old case which saw five East Timor-based reporters killed by Indonesian troops

Australian Federal Police have abandoned a war crimes investigation into the killings of five Australian-based journalists in East Timor in 1975.

Brian Peters, 29, Malcolm Rennie, 28, Gregory Shackleton, 29, Gary Cunningham, 27, and Anthony Stewart, 21, were killed in the town of Balibo in East Timor – now called Timor-Leste – while reporting on the Indonesian military invasion for competing Australian TV networks, Seven and Nine.

The Australian federal police (AFP) launched an investigation into the 39-year-old case in 2009, but on Tuesday confirmed in a statement that it had been abandoned due to "insufficient evidence to prove an offence."

"During the investigation the AFP identified challenges associated with establishing jurisdiction. The investigation continued in an effort to overcome those issues," it said. "As a result, the AFP has exhausted all inquiries in relation to this matter and will be taking no further action. The AFP has had ongoing consultation with the families throughout this complex and difficult investigation."

Shackleton's widow, Shirley Shackleton, reacted angrily to the news, describing it as a "shocking" and "terrible" outcome.

She said she hoped to launch a court case to get "proper answers".

"I will keep on this until I die," she told AAP.

[Fears the investigation was stalling](#) have been raised over the past year, with correspondences revealing the AFP was struggling to obtain evidence from “overseas agencies”. A 2007 NSW coronial inquiry into Peters’ death found that the five men were shot and/or stabbed deliberately by Indonesian forces, including Christoforus da Silva and Captain Yunus Yosfiah on the orders of Captain Yosfiah, in order to prevent the journalists revealing Indonesian special forces had participated in the attack on Balibo. The deaths were “not in the heat of battle”, she said.

“The journalists were not incidental casualties in the fighting: they were captured then deliberately killed despite protesting their status,” wrote deputy state coroner Dorelle Pinch, who recommended the commonwealth attorney general take action.

The subsequent Indonesian cover-up included the destruction of the journalists bodies, orchestration of statements and media reports to suggest the men were communist combatants, and “deliberately misleading investigators sent by the Australian government in the first six months following the deaths; and continuing to deny any Indonesian involvement in their deaths at the time and even up to the present time some 30 years after the event”, wrote Pinch.

Former members of the Indonesian military were the “one category” of witnesses who did not participate in the inquest. In 2009, a feature film was released about the deaths of the five men, as well as a sixth journalist, Roger East, who travelled to East Timor investigating their disappearance. The film was dismissed as propaganda in Indonesia and banned.

Ben Saul, barrister and professor of international law at the University of Sydney, called for the AFP to fully explain their legal reasons for not going ahead with the investigation. “Certainly the NSW coroner felt there was a sufficient legal basis to commence a prosecution,” Saul told Guardian Australia.

“So it’s really incumbent on the federal police to release their legal advice to explain why it is they think it’s not possible and why they take a different view to senior lawyers in that coronial inquiry.”

Saul, who acted for the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) at the NSW inquiry, said there are “complexities” in the legal situation relating to prosecuting a war crime.

“It has to show that there was an international armed conflict between Indonesia and Portugal ... and that in the context of that the journalist were killed,” he said, adding “I think the legal case for that conflict’s existence is very strong on the facts”.

He said that while the criminal standard of proof was much higher for the police than in a coronial inquest, the AFP have not “satisfactorily” explained if they had exhausted all lines of inquiry.

In a statement last week ahead of the 39th anniversary of the deaths, the MEAA criticised the AFP for an apparent failure to engage Indonesian authorities in pursuing those responsible.

“The AFP has spent five years investigating the incident. And still there is no result,” said MEAA federal secretary Christopher Warren in a statement.

“Quite literally, those responsible for killing our journalist colleagues are getting away with murder.”

The AFP spokesman confirmed that family members in Australia and one family in the UK were briefed by senior AFP investigators on Monday.

Timor-Leste's population bubble – dividend or danger?

Posted on: April 13th, 2015 by Marketing and Communications, Flinders University



Mothers and children in Timor-Leste

A Flinders University demographer this week will tell the government of Timor-Leste that the population ‘bubble’ caused by soaring birth rates after independence in 2000 could potentially lead to an economic dividend for the young island nation.

However, Dr Udo Saikia warned that if Timor-Leste does not respond to its current demographic challenges through adequate investment in human capital in this early stage of demographic transition, then the country is likely to experience increased poverty, environmental degradation and risks of violent conflict.

Director of Applied Population Studies program in the School of the Environment, Dr Saikia said that from an already high base of 5.3 during its time as an Indonesian province, Timor-Leste’s fertility rate – the number of births per mother in the reproductive age group – grew after independence to reach an extraordinary average level of 7.8, one of the highest in the world, in 2003. It currently sits at 5.7.

Dr Saikia recently completed an updated projection (originally commissioned by Australia’s Defence Science and Technology Organisation) of population growth and its implications for the Timor-Leste that suggests that the current population of close to 1.2 million will reach 1.4 million by 2020, and that the increase could double to around 1.82 million by 2030.

Analysis of rapid population growth points to serious issues for Timor-Leste, including social problems associated with potential mass unemployment among the nation’s youth.

“We are projecting that at the current rate of growth, 18,000 new jobs need to be created every year for the young population,” Dr Saikia said.

He said that given the number of formal jobs created in 2008 was around 400, there is "a big gap".

But given the right government strategies, including disciplined use of its oil revenues to invest in education, Dr Saikia said that Timor-Leste could emulate the social and economic success of South Korea, which had treated its high birth rates as a "demographic dividend" by heavily investing in youth education and training.

The Flinders team, which comprises Dr Saikia, Associate Professor Gour Dasvarma, Dr Merve Hosgelen and Dr James Chalmers, was invited to present its findings to the Timor-Leste Government by the acting Prime Minister, Mr Agio Pereira. Mr Pereira was a keynote speaker at two conferences on transitional nations in the Asia Pacific organised by Flinders that were held in Adelaide in 2010 and 2011.

"What we are proposing to them is that we will organise a skills program to train local people in survey techniques, so that they can assist us in new research projects on the population, youth bulge and human well-being," Dr Saikia said.

Timor-Leste has already demonstrated its ability to respond to social challenges: Dr Saikia said that faced with a total absence of doctors after independence, the Government negotiated a program with Cuba that has since trained hundreds of East Timorese as GPs.

Reducing fertility levels may take longer to address, Dr Saikia said. His field research and focus groups identified a strong cultural belief among East Timorese supporting bigger family size.

"If you ask East Timorese women, or their husbands, how many children they would like to have, the answer is almost always six or seven," Dr Saikia said.

"There are, however, some encouraging signs of declining birth rate in recent years, and with the commitment from the Timor-Leste Government as stated in their strategic plan 2011-2030, there is every possibility that the country can transform the current demographic concerns to future demographic dividend."

"It is highly important that we view the growing young Timorese as an opportunity rather than a burden, as otherwise their unmet aspirations can severely hamper the nation building process."

Xanana Gusmao and Kirsty Sword Gusmao announce separation

Sydney Morning Herald March 22, 2015 Lindsay Murdoch

East Timor's former president and prime minister Xanana Gusmao has separated from his Australian wife Kirsty Sword Gusmao, ending a fairytale 15-year marriage that began when the then resistance fighter fell in-love with a 20-year younger undercover agent who came to his jail cell in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

"We wish to inform our friends, colleagues and many wonderful supporters of our decision to separate as a couple," Mr Gusmao, 68, said from Melbourne, where Ms Sword is now living with the couple's three sons.

"Like all couples who decide to do this, it did not come easy," he said.



Xanana Gusmao, son Alexandre and Kirsty Sword Gusmao in 2002. Photo: Craig Abraham

"We have both devoted a lot of our lives to firstly seeking and securing independence for Timor-Leste (East Timor) and then our whole married life to working through the various stages and challenges associated with building a nation from ground up."

The announcement comes after Mr Gusmao last month stepped down as East Timor's prime minister two years before his term expired, opening the way for a unity government that seeks to hand power to a new generation of leaders more than a decade after the half-island nation gained independence from Indonesia.

Working undercover for East Timor's resistance movement under the code-name "Ruby Blade," Ms Sword met Xanana in a Jakarta jail in 1994.

"I shook hands with Xanana and I had to pretend that I wasn't particularly interested in him," Ms Sword said in 2002.

Fluent in the Indonesian language after growing up in Bendigo and Melbourne and completing a degree at Melbourne University, Ms Sword was working as teacher and human rights campaigner in Jakarta when she began passing messages from Xanana under the noses of the Indonesian police and army.

Mr Gusmao, a wily leader of East Timor's struggle for freedom, served seven years of a 20-year prison sentence before being released in 1999 after East Timorese voted to break-away from Indonesia.

Few people were surprised when Ms Sword soon became Xanana's secretary and fell in love with the charismatic former guerrilla leader.

They married in 2000 and heir first son Alexandre was born soon after.

Ms Sword adopted East Timor as her home and became widely admired among East Timorese as she committed herself to the job of being the First Lady of the world's newest nation as it struggled to recover from ruins and bloodshed following a violent backlash by pro-Indonesian militia to the independence vote.

She founded the ALOLA Foundation in 2001 to address the needs of East Timorese women and their families and worked as an ambassador for education in the country that remains one of the world's poorest.

In 2008 Ms Sword protected her children from rebel gunmen stalking her family's home in the hills above the capital Dili during an assassination attempt on her husband, after East Timor's then president Jose Ramos-Horta had been shot and almost killed in his home.

Ms Sword moved temporarily to Rosebud on Melbourne's outskirts in late 2012 as she was undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Mr Gusmao said Kirsty will continue in her role as the president of ALOLA and will be a frequent visitor to East Timor where their sons were born and raised.

He said he will continue in his new role as East Timor's Minister for Planning and Strategic Investment and will be a frequent visitor to Melbourne, where his sons will have a home as well.

"We face the future with some sadness of course, but with no regrets as our partnership and journey was unique and rich in experience," Mr Gusmao said.

"We are buoyed by the prospect of a peaceful and prosperous Timor-Leste," he said.

Mr Gusmao said he and Kirsty will continue to work together in the interests of East Timor, adding "it is something that our boys understand as it is their legacy."

"With three much loved boys, who carry dual citizenship and are multi-lingual, we remain committed parents and will maintain our family partnership to rear our children and to make Timor-Leste a better place, for them and all children of Timor-Leste," he said.

ED. Kirsty Sword Gusmao has just been awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her work to further Australia-Timor relations and to improve education, health and living conditions in the developing nation. She has dedicated her inclusion on the Queen's Birthday honours list to the courage of the East Timorese people. Ms Sword Gusmao said there was still a significant amount of work to do to improve education in East Timor because Timor schools were still vastly under-resourced.

"Some schools, even in Dili, are operating with two classes, two to three classes for some 300 children," she said.

"This means children are learning in shifts and their school is reduced, in some cases, to two hours per day."

She said the honour was an official acknowledgement by Australia of the resilience of the Timorese community.

Caring pioneer of health at work: Dr Richard Gun AO

www.adelaidenow.com.au 8 June 2015 Katrina Stokes

HELPING undernourished children and sick people living with parasites and tuberculosis in East Timor is just one aspect of Dr Richard Gun's achievements over the decades. The humble doctor was today appointed an Officer of the order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours for his service to disadvantaged communities in regional Australia and East Timor and his work in pioneering the field of occupational medicine.

Dr Gun, or "Ritchie" as he is affectionately known, began his life's work in occupational medicine in the 1970s.

"In the days that I started, occupational medicine was really just in its infancy," he said.

"There was a very small group of doctors who were interested in diseases caused by people working with asbestos and things like that ... now it's a registered specialty."

Dr Gun, 79, of Brighton, was one of the founding members of the College of Occupational Medicine, now known as the Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine.

He also developed the University of Adelaide's graduate diploma in occupational health and safety, which is completed by doctors and government and union workers.

In recent years Dr Gun has travelled to remote communities in East Timor to use his skills as a doctor to help the disadvantaged.

"It (East Timor) is a very poor country (so) a lot of the problems you see there are problems of under-nutrition," he said.

"You see people who are underweight and with nutrition problems, parasites and conditions like tuberculosis, which is quite a serious chronic disease."

He was compelled to volunteer in East Timor because of his belief many Australians owed their lives to its people after World War II.

"The Australian commandos were there for a year until they were withdrawn (and) they were not taken prisoner by the Japanese largely because they were protected by the East Timorese," he said.

Dr Gun has also spent time helping Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley region in Western Australia.

Editor's Note: Richie has been a committee member of AETFA SA and CIET SA for most of the past 40 years and for much of that time Chairperson of both committees. AETFA SA extends its congratulations to a most deserving recipient.

Film: *THE LOOK OF SILENCE*

by Joshua Oppenheimer

A Companion Film to *The Act of Killing*, 2012

Winner of the Grand Jury prize at the 2014 Venice Film festival

Synopsis

The Look of Silence is Joshua Oppenheimer's powerful companion piece to the Oscar®-nominated *The Act of Killing*. Through Oppenheimer's footage of perpetrators of the 1965 Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered, as well as the identities of the killers. The documentary focuses on the youngest son, an optometrist named Adi, who decides to break the suffocating spell of submission and terror by doing something unimaginable in a society where the murderers remain in power: he confronts the men who killed his brother and, while testing their eyesight, asks them to accept responsibility for their actions. This unprecedented film initiates and bears witness to the collapse of fifty years of silence.

N.B. Currently showing in the United States, when this powerful full-length documentary hits Australia you can be sure we'll be on to it and hopefully organise a Film Fundraising evening with speaker, etc.