

BAB III

PENUTUP

A. Kesimpulan

Berdasarkan rumusan masalah dan pembahasan yang diuraikan dimuka maka dapat disimpulkan bahwa Indonesia yang belum meratifikasi Konvensi 1951 telah menerapkan asas *non refoulement* berkaitan dengan pengungsi Timor Leste di Indonesia pasca Referendum 1999. Kewajiban Indonesia berkaitan dengan asas *non refoulement* tidak hanya melekat pada pengertian pengungsi tersebut tidak boleh dipulangkan secara paksa ke negara dimana kehidupan dan keberadaanya terancam malainkan juga menyangkut kewajiban negara sebagai negara penerima dalam memberikan hak-hak pengungsi, memberikan perlindungan dan mengurus pemulangan (*repatriasi*) dari pengungsi tersebut. Indonesia dalam hal ini belum memberikan penanganan yang memadai terhadap pengungsi Timor Leste.

B. Saran

1. Pemerintah Indonesia dengan itikad baik segera menuntaskan permasalahan pengungsi Timor Leste yang walaupun status mereka sebagai pengungsi sudah berakhir
2. Pengalaman dalam menangani pengungsi Timor Leste diharapkan menjadi evaluasi bagi pemerintah Indonesia khususnya, dalam hal ini penulis menyarankan pemerintah meratifikasi Konvensi 1951 dan

Protokol 1967 sehingga memiliki rasa tanggung jawab yang lebih dalam menangani pengungsi.



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Laporan

Laporan *Jesuit Refugees Service Indonesia* (JRS)

Laporan *United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR)

Laporan Akhir Komisi Penerimaan, Kebenaran dan Rekonsiliasi Timor-Leste (CAVR)



LAMPIRAN



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Hal : Jawaban Permohonan Ijin Riset

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Dengan Hormat,

Menjawab surat Saudara tertanggal 2 November 2011, nomor 682/V, hal : Ijin Riset, maka melalui surat ini kami *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Indonesia* mengijinkan mahasiswa:

Nama : Cesar Antonio Munthe
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Untuk mengadakan riset di JRS Indonesia dalam rangka penyusunan skripsi *Penerapan Asas Non Refoulment dalam Konvensi 1951 Berkaitan dengan Kasus Pengungsi Timor Leste di Indonesia (Pasca Referendum Tahun 1999)*. Data-data yang diberikan oleh JRS hanya diperuntukkan demi kepentingan penyusunan skripsi tersebut.

Kami sangat senang apabila mendapatkan copy apabila skripsi tersebut sudah selesai tersusun. Terimakasih banyak atas perhatiannya.

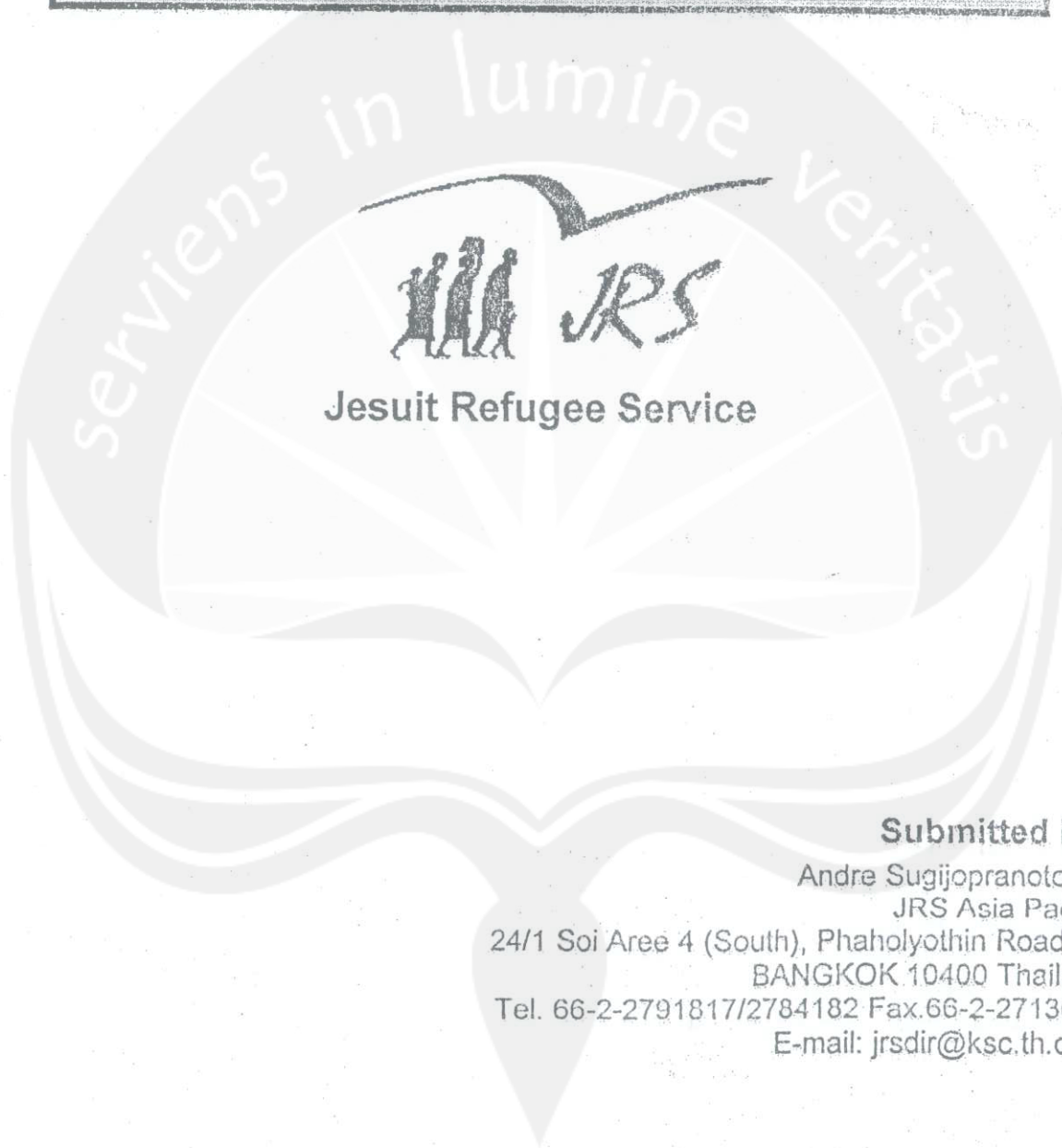
Yogyakarta, 3 November 2011

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Direktur Nasional JRS Indonesia

Indonesia
accompany - serve - advocate

JRS West Timor Report
September 1999 – December 2000



Jesuit Refugee Service

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Narrative Report

0.1. Context

Since the popular vote for independence on August 30th 1999 in East Timor, there were about 250,000 East Timorese forcibly displaced from their homes in the wake of the violence that followed. Most of the people went to West Timor either by land or by TNI (Tentara Republik Indonesia *Republic of Indonesia Army*) ships. They stayed in Kupang (the capital of Nusa Tenggara Timur Province), TTU (Timor Tengah Utara-North of Central Timor) district, TTS (Timor Tengah Selatan-South of Central Timor) district, and Belu District. Satkorlak (*Satuan Koordinasi dan Pelaksanaan- Coordination and Implementation Unit*) and some NGOs helped organize these refugees and distributed primary assistance. Most of the refugees just located to empty ground and lived under plastic sheets. Even though there were many NGOs helping the refugees, the living conditions in the camps were still bad. Some camps lacked water. Health conditions also were unfavourable. Given below are some statistics of refugees in Nusa Tenggara Timur Province made by Satkorlak on September 29, 1999

Name of District	Families	Persons
Kabupaten Belu	26.934	136.139
Kabupaten TTU	7.291	32.120
Kabupaten TTS	905	4.616
Kabupaten Kupang	7.712	40.887
Kodya Kupang	4.209	23.621
Kabupaten Alor	677	2.750
Kabupaten Flotim	90	960
Kabupaten Sikka	104	746
Kabupaten Ende	381	1.587
Kabupaten Manggarai	111	511
Kabupaten Ngada	93	430
TOTAL	48.507	244.367

Most of the refugees in West Timor at that time were ordinary people. They came to West Timor to find a secure place and also because they were forced to leave their villages. They used to work as farmers, workers, low class civil servants, and low ranking military. While only a few of them belonged to militia groups, those few were so powerful because they brought weapons and sought to threaten refugees in the camps. The rich people usually stayed with their relatives in Kupang or in rented houses/hotels. Civil servants and the military received their salaries from the Indonesian Government, even though they did nothing. Every month the military salary was about Rp 900,000 (USD 120) plus an allotment of rice. Farmers were in a difficult situation because they had no land. Some of them rented it from local people and have planted vegetables and rice.

Many children could not go to school because the capacity of the schools near the camps was not enough.

Local people in West Timor usually welcomed the refugees. Between West and East Timor there are some similarities in language, culture and history. Many East Timorese have married with West Timorese also. Since the beginning of the move, the East Timorese were inclined to create problems in West Timor. During September-November 1999 militias always searched pro-independence activists in the camps. There were many pro-independence persons killed by the militias. The refugees often fought with local people for various reasons. They burnt the houses of local people and did commit many criminal acts. The local people in West Timor grew tired of these refugees. Actually there are many local people gained from the refugees, especially in business and the food sellers. The presence of many NGOs also created job vacancies, houses for rent, restaurants, etc.

At the beginning of October 1999, UNHCR started working in West Timor. JRS helped UNHCR to register people who wanted to return to East Timor. Usually refugees felt afraid of foreigners but they trusted the religious. In October UNHCR rented planes to bring the refugees back to East Timor. Everyday hundreds of people returned. In November 1999 UNHCR started working with IOM (International Organization of Migration) to provide transportation. IOM then rented ships to bring more people back to East Timor. There were about 160,000 people then returned to East Timor. The rest remain in West Timor until now.

The Indonesian Government also built some new resettlement places for refugees who want to be Indonesians. Even though the Government calls it relocation, the condition of the houses provided is even worse than in the camps. One of the relocation places is Sulamu, about 60 km from Kupang. The road going there is very bad. In Sulamu there are only some elementary schools and they is not enough space for refugee children. The soil is not fertile, so most of the refugees (who are farmers) can do nothing. There is no water supply, no proper toilets, no telephone system, nothing. Everyday the refugees just wait for rice distribution. UNHCR and some NGOs have complained about the condition in Sulamu. The government called in the contractor and told him to rebuild the houses. Now there are about 1,500 people staying in Sulamu. The conditions in other relocation places in West Timor are more or less the same.

In January 2000 some former politicians from East Timor established a new pro-Jakarta group, named UNTAS (*Uni Timor Aswain: Union of Timorese Warriors*). This new pro-Jakarta group is different from the militias since they do not use violence but diplomacy to bring East Timor back to Indonesia. The aim of UNTAS is to kick "foreigners" out from East Timor. UNTAS always claimed that they are the only representatives of all of refugees in Indonesia. They say that they fight for refugee rights, on behalf on all of refugees, etc. UNTAS has now built an organizational structure. There is a representative of UNTAS in every camp and every former district in East Timor. Even though many refugees do not know what UNTAS is doing, but the Indonesia Government "recognizes" this new group as a representative of the refugees. The militias do not like UNTAS, but they could not do anything to stop UNTAS. Besides UNTAS there are other groups which operate in the camps. They are PPI (Pejuang Pro-Integration/Fighter for Pro-integration), 59-72-59 group, and traditional leaders.

Some militias do not like UNHCR. They say that UNHCR is not a humanitarian agency, but a political one because it deals with political matters. For them, repatriation is a political event because those who return to East Timor are pro-independence. They complain that UNHCR did not help refugees who wanted to stay in Indonesia. For many militias, UNHCR is the same as UNAMET since most of the staff are Western. Since the beginning, militias have always created problems with UNHCR. They attacked and burnt some UNHCR cars; they threatened UNHCR local staff. Even though UNHCR then gave rice and distributed kitchen sets to the refugees, the militias still hate them. The climax came on September 6, 2000 when they killed UNHCR international staff at Atambua. Since this incident all of the NGOs and UN agencies withdrew from West Timor.

After UNHCR left West Timor, GOI (the Government of Indonesia) via TNI setup PMP (*Penyelesaian Masalah Pengungsi*/Solving the Problem of Refugees). The role of PMP is helping refugees who want to return to East Timor and also ones who want to resettle in Indonesian territory. PMP register refugees who want to return, and together with TNI escorts them to the border. There are 14 border gates: Oeoli, Oeolo, Haumeneana, Napan, Wini (these are on the border of Oecussi), Mota Ain, Salore, Turiscain, Builalo, Haekesak, Lakmars (these are on the north border), Labur, Metamauk, Laktutus (these are on the south border). Usually PMP escorts the refugees only to Napan, Mota Ain, and Metamauk. Some incidents have occurred between September 2000 until now. For example on December 2, 2000 PKF (Peace Keeping Force) in East Timor territory caught militias who attended the "family re-union program" at Motaain (border of East Timor). Until now there are still some refugees returning with help from PMP. Below is some data of returnees.

Date	Returnees
Dec 5, 2000	< 50
Dec 7, 2000	< 50
Dec 9, 2000	143
Dec 12, 2000	140
Dec 14, 2000	100
Dec 16, 2000	132
Dec 19, 2000	>120
Dec 20, 2000	140
Dec 21, 2000	>140

Nowadays there are still about 100,000 refugees remaining in the camps in West Timor. The situation is complicated. Many people just blame the militias for detaining the refugees in the camps because they do not want to be brought to court for their wrong doings. The facts are not as simple as that. It is true that many of the refugees in the West Timor camps trust their fate to the militias. The militias always tell them that East Timor is not yet a secure place. Many East Timorese have had traumatic experiences in 1959, in 1972, and recently in 1999. Refugees are also afraid of Falentil and CNRT who are now in power. They think that Falentil will kill all of the pro-autonomy people in East Timor. In fact some former militias have returned to East Timor and

people in East Timor have beaten them. Though the transitional authority tries to protect them, there is no law established in East Timor yet. Refugees are also afraid of militias who are now hiding in the forest in East Timor in case they should take over East Timor. At the economic level, the refugees are apprehensive about the conditions of life in East Timor. People say that in East Timor everything is so expensive. They point out the fact that many East Timorese came to the Indonesia border to buy things and food from the black market. Some refugees say that they have nothing remaining in East Timor. All were burnt and looted. It is useless to be in East Timor because they have to start everything from zero. Refugees also feel hopeless because they speak and understand neither English nor Portuguese. In fact those languages are important for getting jobs in East Timor because NGOs and UN agencies are providing these for East Timorese.

Here are the last statistics of refugees from UNHCR and CFSI in April 2000

District	Sub-district	Camps	Refugees
Kupang	GOR	1	432
	Noelbaki	1	6,300
	Tuapukan	1	11,997
	Naibonat	1	6,410
	Sulamu	1	1,322
	TOTAL	5	28,461

District	Sub-district	Camps	Refugees
TTS	Amanuban Barat	2	288
	Amanuban Tengah	1	302
	Kota Soe	11	2,026
	Molo Selatan	2	326
	TOTAL	16	2,942

District	Sub-district	Camps	Refugees
TTU	Biboki Selatan	1	370
	Biboki Utara	2	760
	Insana	20	10,332
	Miomafo Barat	15	4,582
	Miomafo Timur	1	477
	TOTAL	39	16,521

District	Sub-district	Camps	Refugees	
Belu	Kobalima	14	11,312	
	Atambua	31	24,329	
	Lamaknen	2	1,150	
	Malaka Barat	5	6,081	
	Malaka Tengah	33	12,579	
	Malaka Timur	7	6,299	
	P. Tasifeto Barat	32	28,116	
	P. Tasifeto Timur	3	1,226	
	Tasifeto Barat	11	1,943	
	Tasifeto Timur	17	7,878	
	TOTAL		155	100,913

Resume	District	Camps	Refugees
	Kupang	5	26,461
	TTS	16	2,942
	TTU	39	16,521
	Belu	155	100,913
	TOTAL	215	146,837

0.2 Overview

JRS started working in West Timor on September 11, 1999 on the same day that JRS East Timor Director Fr Karl Albrecht SJ was killed at Taibesi in Dili. JRS Indonesia established a project working in close collaboration with the diocese. Bishop Petrus Turang gave us the use of the Diocesan Student Centre as our base, while Bishop Anton Pain Ratu SVD welcomed us to work in his diocese.

Our objective was to gain access to refugees and help them as much as we could, provide accurate information about the situation in East Timor (specially the security to counter fear inducing misinformation provided by militia groups), provide material assistance, provide information about registration for repatriation, facilitate registration, help parishes to assist people who had fled militia controlled camps, facilitate the work of IOM and UNHCR for repatriation, and work together with other agencies (NGO and Church). JRS also considered helping East Timorese who choose to settle in West Timor. They needed help to establish homes, establish infrastructure (water and sanitation), plant crops and establish other means of generating food and income. It remains to be seen how many will choose to remain in Indonesia.

Today our projects in West Timor are in: Kupang, Atambua, and Betun. From December 1999 until March 2000 we also worked in Soe. Details of these projects follow:

0.2.1 Kupang

Andre Sugijoprano SJ was appointed as JRS West Timor Director and three Good Shepherd Sisters joined the team in Kupang. JRS then grew with the addition of other Jesuits, lay volunteers, and religious.

In Kupang from the beginning, we worked together with the Diocesan Team for Refugees. We went to the camps with them to provide medical help and refugees primary needs. When UNHCR came to

West Timor we helped UNHCR with the repatriation and registration. We saw that the main need of refugees was to return to East Timor. We had good access to the camps because some of us were religious and the majority of the refugees were Catholic. Our staff are all Indonesian, and most of the refugees speak and understand Bahasa Indonesia. That is why we didn't have any difficulties in communication with refugees. Though many militias know that we work closely with UNHCR, they still welcome us whenever we go to visit them in the camps. The JRS centre was used for registration. Everyday there were about 1,000 refugees who came to our compound. At the beginning of November 1999 UNHCR decided to rent a place in Fatululi for registration place.

At Kupang from September 1999 until the beginning of 2000 refugees stayed in all the Catholic churches, some religious convents (RVM sisters, SSps sisters, BHK brothers, etc), three big camps (Tuapukan, Noelbaki, Naibonat), and some government buildings (GOR/stadium, SPN/Police schools, Gedung Kesenian/art building, Bougenville, etc). JRS had access to all of the camps and visited them regularly. Here is some rough data made by Satlkorlak Kupang on February 2000:

Name of Camps	Persons
Noelbaki	10.000
Tuapukan	30.000
Naibonat	5.000
GOR/KONI	200
SPN	300
Bhayangkara	300
TOTAL:	45.800

Many children have no access to school. We started a school programme in December 1999 in GOR (stadium) after getting permission from the Ministry of Education in Kupang. Education for children is considered as a priority for refugee children. No one could guess when the refugees would return or be relocated. The children just play all day, and we wondered if they would lose their habit of study. By providing informal schooling for children, at least they continued to get some education. There were about 120 children (6 – 15 years old) attending our informal elementary school. We got some volunteer teachers from Catholic University of Widya Mandira Kupang. In March 2000 GOR was closed by the government, then we moved our school to Tuapukan. Again we had more than 100 students. We also started a kindergarden in Noelbaki because we saw there were so many little children without any education. We have about 30 in our school. Together with RVM sisters we started a catechism program in Noelbaki, Tuapukan, and Naibonat. Twice a week the sisters went with us to teach children.

By January 2000 we discovered that only a small numbers of refugees had decided to return. Many were afraid of the militia. After a discussion with JRS in East Timor, we established a mailing system project. We collected letters from the refugees in West Timor and sent them to East Timor. Usually the letters were sent to their relatives and asked about the security there. Our team in East Timor then distributed the letters. We also get many letters from East Timor for the refugees. Our team also went to East Timor several times to meet the returnees in their villages. We took many photographs and displayed them in the camps. This system worked very well. Many refugees then considered

that the situation in East Timor was not as bad as the militia said. Once someone realized that the situation in East Timor was good, usually they decided to return.

Together with Canadian Fund Jakarta we helped babies in the camps. We saw that there were many infant deaths because they lacked food and there was poor sanitation. We provided milk, mats, clothes, mosquito nets, etc. for babies age 0-3 years old. This is really helpful for refugee families since they had no money to protect their little babies. JRS also supplied materials and medicines to the sisters and Diocese team.

Since 2000 there were some East Timorese refugees from outside West Timor who contacted us. We arranged for them to come to Kupang and then registered them with UNHCR. Some of them came from Kalimantan, Irian, Mollucas, and Flores.

We also understand that many East Timorese depend on their leaders. Refugees who stay in the camps want to return if their leader (village chief, district chief, etc) decides to return. We tried to get to know the leaders of East Timorese. Some of them were top militias, or civil servants. By visiting them in their rented-houses we got to know each other. These leaders were really helpful because they had so much influence among the refugees.

After the Atambua incident (September 6, 2000) we decided to scale down our activities. Militias at this time really wanted all NGOs out of West Timor. Though we still visited the camps everyday, we didn't speak about repatriation. We continued our education programme but stopped our mailing system for a while. After the situation got quiet we started the mailing system again.

Refugees in Kupang now are in a difficult situation. Those who decided to return to East Timor could not register with UNHCR because UNHCR doesn't work in West Timor anymore. Refugees in Atambua or Betun (places near the border) can return to East Timor easily by crossing the border spontaneously. We encouraged UNHCR but they are afraid for security reasons. TNI once organized the former Milsas (Militarization) with UNHCR bringing them back to East Timor. There were about 450 people who joined this programme. At Christmas 2000 again TNI and UNTAET worked together to bring some people to visit East Timor for several days. There are not so many refugees returning these months, since they remain undecided whether they want to be Indonesian. The Government of Indonesia does not make any preparation to resettle them. Some areas were planned to be resettlement places for East Timorese refugees, but the refugees refused those places because there were not enough public facilities there.

0.2.2 Atambua

At the end of September 1999 we established an office in Atambua (more or less 290 km east of Kupang). Sr. Lidwina, Sr. Natalia, Mr. I. Hadi Wuryanto started the project there. Edi Mulyono SJ, AMM Ardi Handoyoseno SJ, and Bonifacius Hendar Putranto SJ came to strengthen the team. We considered that there were more refugees stayed in Atambua than in Kupang. The team in Atambua also served refugees in TTU District even though the distance was quite far. Here is the data of refugees made in February 2000.

Belu District		
Name of Camps	Families	Persons
Atapupu	964	5.227
Fulur	702	3.192
Haliululik	1.098	5.745
Atambua	456	2.018
Haliwen	232	904
Fatuketi	642	3.862
Lahurus	1.501	8.713
Laktutus	387	1.762
Nela	221	1.262
Nualain	558	2.742
Sadi	658	3.144
Tukuneno	126	762
Wdomu	53	316
Weluli	145	871
Total:	7.743	40.520

TTU District		
Name of Camps	Families	Persons
Haumeni	735	3.754
Kiupukan	21	118
Lurasik	23	120
Manamas	1.285	7.219
Maubesi	31	151
Mena	44	209
Nekake	99	452
Naesleu	933	4.595
Noemuti	14	56
Oeolo	42	117
Ponu	228	1.217
Kefamerianu	64	281
Tunbaba	699	3.156
Wini	34	187
Total:	4.252	21.632

We started a project in sanitation by working together with Diocesan Team. In October 1999 our team decided to make a trail drive by land to East Timor. At this time, UNHCR didn't do repatriation in Atambua due to security reasons. There were many refugees in Atambua who wanted to return but they had to go to Kupang for repatriation. When we knew that the road was secure and vehicles could pass through Dili (the capital of East Timor), we informed UNHCR and then worked together with them doing repatriation. Since Belu district is quite big, we decided to establish a new office in Betun (more or less 90 km south of Atambua).

Similar to what JRS in Kupang was doing, our team in Atambua visited all of the camps in Atambua and helped UNHCR with repatriation. The camp situation here was different because in Atambua refugees lived separately in many small camps. The bishop of Atambua didn't allow refugees to stay at churches. The bishop also didn't agree to use the churches for registration. The problem in Atambua was that there was no centre for refugees who wanted to return to East Timor. Those who decided to return had to stay in the camp, and it was so dangerous. Usually militias came when they knew that some refugees registered with UNHCR. The militia then force the refugees not to return.

In Atambua JRS is providing medical service. Everyday our team goes to the camps providing medicine for the refugees. Some donors provide medicine for us. Usually refugees trust JRS because our nurses are religious sisters. While the sisters provide medicine, other staff will go around the camps and talk with many refugees there.

We also provide materials for refugees who decided to return to East Timor. From the Canadian Fund we have received financial support for this project. We give soaps, clothes, under wear, etc for

all of them. It is useful because the price of materials in East Timor is so expensive. At least in the first couple of months they do not need to buy anything else because of our gift.

In February 2000 we started an agriculture project. We saw that there are many refugees, specially former militias who decided not to return to East Timor but chose to stay in Indonesia. Their life is so difficult because they have no jobs. By helping them get some land and providing seeds, we hope they can survive without any help from NGOs. We also accompany some groups of fishermen in Atapupu (about 20 km from Atambua) by providing fishing nets. Special attention is given to the women in the camps because they are a vulnerable group. We teach them sewing and weaving and give them some capital for making clothes. For the youth in the camps we teach them English and Catholic teachings/catechism, and also accompany them in sport activities in the afternoon.

Through our constant presence in the camps we know many leaders. Some of them are welcoming, but some do not like us because we worked closely with UNHCR in the repatriation. When refugees killed UNHCR staff on Sept 6, 2000 all of JRS Atambua staff were evacuated to Dili for security reasons. There was no security at all, even the Bishop of Atambua and the Cathedral Parish Priest refused us when we asked for their protection. All of the people in Atambua were scared because the militia searched for all of the NGO staff. For two weeks our team stayed in Dili then Denpasar and Kupang. After contacting many leaders in the camps and discussing the condition in Atambua, our team decided to return and continue our work among the refugees in Atambua.

Nowadays we inform the refugees of the way to return to East Timor spontaneously. We accompany those who want to cross the border. We have good relationship with PMP and the military along the border.

0.2.3 Betun

JRS works closely with the local Church in Betun. One reason why we chose Betun was that the parish priest there really worked hard to facilitate things for the refugees. In the beginning the male staff stayed at the parish house and the female staff stayed at sisters SSpS convent in the same compound. Given below are the number of refugees in February 2000 made by Satkorlak.

Sub-District	Families	Persons
Atas	969	4.303
Besikama	424	2.468
Betun	2.305	11.693
Biudukfoho	40	226
Bolan	1.301	5.796
Kada	1.200	5.738
Nurobo	256	1.413
Seon	655	2.610
Weoe	12	56
Total Betun	7.162	34.303

Camps that JRS visits regularly are:

1	Alas	14	Kletek Waifatuk	27	Rahenek
2	Bakateu	15	Kota biru	28	Solo KUD
3	Boas/Seon	16	Labarai Kub. Cina	29	Solo Tanah Putih
4	Bolan	17	Laran	30	Solo Wevatuk II
5	Cab. Naikasa	18	Maktihan	31	Tubaki B1
6	Cab. Webua B	19	Maubessi	32	Tubaki B2
7	Cab. Webua(Cassa)	20	Metamauk	33	Tubaki B3
8	Cab. Webua(Suai)	21	Morukren A	34	Tubaki-G Lourdes
9	Cab. Webua-Solo	22	Morukren B	35	Tubaki-Mt. Air
10	Cab. Welaus	23	Morukren C	36	Umaşakaer
11	Kada (Suai)	24	Namfalus	37	Welasakar Halibot
12	Kada Lakekun	25	Numponi	38	Wemasa Halibot
13	Kereana	26	Oburo Nularan	39	Wemasa KUD

The parish Priest in Betun gave us a room near the church for registration. Everyday there were many refugees who came and registered for return to East Timor. In this room we displayed many photographs of East Timor providing better information for refugees about the conditions in East Timor. We also were ready to deliver letters to their relatives in East Timor.

In March 2000, we decided that we should have more staff in Betun because there were so many refugees. Though UNHCR stopped working in Betun for security reasons, we still continued working and being with refugees in Betun. So far there has been no problem. In August we rented a house for our office and all of our staff moved from the church compound to this new house. It is very central being surrounded by camps. Our activities in Betun are as follows:

- (a) **Education:** we run 5 schools in Maubessi (91 students), Tubaki Gua Lourdes (97 students), Tubaki B, Cabang Webua, and Kada Lakekun Barat. These school used to be served by CFSI, UNICEF, and WINA. Since the incident in Atambua in September 2000, these organizations left and stopped working in Betun. We see that there are so many children who have no chance to go to school. After contacting those NGOs and asking permission from them, we run the schools. We also teach some skills to women in the camps, eg. cooking, making clothes, etc.
- (b) **Health service:** we noted that there are so many refugees sick who could not go to see a doctor because they have no money. Most of the diseases are because of the poor sanitation in the camps, lack of nutrition, psychologically living under stress. Though at the beginning there were some NGOs who provided health services, we were aware that they didn't go to all of the camps. Now we see that there is a real need in health service because all of the NGOs have left from Betun. One religious sister is administering this project accompanied by one local staff member.
- (c) **Pastoral:** there is one Jesuit priest work with JRS in Betun. Everyday he visits camps and has good contact with many refugees in the camps. Whenever people die, or need sacramental ministries, he helps them. He also provides bibles, rosaries, statues, etc for the refugees who request them. Pastoral care also includes giving valid information to the refugees, providing mail, etc.

- (d) **Agriculture:** we see that most of the refugees are farmers. The local people are so kind to lend their land to the refugees. JRS provides seeds and agricultural tools to the refugees. We also create some farmer-groups in Maubisse, Labarai Cina, Numponi, and Cabang Webua B.

0.2.4 Soe

In December 1999 we established a small project in Soe (more or less 200 km east of Kupang). At that time the parish priest was actively helping refugees who wanted to return to East Timor by bringing them to Kupang. We had two staff in Soe helping this priest to facilitate repatriation. There were about 10,000 refugees staying around Soe. Our program there was only repatriation. Everyday JRS brought about 30 people from Soe to Kupang by rented-bus. Later UNHCR opened an office in Soe and they provided transportation for the refugees who wanted to return.

There were some other little things that we did in Soe. We paid particular attention to women and children, providing nutritional food for them. We also brought a priest from Same, East Timor to meet the people in Soe. Many refugees here originally came from Same. Our team in Soe visited East Timor and went to Same. By showing photographs we tried to ensure them that East Timor was a safe area for them.

In February 2000, when we knew that there were not so many refugees wanting to return to East Timor, we finished our project in Soe, and our staff moved to Atambua.

0.3. Achievements

So far we see that our objectives have been more or less achieved. All of our team in West Timor knows very well nearly all of the camps in West Timor. During frequent visits we have responded to the needs of the refugees. In the places that have no medical assistance, we provide medical help. For the places that have no schools, we establish informal schools for the children.

Through the mailing system together with our team in East Timor, many refugees have decided to return. JRS never forced people, just provided accurate information and let them decide for themselves. Informed consent is really our concern because the militias continue to provide wrong information to the refugees. Whenever we visited East Timor we heard from our former refugees that our photographs and letters that we brought from East Timor, were really helpful to them in choosing their future.

So far we have not started to work with refugees who decided to stay in Indonesia. It is difficult to judge whether someone has decided already or not. What we are doing is helping refugees with vocational training. Wherever they live in the future, they could use these skills. We have already visited the places designed for resettlement (around Kupang and Atambua). In these places we still find people who secretly tell us that they were forced to move and they want to return to East Timor.

0.4. Difficulties

The major problem facing JRS in West Timor is the militia. JRS tries to be a friend of the militia. We know many of them including the leaders. Sometimes they are so pleased with us, but suddenly the

militias change their character and refuse to allow us to meet with refugees. Our aims are not political. When we visit refugees in the camps, we never discriminate. Militias and common people are the same because all of them are human beings.

There are many camps, specially in Betun and Atambua. JRS in West Timor doesn't want to be a big NGO. We feel overwhelmed as now there are no international NGOs working there.

JRS couldn't hire long term staff due to the nature of our programs. All of our team are volunteers. The lay people have one year contracts with us, but religious sisters really depend on their superiors. When the superior gives permission for one year, it is fine for us. But some religious only worked for 3-4 months. These personnel changes make our work difficult. Fortunately nowadays we have made long term contracts also with the religious sisters.

With many of our donors and partners we described our aims and objectives forthright. However, the Atambua incident changed everything. We couldn't talk about repatriation openly. We didn't want the militia to see that we provided information to the refugees and helped them when they wanted to return. Fortunately, nowadays the situation is getting better. We can more or less openly talk about repatriation, showing photographs, providing letters, etc.

0.5. Evaluation

JRS in West Timor deals with people and we follow the dynamic of the refugees. We are not concerned about the numbers of returnees because our concern is not about quantity but quality. We are very concerned when returnees are beaten or stoned when they arrived in their villages. Our purpose is to accompany and to serve and to plead the cause of refugees. This is our motivation. JRS West Timor is really a friend of many refugees. We are their friends when they are happy (e.g. at weddings JRS also helps them by providing sacramental ministry), when they are sad, when they are afraid of militia threats and when they want to return to East Timor. JRS is also their teacher because many refugees know that their children need to go to our school.

Even though we provide informal education, our students in Grade 6 are able to sit the final exam. We are pleased because this enables them to continue their formal education at the Junior high school level.

0.6. Future Plans

In the year 2001 JRS in West Timor will continue to accompany refugees. There are still 80,000-100,000 refugees remaining in West Timor. Until now UN and NGOs do not work in West Timor, so JRS is the only friend of refugees there. We also see that there are still many refugees wanting to return. Nowadays there are some refugees who cross the border spontaneously. They need JRS because they are afraid of militia and TNI.

In the education area, we still want to continue to give informal education to the children up until the time when the government can provide education for them. We see that there are still many children unable to get access to formal education.

Though UNTAET has established a postal system already, it is still difficult to send letters from West to East Timor. We are concerned about family separation and want to help them by providing good communication. We have privileged access to both sides of the border, so are well-positioned to facilitate contact with separated family members.

Appendix: Map of West Timor

