

SUBMISSION NO. 39

The Secretary,  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600  
Australia

Sir,

Re Inquiry into the Timor Sea Treaty (May 2002) and  
the Exchange of Notes between East Timor and  
Australia (Timor Sea) (May 2002)

I understand that the Australian people are requested to  
comment on the above agreements - and to your Inquiry.

It seems that the present Australian Government has  
withdrawn  
from the International Convention of the UN in favor of  
overwhelming  
the small nation of East Timor - in its infancy - by the  
strength  
of the Australian Government's size and experience.

It seems that the Australian people are misled into  
thinking that  
we are supporting East Timor to re-establish peaceably.  
Instead  
we are extending further the misery and anguish of the East  
Timorese as they have suffered by our actions in the  
past.

Australia should be bound to acknowledge the right of East  
Timor  
to their oil and gas fields as laid down by the UN  
Convention on  
the Law of the Sea, and respect the boundaries which should  
be  
in place through the jurisdiction of the International  
Court.

Our military force is only as great as the people who serve  
in it  
and they, our NGO's and individual peoples who have  
contributed  
to the support and recognition of East Timor as a nation,  
are

insisting that Australia treats the re-establishment of the Democratic Republic of East Timor with genuine concern. That the peopoes are not used as political pawns.

My submission is

- \* that the seabed boundaries are equitably decided according to International Law between East Timor and Australia.
- \* that the people of East Timor are able to regain their just assetts and the careful development of their ] resource as they wish it;
- \* that the UN should arbitrate on whatever debate follows, if a fair and just solution is not found.
- \* that Australian is committed a responsibility to PROTECT the East Timor peoples from the greed and savagery they have experienced in the past -
- \* that exploitation has no place in future agreements.

Yours sincerely

Melva Truchanas

Melva Truchanas  
37 Gourlay Street  
Blackmans Bay 7052  
Tasmania  
Australia  
Phone (03) 6229 6298