

**STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL
EAST TIMOR**

**AMBASSADOR PAUL HEINBECKER
May 18, 12001**

Monsieur le Président,

Il y a deux ans, nous avons été témoins de la signature d'un accord tripartite, ici à l'ONU, autorisant l'organisation du scrutin de 1999 au Timor oriental - la première d'une série d'étapes très difficiles que le peuple timorais a décidé de franchir pour devenir un pays indépendant.

Les élections qui se dérouleront au mois d'août seront un nouveau tournant dans cette entreprise.

Nous désirons rendre hommage aux membres du personnel timorais et international qui travaillent main dans la main pour atteindre ce but.

We recognize that in due course the scope of the UN's involvement will need to be reduced.

It is important that we all stay the course.

We do believe, nonetheless, that we should not act precipitately to reduce military and civilian resources.

We all want this operation to succeed.

Let us proceed with circumspection and draw down only in such numbers and at such times as we are sure that our doing so will not prejudice that success.

We do, at the same time, urge the East Timor authorities to exercise appropriate budgetary restraint.

But let us be not gloss over the worst threat to further progress - and that threat is impunity.

As many of us in this room have said in the past, there must be no impunity for those responsible for atrocities committed in East Timor or anywhere else.

We commend the ongoing efforts being made by the fledgling judicial system in East Timor to bring about justice for past crimes.

Canada welcomes the clear position of UNTAET and the Timorese leadership, rejecting impunity and pursuing accountability.

But, East Timor should not be alone in this endeavour.
Indonesia also must live up to its commitment to bring perpetrators to justice.

The verdict and sentences in the trials for last September's killing of 3 UNHCR staff in West Timor are deeply distressing.

Sentences of mere months given to those who openly confessed to the murders reduces the level of international confidence in Indonesia's justice system.

The murdered UNHCR personnel were colleagues of us all as much as the people in this room are our colleagues.

They were working on our behalf.

We owe them justice, at least.

The sentences to the perpetrators are an affront to the deceased; they are simply unacceptable.

No one in this room credits for one instant that these murders were anything other than acts of cowardice and thuggery.

Treating them lightly only encourages further attacks.

To paraphrase the words of our Jamaican colleague, justice has not only not been done, it has been seen not to have been done.

Canada endorses the recent statements made by Secretary General Annan, by High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, and by UNTAET regarding the unacceptable outcome of these cases and the need for there to be sentences proportionate to the crimes.

We are encouraged that an appeal of these sentences has been filed by the Indonesian Attorney General's office, and hope that this matter will be dealt with expeditiously and effectively.

Were the Indonesian judicial system to prove unable to defend the rule of law and internationally accepted legal norms.

The international community would have no choice but to pursue other means to ensure that justice is served.

Thank you.