



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE
FRETILIN

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Message to the Nation by Francisco Guterres (Lu-Olo)
President of FRETILIN

Translation for English-language media

Our people today are living in an anxious and difficult time, in fear and uncertainty. A significant part of our population is displaced, living outside their own homes, far from their loved ones, and facing the uncertainties of tomorrow without understanding.

All of us together have an obligation to contribute to the restoration of peace and stability.

As a citizen of our beloved country, and as president of FRETILIN, I have the pleasure of speaking to you, my dear compatriots and members of our party, making a passionate appeal to put behind us those things which divide us and concentrate our minds and all our efforts to overcome the crisis into which we are sinking.

I appeal in particular that we moderate our language, that we learn to choose our words and to measure them, so as not to offend, in order that our words serve to unite us, to build peace, to have dialogue; rather than using words as weapons of abuse to be hurled against each other.

We all have too many wounds already. We do not want, and we cannot continue, to wound one another.

I appeal even more passionately to my beloved fellow citizens to surrender immediately any weapons you may have in our possession to the lawful authorities; and to convince all others that have weapons to do the same.

Without a complete return of all weapons, we cannot possibly guarantee a return to normality, and secure peace of mind and re-establish the rule of law which has been so suddenly and irrationally interrupted.

I appeal also for the immediate cessation of all types of violence, including the burning of people's houses which has occurred mainly here in Dili, our capital.

I appeal especially to all the members of FRETILIN to collectively and individually take on the task of contributing actively to the preservation to the greater good of national unity.

Timor-Leste belongs to all of us, it is for us all.

Let us honour the memory of our martyrs, those thousands of sons and daughters who gave their lives for our Independence.

Let us cherish our Independence

Long live the Republic of Timor-Leste

Long live National Unity

Long live the Maubere people

Long live FRETILIN

For peace, democracy and progress. United, we will prevail!