

ground, armed men who oppose independence still roam the hills around Dare, and elsewhere in the territory. In addition, as many as 10,000 other people have fled or been forced into camps in neighboring West Timor, long province of Indonesia. These East Timorese are under the control of militias that so far have prevented most aid workers from entering West Timor. Not all the refugees are in the hills. In vacant lots and along the long waterfront of Dili, thousands of families seeing the violence in their own city have created whole settlements of displaced people. Many, young and old, lounge like retired elders in displaced armchairs. Even with Australian soldiers stationed around the

"The militia in itself is not a threat for East Timor," said Salar Kosi, a leader in the independence movement who greeted the U.N. team here in Dare. "But if they continue to be supported by elements of the military that have run out of control, it may be dangerous in the next coming weeks, the next coming months, the next coming years."

A top lieutenant here for Gusmao, Leandro Isaac, said he is still far from ready to declare victory.

"This might be one more step," he said of the arrival of the foreign forces. "But I still don't trust the Indonesian military. As long as there is one Indonesian soldier, one Indonesian policeman in East Timor, our struggle continues."

# OF THE EAST TIMOR RES

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, soon after Portugal ended colonial rule there.

At the time, Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao, a school-teacher's son, was working as a reporter at the Voice of Timor radio station, but he joined the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor, a leftist resistance organization.

When the group's leadership was wiped out by the vastly superior Indonesian forces, Gusmao became its de facto commander.

Some 200,000 East Timorese civilians died in the conflict, but the Indonesians never succeeded

in e MCAS EL TORO SSIC # 5090.3 used its total casualties, but they are estimated at 5,000 to 10,000.

Captured on Nov. 20, 1992, Gusmao was taken to Jakarta and sentenced to life in prison.

But with the fall last year of the dictatorship of former President Suharto, Gusmao was transferred to house arrest and finally freed after the U.N.-sponsored referendum, which ended with a landslide vote for independence.

The results sparked the violence by the Indonesian military and allied militias, which torched and pillaged much of the territory. The Associated Press

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**FORMER MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EL TORO**

**Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, September 29, 1999  
6:30-9:00 p.m.

**Irvine City Hall**  
**Conference and Training Center**  
**One Civic Center Plaza**  
**Irvine, CA**

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is composed of concerned citizens and government representatives involved in the environmental cleanup program at the Former MCAS El Toro. Community participation and input is important and appreciated.

This meeting will feature the following activities and presentations:

- Draft Historical Radiological Assessment Survey at the Former Air Station
- Brief Update on Groundwater Cleanup (solvent-contaminated water) and the Irvine Desalter Project
- Brief Status of Groundwater Sampling for Perchlorate (potential contaminant)

For more information about this meeting and the Installation Restoration Program at the Former MCAS El Toro, please contact:

**Base Realignment and Closure**  
Mr. Dean Gould  
BRAC, Environmental Coordinator  
P.O. Box 51718  
Irvine, CA 92619-1718  
(949) 726-5398 or (949) 726-2840

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