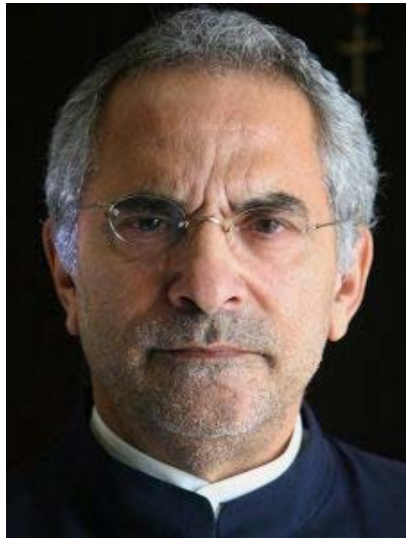


TRADE FOR PEACE WEEK

30 November – 4 December 2020

DR. JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA

Former Prime Minister and President of Timor-Leste, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Former President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. José Ramos-Horta has spent most of his adult life fighting for freedom from oppression for his homeland. At the age of 18, he was exiled from Timor-Leste for his outspoken criticism of the government, when it was a Portuguese colony under a military dictatorship. He returned briefly to Timor-Leste but was exiled once again from 1970 to 1971 for speaking out against Portuguese military rule.

After the invasion of Timor-Leste by Indonesian troops, Dr. Ramos-Horta spent the next twenty-four years working to build a human rights network to defend the rights of the Timorese. He became the youngest person to address the United Nations successfully urging the Council to adopt a resolution that recognized the right of the people of Timor-Leste to self-determination and independence.

In 1996, Dr. Ramos-Horta and Timorese Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their work toward a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor." Largely through Dr. Ramos-Horta's efforts, Timor-Leste gained independence in 2002. He was appointed the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste in 2006 and elected its President in 2007. After his service in office, he acted as Special Representative to the UN Secretary General from 2012 to 2014. In 2014 he chaired the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations.

Dr. Ramos-Horta studied Public International Law at The Hague Academy of International Law (1983) and at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio where he completed a Master of Arts degree in Peace Studies (1984). He was trained in Human Rights Law at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg (1983). He completed Post-Graduate courses in American Foreign Policy at Columbia University in New York (1983).