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Indonesia: Timor Positioning (U)

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Imprisoned independence activist Xanana Gusmao and other moderate East Timorese leaders, both pro- and anti-integrationist, are finally beginning to reach out to each other to promote stability on the ground so that an agreement can be worked out. UN Special Envoy Tamrat Samuel on February 24 in Dili witnessed key representatives from both factions sign a declaration calling for peace. Xanana on February 23 met with the two military (ABRI) commanders responsible for East Timor; the three agreed to work together to create a climate of tolerance and tranquility

ABRI is nonetheless arming small, roving bands of East Timorese paramilitary groups to create unrest and portray the security situation as "incipient civil war," according to Embassy Jakarta. In the latest development, two East Timorese youths were killed on February 24 in Dili after a pro-integrationist paramilitary group opened fire. Some reports allege those paramilitary members were ABRI personnel in plain clothes; the local commander yesterday confirmed ABRI plainclothesmen are involved with the paramilitary group in an anti-crime effort, according to press reports. (C) (CONFIDENTIAL)

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