



Timor-Leste:

*Between the struggle for truth
and efforts to forget the past*

Sisto dos Santos

Background History

- 450 years of Portuguese colonization
- 3½ years of Japanese occupation
- 24 years of Indonesian occupation
→ Let's focus on this episode

Blue print institutions

- ▶ Serious Crime Unit
- ▶ Special Panel / hybrid court
- ▶ Organized Election
- ▶ Re-established military and police
- ▶ Semi-presidential system (*gave us*)

UN Transitional Administration

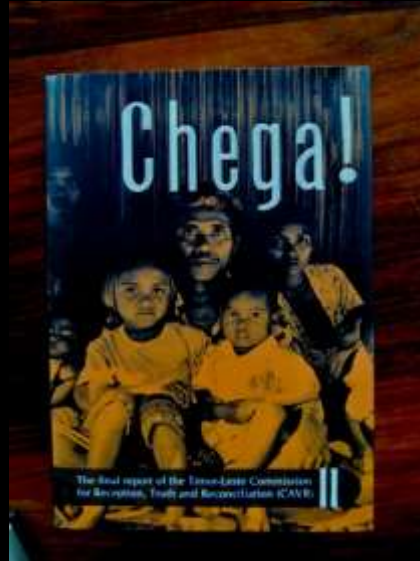
2 ½ years non-elected governance

Implementation of institutions

- Lack of knowledge of cultural aspects and recent history of Timor-Leste
- Lack of consultation with (non) formal leaders
- “western” perspective and projection

CAVR Report Recommendations

- ▶ 2000 pages
 - ▶ 202 recommendations
- Including the need for a national reparation program.



CHEGA recommendation



CHEGA Recommendations

- Reform military and police
- Educate on citizenship, human rights and history
- Reinforce Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice
- Promote non-violent methods of conflict resolution
- Search for the disappeared
- **Judgment of past crimes**

Truth Vs forget the past

→ Need truth:

- victims and society; justice and guaranteed not happen in the future.

→ Forget the past:

- Actor of past regime still continuing leading the country → by ignoring the responsibility.

Perception of Justice

Differences (leader and SC-victims)

- ▶ **Justice** → not only judgment for the perpetrator
- ▶ Justice
 - find & recognizing the truth

Fact finding the Truth

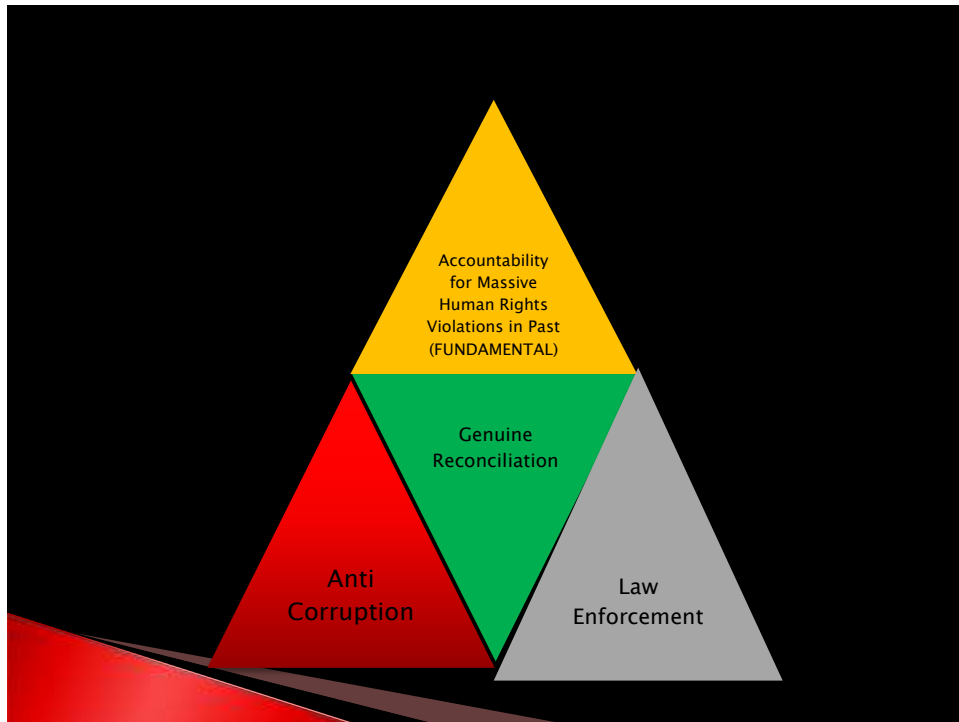
- KPP – HAM Indonesia
- Commission of Inquiry
- **CAVR – *Chega !***

CHEGA and International

- ▶ Portugal, USA, France, ...and UN
- ▶ Solidarity International community

Discrepancy

1. UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
vs Australia's claim on the Timor Sea oil
2. **Indictment without persecution process**
(Wiranto case cs)



Challenge

- ▶ Lack of political will
- ▶ leaders in both countries (TL and Indonesia) still dominated by the old generation with “dirty hands”
- ▶ politicization of the victim as ex-combatants and avoid accountability for the rights of victims

Little Hope...

- The new prime minister of the new generation with little hope
- Before elections this year, he wants establish a special institution “Memorial” to assist the government how to implementing the recommendations of the CAVR

Effort by CSOs TL-Indonesia “UNFINISHED BUSNISS “

- ▶ Organizing Victims Association for demanding Justice
- Reunion Family of Stolen Children (2014 – 2016)



A Luta Continua!

