

Brussels, 12 April 1999

7213/99 (Presse 99)  
P 36/99

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on East Timor**

The European Union deeply deplores the rise of violence in East Timor during recent months and has taken note with dismay of the reported killing of unarmed civilians on 6 and 7 April in Liquiça, East Timor, by para-military militias, apparently with Indonesian regular forces present yet not intervening.

The EU strongly condemns these reported acts of violence and urges the Indonesian authorities to immediately intervene and stop such actions by militias by disarming them. The EU also strongly urges the Indonesian authorities to hold accountable those who are responsible for such killings. It calls on all parties to show the utmost restraint in order to avoid further violent incidents.

The EU reiterates its position that it remains the obligation of the Indonesian Government to maintain and preserve security, stability and public order in the East Timorese territory.

The EU further believes that the occurrence of such incidents demonstrates the urgent need for a United Nations presence in the territory.

The EU also considers the establishment of a peace and reconciliation commission to be an important instrument to help to calm the situation in East Timor.

The EU reiterates its support for the ongoing negotiations on East Timor, as the only way to reach a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the East Timor issue.

The EU welcomes the agreement of the parties concerned to a consultation of the East Timorese people by direct ballot, but is deeply worried that the deterioration of the security situation could seriously jeopardise this process.

The EU therefore urges the Indonesian Government to do its utmost in order to preserve peace in East Timor and to pave the way for a non violent transition process.