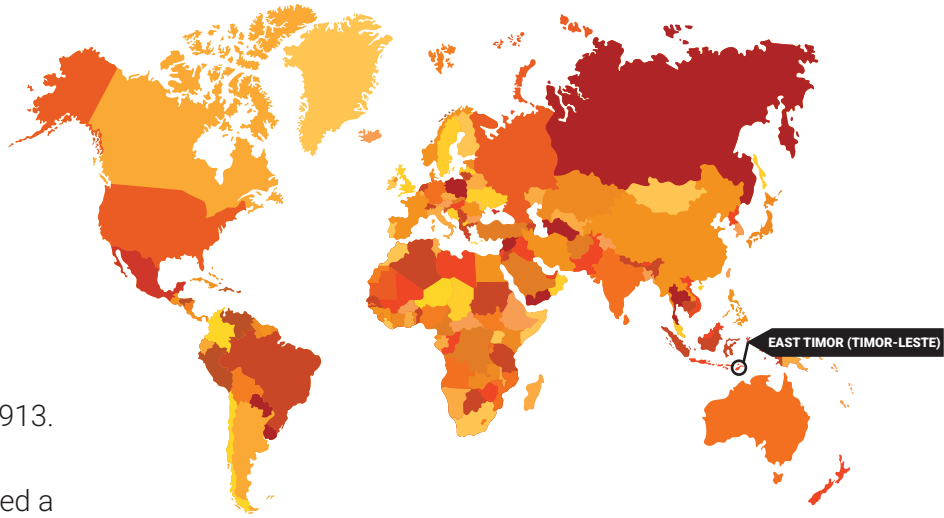


NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

EAST TIMOR (TIMOR-LESTE)

WHERE:

East Timor is an island located in south west Asia on the southern edge of the Indonesian Archipelago, 600 kms north of Australia. Dili is the capital of East Timor.



WHEN:

- Portugal settled East Timor in 1913.
- August 1975 – The Timorese Democratic Union (UDT) launched a coup in Dili and seized government buildings. In late 1975, Indonesia attacked Dili and Bacau (second largest city).
- 17 July 1976 – East Timor is officially proclaimed a part of Indonesia.

WHO:

- The East Timorese people are mostly Christian. There are small numbers of Muslim and Protestant followers.
- Indonesian Armed Forces.
- Political parties - The Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin), Timorese Democratic Union (UDT) and Timorese Popular Democratic Association (Apodeti).
- Falintil (Fretilin's Army).

WHAT:

After a coup in Portugal, political parties began to emerge in East Timor. The Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin) became the largest and most popular party. Full independence was the ultimate goal of this party.

Operation Komodo was an Indonesian covert military intelligence operation to cause unrest, uncertainty, and alarm in East Timor.

East Timor was thrust into civil war for just over a month in 1975 – UDT vs Fretilin.

WHY:

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, political activists tried to overturn the annexation of East Timor. In the 1990s the international community and media became aware of the atrocities being carried out in East Timor and the conditions that the East Timorese were living under through Indonesian occupation.

In 1999, the new President, B.J. Habibie, agreed to hold a referendum to decide East Timor's future as a country. This referendum was run by the United Nations (UN) late in 1999.

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

NZDF PEACEKEEPING IN EAST TIMOR (TIMOR-LESTE) INTERNATIONAL FORCE EAST TIMOR, UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN EAST TIMOR, AND TG GYRO

WHERE:

East Timor (Timor Leste).

WHEN:

INTERFET (International Force East Timor): Early 1999 – February 2000.

UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor): February 2000 – May 2002.

TG GYRO – an Australian-led deployment after civil unrest around Dili: August 2006 – December 2012.

WHAT:

INTERFET was led by Australia. Peacekeepers were deployed to maintain peace in the turbulent time leading up to East Timor's referendum on independence.

UNTAET was a United Nations-led mission. This was a battalion-sized group that was deployed (approx. 500-600 soldiers).

The mandate for UNTAET was:

- To provide security and maintain law and order throughout the territory of East Timor.
- To establish an effective administration.
- To assist in the development of civil and social services.
- To ensure the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation, and development assistance.
- To support capacity building for self-government.
- To assist in the establishment of conditions for sustainable development.

GYRO was a company-sized deployment (approx. 100-130 soldiers). The soldiers were in the country for the 2007 elections and were in Dili for the aftermath of the armed attacks on the President and Prime Minister in February 2008.

In total, approximately 7,000 NZDF members were deployed to East Timor.

WHY:

INTERFET/UNTAET peacekeepers were in East Timor to restore peace and security in support of the country's transition to independence.

GYRO peacekeepers were deployed to East Timor to restore peace and security due to the civil unrest/riots in Dili in 2006. Many civilians had tried to find refuge at the NZ Embassy and NZ was one of the countries that East Timor asked for help.

FATALITIES:

NZDF suffered 5 fatalities in East Timor (1 combat casualty – May 2000).