



Clearing House for Archival Records on Timor (Inc)

02 February 2012

His Excellency
Fernando Lasama de Araujo
President
National Parliament
Timor-Leste

Re: Reparations & Institute of Memory Legislation, 2012

Your Excellency

I was very pleased to learn that the National Parliament of Timor-Leste will, in the very near future, vote on legislation on Reparations and the Institute of Memory.

I congratulate the Parliament for finally considering this important legislation and look forward to learning about the debate and its resolution.

I am especially interested in the development of the Institute of Memory because of its intended follow-up roles on the Commission for Reception, Truth & Reconciliation and the Commission for Truth and Friendship.

Along with many others with a long-time connection to East Timor, I believe it to be very important that the recommendations of those two commissions are seriously considered for implementation by the Timor-Leste government and parliament.

I am especially concerned about the need for long-term action to preserve, protect and provide access for future generations to the priceless archives of both commissions. The establishment of the Institute of Memory is vital to that task.

CHART is an Australian non-government organisation seeking archival records in Australia about East Timor, 1974-1999. We are committed to ensuring that materials central to Timor-Leste's history become available in Timor-Leste through its own institutions such as the Institute of Memory.

I wish you and your fellow parliamentarians well in this and other important work before you in the parliament.

Yours sincerely

John Waddingham
Archivist/Manager

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