# The Events

1974 The "Carnation Revolution" in Portugal sees the end of the long-running fascist Salazar-Caetano regime. Portugal moves to end withdraw from its African and Asian possessions.

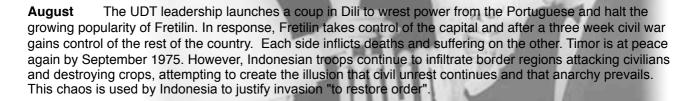
### Mid 1974-early 1975

Political parties emerge in East Timor such as the Timorese Democratic Union (UDT) and the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, known as Fretilin.

Indonesian Armed Forces and Police (ABRI) conduct "Operation Komodo", an attempt to undermine any independence for East Timor which includes military activity near the East Timor/Indonesia border. The Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam meets President Suharto in Wonosobo, a resort town in Central Java, and agrees that the eventual integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia is inevitable.

### 1975

**July** Portugal instigates a process of decolonisation for East Timor. Colonial control is set to end in October 1978



August 27 The Portuguese Governor and administration withdraw from Dili to the island of Atauro.

**October 16** Five Australian-based journalists (two Australian, one New Zealander and two British) are killed at Balibó in East Timor by Indonesian troops, preventing them from reporting on the invasion.

**November 28** With the fall of Batugade, Balibó and Maliana to the Indonesians in October, and of Atabae in November, and in the face of increasing destabilisation orchestrated by Indonesia and of international indifference, Fretilin unilaterally declares the independence of East Timor in the hope that the UN might support the new state.

**December 6** US President Gerald Ford and US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger banquet with President Suharto in Jakarta, giving a "green light" to the invasion. The CIA had convinced the Indonesians to postpone the invasion from December 5 to allow Ford and Kissinger time to leave Indonesia.

**December 7** Indonesia invades East Timor. At dawn, Indonesian troops launch a massive attack on Dili from sea and air, looting, raping and killing indiscriminately. Many civilians are killed and many flee with Fretilin forces in to the mountains. Simultaneous attacks occurred on Baucau and Likisa to the east and west of Dili. On December 8 Indonesian troops execute about 80 civilians on the Dili wharf, including women, as well as the only remaining foreigner, journalist Roger East.

**December** The UN General Assembly condemns the Indonesian invasion and the Security Council calls on Indonesia to withdraw its armed forces from East Timor.

Australian intelligence estimates that Indonesia has 15,000 to 20,000 troops in East Timor.

Many Timorese die violently during and soon after the invasion. Unlawful killings and torture account for great numbers. The Indonesian security forces constantly use starvation of East Timorese civilians as a weapon of war. By forced re-settlement and restrictions on food production they intentionally impose conditions which cannot sustain life, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths.

#### 1976

Indonesia claims an "act of integration" has taken place but the UN disagrees. Australia gives de facto recognition to the annexation, and begins informal negotiations over the seabed boundary for Timor Gap oil with the Indonesian Government.

From **1975** onwards the UN General Assembly continually rejects integration and calls for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops and for an act of self-determination to be held in East Timor. Australia repeatedly argues that the matter of East Timor be taken off the UN agenda.

#### 1978

**January 20:** The Australian Government gives de facto recognition to Indonesia's occupation of East Timor.

**December 31:** Fretilin's President, Nicolau Lobato, is shot and killed by Indonesian troops.

**Early 1980:** "Xanana" (José Alexandre Gusmão) is chosen as the new leader of the Timorese resistance. East Timor is designated as official resettlement area for Indonesian transmigrants from Java and Bali.

#### 1981

**August 19:** The forced recruitment of the East Timorese population into "fence of legs" operations begins, as part of Operasi Keamanan.

### 1982

At least 500 East Timorese were massacred by Indonesian troops at the Shrine of St Antony, near Lacluta in September 1981.

## 1983

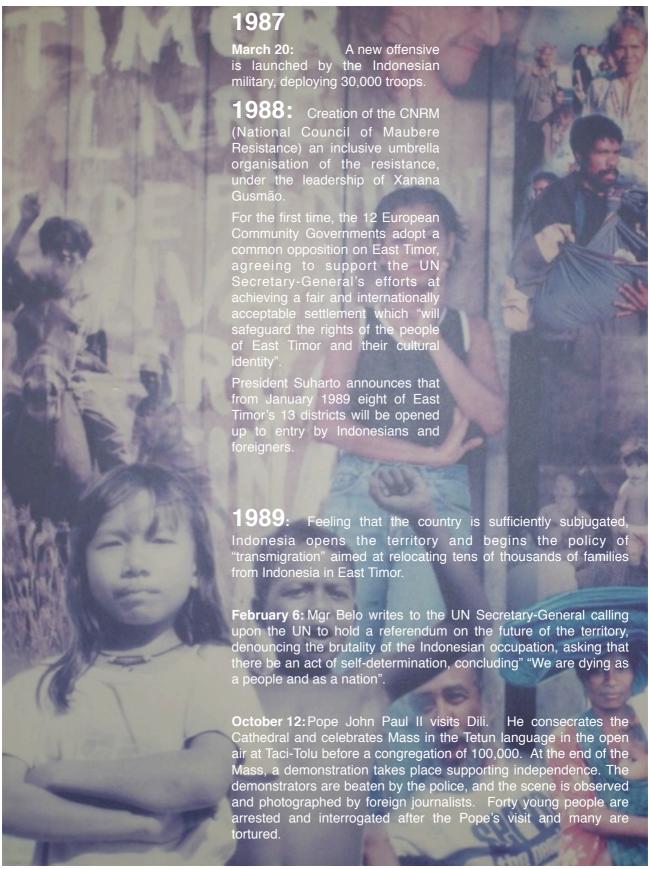
200-330 people are executed by Indonesian troops in the village of Kraras, near Vikeke.

**September 9:** A state of emergency is declared in East Timor by the Indonesian Government. President Suharto orders a "clean sweep" of East Timor.

### 1984

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke recognises Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor on behalf of the Labour Government. Reports from East Timor describe intense bombardment by the Indonesian air force between August 1983 and 1984.

The Indonesian and Australian Governments announce that they will jointly develop the petroleum resources of the Timor Gap.



**December 11:** The Australian and Indonesian Governments sign a treaty to jointly explore the Timor Gap area.

1991 November 12 Santa Cruz Massacre