

INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE: THE COMMISSION OF TRUTH AND FRIENDSHIP (CTF)



WHAT IS THE TRC?

The Commission of Truth and Friendship (CTF) is a *Truth, Friendship and Reconciliation commission* established by Indonesian Democratic President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Timorese Independent President Xanana Gusmão. It aimed to reconcile various human rights abuses resulting from multiple violent conflicts between the two nations.

The CTF was initially created in 2005, with the final report being finalized in 2008.

WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The CTF largely focuses on events leading up to the Popular Consultation in 1999 in East Timor, of which multiple atrocities and human rights abuses arose from. Previous to such was a period of Indonesian presence in East Timor from 1975-1999- a presence largely protested by many Timorese citizens, who strived for independence following the Portuguese decolonization policy in 1974. Fuelled by East Timorese pro-integration supporters, Indonesia began establishing Indonesian military presence in Timorese territory. Indonesian security approaches to maintain governance in East Timor often resulted in violence, oppression, and human rights abuses.

Eventually, Indonesia relinquished autonomy to Timor-Leste, resulting in the Popular Consultation of 1999.

MANDATES OF THE TRC

The main goals of the TRC were:

- Inquiry, consisting of document review, fact-finding, and research
- Making findings on the perpetration of gross human rights violations and institutional responsibility
- Arriving at recommendations and lessons learned
- Restoring peace and promote reconciliation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste in the world's first bilateral Truth and Friendship Commission

OUTCOMES & LEGACIES

- Recommendations focusing specifically on accountability and institutional reform, and fostering those within future relations
- The development of human rights training programs with specific focus on the role of security forces and intelligence organizations as well as civil institutions
- Specialized training programs for military, police, and civilian officials to promote the protection of women and children
- Recommendations for a joint border and security
- The tracking and identification of stolen Timorese children forcibly displaced in Indonesia
- The collaboration between Indonesia and Timor-Leste in prioritizing the location and recovery of displaced and mission persons, especially children
- *Important to note:* while both governments have adopted a mutually established state of “friendship”, there has been little efforts from both governments to establish actual long-term reconciliation

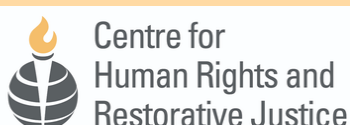
STATISTICS

Number of Commissioners: **10**

Number of Women Commissioners: **1**

Total Number of Participants: **147**

Number of Cases Heard: **1147**



1975
Indonesia invades East Timor, sparking a period of war and conflict between the two nations.

1990
78 percent of the Timorese vote for independence, resulting in a massive widespread outbreak of violence, causing the multiple burning down of buildings and mass casualties.

1999
Indonesia grants Timor-Leste autonomy in the Popular Consultation of 1999.

2005
The CTF is first established, marking the world's first dual-nation commission.

2008
The final report of the CTF is completed, after hearing from 1147 survivors.