

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

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THEM NOW AND TO PUT THEIR NAMES IN PRINT. BUT THIS DOESNT MEAN THAT THEY COULDNT APPEAR BEFORE AN IN CAMERA ENQUIRY AND BE PROTECTED THAT WAY AND IN FACT MOST OF THEM ARE QUITE PREPARED TO DO THIS. THEY ARE VERY FRIGHTENED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR RELATIVES AND REALLY TO THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR GENERALLY AS RESULT OF THIS.

Q. ONE ASSUMES THESE WITNESSES WERE OPPOSED TO THE INDONESIAN FORCES. HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO ESCAPE WITH THIS INFORMATION?

A. WELL MANY OF THESE PEOPLE ARE UDT PEOPLE OR PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH UDT. IT IS NOT AS IF IT IS COMING FROM FRETILIN SOURCES MANY OF THEM WERE IN MOST CASES EYE WITNESSES TO ONE EVENT OR ANOTHER, PARTICULARLY NASTY INCIDENTS WHICH WERE WITNESSED BY SOME OF THESE TIMORESE.

Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE WORST INCIDENTS THAT CONCERNED YOU IN COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION?

A. WELL I THINK ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING, MOST DISTURBING, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WAS AN ACT OF WANTON AND BRUTAL KILLING, WAS WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY AFTER THE INVASION OF DILI. IN THE FIRST OF TWO MAJOR EXECUTIONS, 27 WOMEN WERE BROUGHT TO THE WHARF, THEIR CHILDREN TORN FROM THEM AND THROWN BACK TO THE CROWD AND PUT IN CARS IN A SITUATION WHERE EVERYONE WAS WEeping. IT WAS DESCRIBED IN GREAT DETAIL TO ME BY TWO PEOPLE AND THEN THEY WERE SHOT ONE BY ONE. THE SECOND ONE PERHAPS IN A WAY EVEN MORE DISTURBING, WAS 59 MEN WHO WERE ROUNDED UP AND BOUGHT ONTO THE WHARF AND IN THIS CASE THE INDONESIANS ROUNDED UP AS MANY TIMORESE AS THEY COULD AT GUN POINT, REFUGEES FROM THE CHURCH, AND BOUGHT THEM TO THE WHARF TO WITNESS THIS, THEY SHOT THESE PEOPLE ONE BY ONE ORDERING THE CROWD TO COUNT AS THEY SHOT THEM. THEY SHOT THEM IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY FELL INTO THE WATER FROM THE WHARF AND ONE WITNESS SAID THAT IN SOME CASES THEY WERENT QUITE DEAD SO RIFLE MEN SHOT AT THE CORPSES IN THE WATER. THERE ARE SEVERAL WITNESSES OF THIS AND WHAT IS DISTURBING IS THAT WE HAD HEARD ABOUT THIS BEFORE AT LEAST I HAD HEARD ABOUT IT FROM CHINESE SOURCES AND YOU EXPECT CIVILIANS TO BE KILLED IN THE STREET, EVEN SOME PERHAPS DELIBERATELY BY INDISCIPLINED SOLDIERS, BUT THIS MUST HAVE BEEN AN ACT OF WANTON KILLING AND DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE THE POPULATION.

Q M IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY FROM THE INFORMATION YOU GATHERED SO FAR THAT ENOUGH INFORMATION EXISTS FOR INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS TO BE NAMED OR IDENTIFIED AND LATER BOUGHT TO JUSTICE.

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