

# DRAW THE BORDER *in the Timor Sea*

Just | fair | neighbours

Get the new DVD - *Time to Draw the Line*

<https://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/14115/time-draw-line.html>

## Timor 1942

The Timorese proved firm friends to the 700 Australian soldiers on Timor in 1942. They guided and fed them and saved many soldiers' lives. Over 40,000 Timorese died because of their friendship towards Australians, through Japanese reprisals and Allied bombing.



Australian soldiers and Timorese veterans

## Balibo 1975

Australian-based journalists, The Balibo Five and Roger East, were murdered by Indonesian troops advancing to invade East Timor. Official records show the Australian government knew detailed Indonesian invasion plans. No one has been brought to account for these men's deaths.



The Balibo Five

## Timor 1975

We gave the green light...

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975. Australia swiftly recognised the annexation, which eased the way to deal with Indonesia over the Timor Sea. Australia consistently argued in the UN that East Timor be taken off the agenda. Australia supported Indonesia's position for 24 years until the 1999 vote for freedom.



## Timor 1999

Australia led the UN peacekeeping mission in East Timor from 1999, re-establishing bonds of friendship.

Many Australians feel deeply the debt we owe to the Timorese because of their wartime loyalty towards our soldiers in 1942.

## Timor Sea 1989

While East Timor was occupied by Indonesia, Australia and Indonesia split the oil and gas in the Timor Sea 50/50, ignoring the rights of the Timorese. Upon Timorese independence in 2002, this arrangement was re-negotiated between Australia and Timor-Leste. Australia still retained 10% of the oil and gas and got all the jobs, even though the area is 100% on Timor's side of halfway. (Like your neighbour claiming part of your backyard before the Council decides where the fence should be.)

## Dili 2004-2006

It is alleged that Australia spied on Timorese negotiators during further discussions concerning the "Greater Sunrise" area in the Timor Sea. It is alleged that this was done under the cover of an AusAid program.



## The Issue:

There is no border in the Timor Sea between Australia and Timor-Leste.

A fair and permanent border, based on the median line, would allow both nations to claim what is rightfully theirs under international law.

It would strengthen security and give certainty regarding investment. It would uphold the rights of nations to a defined and internationally accepted sovereignty.



Foreign Ministers Gareth Evans and Ali Alatas signing Timor Gap Treaty in 1989

## We did well from Laminaria

In September 1999 the tax revenue from the oil and gas in one disputed area, Laminaria-Corallina, began to flow. Australia received over \$2.2 billion, but Timor got nothing. These fields are now finished. During the same time Australia spent \$1.5 billion in development aid in Timor.

*Australia is nearly one billion dollars ahead!*

So... who gave the aid to whom?



## 2016-2017

Australia refused Timor-Leste's requests for formal discussions on drawing an internationally recognised border based on the median line. Timor-Leste then set in motion a Compulsory Conciliation under UN, which is in progress. It is due to report in September 2017. However, the two nations need not wait until then to begin the process of setting a border.

## Australians!

**Let's draw the border now! Sign the Petition!**

- \* [http://www.jaohamutuk.org/Oil/Boundary/laminaria\\_revenues.htm](http://www.jaohamutuk.org/Oil/Boundary/laminaria_revenues.htm)
- \* Do internet search for "Evaluation of Australian aid to Timor-Leste - OECD"