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Caritas Australia

SUBMISSION ON

**THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND
INDONESIA ON SECURITY COOPERATION**

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**Caritas Australia is the aid and development agency of the Catholic
Church in Australia**

Caritas Australia thanks the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties for the opportunity to comment on the Agreement between Australian and the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation also known as the Lombok Agreement.

A. About Caritas Australia

Caritas Australia is the aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, working in 35 countries across the Pacific, South and South East Asia, Africa, Latin America and with Indigenous communities in Australia.

Caritas Australia is a member of Caritas Internationalis, comprising organizations from 160 countries across the world and working in over 200 countries.

Caritas Australia is inspired by the history and tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, which holds at its heart the fundamental issue of upholding and strengthening human security. Catholic Social Teaching comprises five key principles which frame the work of Caritas Australia.

1. Preferential Option for the Poor Caritas Australia will work with communities who experience poverty, injustice, hunger and oppression regardless of their religious, political or cultural beliefs.

2. Human Dignity Caritas Australia will work with communities in ways that respect, enhance and build their human dignity, empowering them to be authentic agents of change in their own lives, families, communities and societies.

3. Solidarity Caritas Australia will work with international, Australian Indigenous and all other partners in a spirit of mutual respect, transparency and integrity so that walls of hatred and prejudice, division and oppression will be transformed, so that a better future is built for the world's poorest people, and where the common good of all people is promoted.

4. Subsidiarity Caritas Australia will work within the structures of the Catholic community and of the local community, both internationally and within Australia. This will enable swift and culturally appropriate responses to need. Caritas Australia's decision-making processes will engage those affected by decisions and policies and reflect transparency and accountability.

5. Stewardship of the Earth's Resources Caritas Australia will work for the integrity of creation in ways, which assist the world's poorest communities to have access to a greater share of resources, encouraging sustainability and equity, and respect for the environment.

Thus, Caritas Australia is firmly committed to the principles of sustainable grassroots development and works with all people regardless of race, gender and religion.

B. Caritas in Indonesia

Caritas Australia has a long commitment to Indonesia which has increased significantly since the December 2004 tsunami. In addition to our tsunami work in Aceh, budgeted at over \$10 million, Caritas Australia enacts its commitment to sustainable grassroots development and supporting human security through projects in West Kalimantan, South Sumatra, West Java, Central Java, West Timor and Papua.

Indonesia Program Partner Profiles 2006/07

Yayasan Pancur Kasih, Pontianak, West Kalimantan

Yayasan Pancur Kasih (YPK) is a foundation established in 1981 in West Kalimantan addressing the needs of the indigenous Dayak community. YPK's work has grown to focus on the needs of all Indonesians in the region especially in poverty reduction through the provision of microcredit, supporting education and health programs in rural areas. YPK also runs a credit union with over 35,000 members across West Kalimantan. YPK are committed to an effective working relationship with the provincial and local governments to ensure that their programs are supportive of government development priorities. Caritas Australia has supported YPK's education program since 2004 and are now funding a health, water and nutritional program through YPK until 2009.

Pansos Bodroyono, Palembang, South Sumatra

Pansos Bodroyono (PB), founded in 1979, is a diocesan community-support organization in South Sumatra. PB operates mobile medical services and maternity clinics in rural villages where government services do not reach. PB also runs orphanages and halfway houses for young women and life skills courses to overcome the poverty in South Sumatra. Last year, Caritas Australia funded a micro credit program and organic farming program for women. This year CA is funding a health program which focuses on providing midwife services and nutritional awareness among children.

Laz Harfa, Pandeglang, West Java

Laz Harfa is a recently established Islamic organization based in West Java that aims to support community empowerment in education, health, advocacy and disaster preparedness and response. Caritas Australia is supporting Laz Harfa in implementing a water and sanitation program in Pandeglang District over the next three years. Laz Harfa is clearly focused on promoting sustainable development through a community owned and operated model and collaborates with government and non-government organizations to assist communities in improving their welfare.

Down To Earth, Bogor, Central Java

Down to Earth is an Indonesian Environmental Advocacy NGO headquartered in the UK, Caritas Australia is funding its Indonesian chapter. DTE's primary goal is to support vulnerable communities in Indonesia to secure a just and sustainable future. DTE works through sustained engagement with Indonesian civil society to influence the actions of key international players to end destructive resource extraction in Indonesia and work towards community based systems; ensure investors in mining, forestry and plantations take a more responsible approach to land tenure and resource rights and to reform national policy on natural resources management and land tenure.

Yayasan Tani Mitra Mandiri, Kefa, West Timor

YMTM is a non-profit, community-based organization in Kefa in West Timor. They have clearly defined principles and objectives focusing on livelihoods and sustainable agriculture. YMTM has worked with international partners including Caritas Australia in Oecusse for two years. Caritas

Australia is funding a sustainable agriculture program delivered through YMTM for the next three years.

SKP Jayapura, Jayapura, Papua

SKP Jayapura are the Peace and Justice Commission for the Diocese of Jayapura, established in 1998 to monitor and document social justice issues and human rights in Jayapura. SKP-J works with other SKPs throughout Papua. Being based in the capital of Papua, SKP-J acts as a channel for SKPs to highlight issues they face through national and international forums. SKP-J are also involved in the 'Papua Land of Peace' campaign - an interfaith initiative. Caritas Australia is one of several international funding agencies supporting SKP-J.

SKP Merauke, Merauke, Papua

SKP Merauke or the Peace and Justice Commission for the Diocese of Merauke, South of Papua was established in 2001 to monitor and document social justice issues and human rights in Merauke and advocate where necessary. SKP-KAM tends to respond to specific cases of human rights abuses. They work closely with communities to negotiate solutions in times of conflict. They also provide human rights training to communities under threat.

Yayasan San Antonius, Merauke, Papua

Yayasan San Antonius or Yasanto was founded 25 years ago. Yasanto identifies as a Catholic laity organization, however works outside the auspices of the Diocese of Merauke. Its aims is to increase knowledge and role of the communities in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS; to develop cooperation with Church institutions, local AIDS Commission and NGOs working on HIV/AIDS in raising awareness on HIV/AIDS, in the sub-districts of Merauke.

C. Comments to the Lombok Agreement

Caritas Australia supports the principal of a security treaty between the governments of Indonesia and Australia as a crucial mechanism to establish responsibilities and rapport between the two countries at the highest level and to advance the human security of the peoples of both countries.

Caritas Australia notes that major tensions occurring between the two Governments over the last decade have often related closely to breaches of human rights. The most obvious example is the intervention in East Timor, resulting from a coordinated military and militia oppression that came to a head in the late 1990s and is explained in significant detail in the report *Chega!*, the final Report of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor (CAVR).

Further tensions between the two countries have also been evident more recently over the issues of West Papuan asylum seekers, the trials of the Bali bombers and the trials of the convicted Australian drug traffickers, known as the Bali nine.

Tensions have not been one way, with significant criticism leveled from Indonesia to Australia over the Australian Governments' treatment of asylum seekers, Indigenous Australians, the Tampa incident, the operations of certain Australian mining companies in Indonesia and the cartoon incident in April of 2006.

Significant positive developments have occurred between the governments of Indonesia and Australia in recent years, most notably the generous response by Australian people to the tragedy wrought by the tsunami. The Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development established by both Governments to coordinate the Australian aid program is an example of the trust and good will that has been fostered between the two countries.

Hence, it is Caritas Australia's position that a failure to include within the security treaty, a mechanism to broach these issues of human security and support the rights of the peoples in both countries, undermines the power of the Agreement and is a missed opportunity to truly foster a more meaningful, mature and sustainable relationship.

Caritas Australia recommends that the failure to include a mechanism for the two countries to circumvent tensions arising from human rights issues does not meet the objectives outlined in Article 1: Purposes, and needs to be addressed if the Agreement is to truly advance the security of the relationship between the two countries.

Caritas Australia recommends that the Agreement include an annual dialogue on human rights that invites representation from state and non-government organisations in both countries, to comment on human rights achievements and concerns in those respective countries.

This mechanism would promote greater ownership of the principles under the agreement, encourage human security for the peoples of both countries and allow for key issues to be discussed and addressed by government or non-state actors.