

April 20, 2010

Congressman James Oberstar
Duluth Federal Building
Room 231
Duluth, MN 55802

and Congressman Dave Obey
First Star Plaza
401 5th Street – Suite 406A
Wausau, WI 54403-5468

Dear Congressmen Oberstar and Obey:

Soon President Obama will be traveling to Indonesia. One of the issues he will address is US Military aid. This is personal for us at Peace Church, as we have a family from Peace doing mission work in East Timor.

We are asking that any US–Indonesia military cooperation should be linked to genuine security sector reform, including bringing “Kopassus” officers involved in human rights abuses to trial.”. East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (www.ETAN.org <<http://www.etan.org/>>) opposes US training of Indonesia’s notorious Special Forces (Kopassus) as they stand accused of the most egregious human rights violations. We are hoping that the two of you will support the ruling as it stands that states the ban on training of military units with a history of involvement in human rights violations (Leahy law) applies to Kopassus as a whole.

Many of us will sign the ETAN petition. We sincerely hope that you will vote to continue to refuse to train Kopassus and continue the struggle for justice and accountability.

Sincerely,

Pastor Kathryn Nelson on behalf of
Peace United Church of Christ’s Church Council
Duluth, MN 55805