

Another Island Divided

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Overview

- General Information
- History of the conflict and UN involvement
- Possible Solution

East Timor

- Located on Eastern half of the island of Timor, the Oecussi (Ambeno) region on the northwest portion of the island of Timor, and the islands of Pulau Atauro and Pulau Jaco
- Bordered by Indonesia
- Mountainous Island



History

- 16th Century: Portugal colonizes
- 17th Century: Dutch colonize until 19th Century
- December 1941: Dutch and Australian troops await Japanese invasion
- February 1942: Japanese invasion
- 1942-1943: Guerilla resistance to Japanese occupation
- 1945 Portugal resumes colonial authority
- 1974 New governor sets up constituent assembly
 - Starts with coup in Portugal, wave of “quick reform” spreads
- 1999: Referendum starts the process towards Independence
- 2001: Constitution accepted
- 2006: April/May Crisis

East Timor Popular Consultation

- Decision whether to have special autonomy or to have independence
- 98% voter turnout
- Over three quarters vote independence



Positive Signs

- 30 Aug 2001 more than 91 percent of voters decide major parts of the government
- Constitution signed into action 22 March 2002,
- 14 April 2002 Mr. Gusmao wins presidential election
- With both these preconditions for a hand-over of power met the Constituent Assembly was to transform itself into the country's parliament on 20 May 2002
 - 20 May is the first session (official date of independence)
 - 120,000 people celebrated in Dili
 - Swearing in attended by over 300 dignitaries including Annan

Conflict Overview

- Only reason for UN involvement is the 2006 crisis
- Tension between elements of the army (F-FDTL) and police force
- Mainly due to East-West representation and discrimination

The Lorosae (East)

- Formed largest part of resistance to Indonesian rule after Portuguese withdrawal
- Hold more positions after independence



The Loromonu (West)

- Less active in resistance
- Less prominent in F-FDTL
- Police force has more westerners
- Feel they are less favored in military structure

Start of the Violence

- Lt. Gastao Salsinha deserts with soldiers
 - Ordered to return
- Is significant demonstration of the level of discontent
- Harsh condemnation from administration



April 24, 2006

- Former soldiers and supporters (i.e. unemployed youths) march in Dili
 - Initially peaceful
- Later attack a market run by easterners
- Protests continue until 28th when soldiers fire upon the crowd
 - Soon after 100 buildings are destroyed and 21,000 residents flee Dili

May 4th and 5th

- Major Alfredo Reinado deserts with 20 military police, 4 riot police and two trucks of ammunition
 - Sets up resistance headquarters in Aileu
- Salsinha issues declaration for President Xanana Gusmao to sack PM Mari Alkatiri
 - Alkatiri calls the violence a coup, but engages in negotiations with the rebels

Intervention

- May 24, Foreign minister Ramos-Horta sends call for aid
 - Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Portugal respond
 - Forces arrive starting on the 25th
- Came during period of heavy fighting

Operation Astute

- Led by Australian forces
- Michael Slater of Australian 3rd Brigade
- Around 1560 military affiliated personnel
- 250 police officers



Unrest

- All the violence and instability led to unrest
 - Australian troops had no police power
- Some of the worst violence occurred May 27th
 - Three easterners hacked to death
- UN assisted civilians and gave shelter to refugees

Council of State

- Gusmao holds crisis talks
- The council is special body of leaders that can authorize the dismissal of the National Parliament
- Followed by broad confidence boosting measures by Gusmao
 - Visits UN refugee camps
 - Gives speeches asking for peace
 - Unifies command of Military and Police during state of emergency
 - Deals with resignations in the government

Stabilization

- June 2nd Slater meets with Reinhado
 - Reinhado reiterates claim for Alkatiri to resign
 - No negotiations because “situation not ready”
- Sporadic violence around city, but center clear
- June 6th, 2,500 strong anti-Alkatiri protest marches through Dili
 - Foreign minister Ramos-Horta sets up method of securing peaceful protest
 - Crowd supports President Gusmao
- Alkatiri agrees to UN investigation
 - Seen as transparent and open
 - Looks like end of crisis for many

The Next Day

- Allegations that Interior Minister Rogerio Lobato had formed civilian militia
 - Acting on Alkatiri's orders
 - Aimed at eliminating Alkatiri's opponents
- Group leader "Commander Railos" said ready to surrender to Gusmao after losses
- Salsinha supports claims, says weapons stolen from police
 - Brings forth new reports of Alkatiri loyal soldiers killing 60 civilians

End of Resistance

- By 16 June rebels ready to turn over weapons
- 25 August UNMIT created
- Australia left in command of joint military operation



Ultimatum

- 22 June Gusmao delivers ultimatum on national television saying he will resign if Alkatiri does not
 - Came after Gusmao told Alkatiri he had lost his trust
- Alkatiri said will resign only if Fretilin wants him to
 - His position was reaffirmed
 - Ramos-Horta resigns in protest
- 26 June Ramos-Horta was preparing press conference about resignation, and eight more ministers were threatening to leave
 - Conference was abruptly cancelled

Final Resignation

- Alkatiri resigned as PM
 - Later summoned in court about “civilian army”
- Ramos-Horta installed as PM
- The violence used as issue in 2007 elections
 - Ramos-Horta encouraged parties not to exploit the unrest for personal gain



UN Involvement

- Starts in 1999 to aid the transition to independence
- Several missions later, still there
- Each mission has had a different objective



UNAMET

- Security Council Resolution: 1246
- 11 June 1999
- Extended by Security Council resolution 1257
- Was to oversee independence



Independence

- Done by referendum
- Occurs after talks starting in 1982
- Semi-autonomy achieved 1988
- May 1999 Secretary General receives permission from both “occupying powers” to start popular consultation in preparation for vote
- After results come in Indonesia and pro-Indonesian forces attack

INTERFET

- Security Council resolution: 1264
- 12 September 1999
- Sent to support UNAMET and to encourage human rights
- Led by Australian troops

UNTAET

- Security Council resolution: 1272
- 25 October 1999
- Main role is stabilization and creation of conditions for a viable government
- After the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly recognizes the result of East Timor's independence referendum
- Fully deployed by February 2000

UNMISSET

- Security Council Resolution: 1410
- 17 May 2002
- Provide administrative assistance, support government, law enforcement
- Includes HIV/AIDS civilian support group
- Meant to be quick mission

Afterwards

- UNOTIL: political mission
- Succeeds 20 May 2005
- Provides advisors to train government elements and supports development of governing institutions
- Supposed to end May 2006...

UNMIT

- Security Council resolution: 1704
- 25 August 2006
- Goal is to bring stability and cooperation
- 1,513 total uniformed personnel,
- including 1,485 police and
- 33 military liaison officers;
- 355 international civilian staff;
- 891 local civilian personnel;
- and 175 UN Volunteers.

Proposed Solution

- Problems
 - Distrust between sections of government service
 - Weak government which is just starting up
- Areas to work
 - Military and law enforcement structure
 - Transition of power

Solution

- Timor
 - UN is currently doing what its capabilities allow
- For future missions
 - 1. Hold referendum on issue
 - If result is negative, do not proceed, or alter mission
 - 2. Set up government completely under UN control
 - Introduce temporary constitution
 - Approve by referendum
 - 3. Slowly phase out UN officers from government
 - Replace constitution with real version
 - 4. Maintain UN advisory office until full stability is achieved

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