

Indonesians invade Timor

Children are

being shot

in the streets'

From MICHAEL RICHARDSON

DARWIN — "The Indonesians have invaded. Their soldiers are in Dili.

They are killing indiscriminately. Women and children are being shot in the streets. A lot of people have been killed.

"We are all going to be killed. I repeat we are all going to be killed . . ."

"This is an appeal for international help. We appeal to the Australian people. Please help us. Please."

The voice rose and fell, tossed by the turbulent air waves that formed the last tenuous link between Darwin and East Timor.

It was shortly after 9 a.m. on Sunday. A day of rest in Darwin.

From Dili, the voice on the radio came again, calmer now but still intense.

"At least six or seven Indonesian warships are off Dili. They have been shelling in and around the town since 4.30 a.m. (7.30 a.m. Melbourne time).

The first paratroops came at dawn. There are Indonesian planes overhead now. They are dropping hundreds more paratroops.

"Indonesian forces have been landed in Dili. I repeat, Indonesian forces have been landed in Dili.

"More than a thousand are already in the town. Small boats have landed hundreds of Indonesian soldiers from the warships.

Paratroops

"They control the seaside. They have taken the airport and the administrative offices.

"More than a thousand Indonesian troops are in Dili. Most of the population has gone to the hospital on the hill behind the town.

"Others have gone to the mountains. We can't stop the Indonesians. We cannot stop the Indonesian invasion. Please do something."

There was shock and helplessness on each face pressing close to the radio. There was also shame.

"We appeal to the Australian people. This is an SOS. Please do something to stop this invasion."

Sometimes the voice would fade into the static and become inaudible. Then it would break through the din with another message.

"We are not going to fight Indonesian forces.

"Soldiers of the Fretilin Independence Movement are trying to stop the invasion.

"But they know they cannot halt such powerful forces. They are moving back into the mountains."

At 12.50 p.m. Melbourne time the voice in Dili abruptly ceased. Contact could not be restored.



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