

# Be a Hero for a Better World

## José Ramos-Horta (1949- )

In 2007, José Manuel Ramos Horta became the 2nd President of East Timor since it gained independence from Indonesia in 2002. Living in exile as a University professor in Australia during the Indonesian occupation of East Timor from 1975 to 1999, Ramos Horta acted as the spokesperson for the East Timorese resistance. He brought the plight of the East Timorese people to the international community's attention and spoke out against human rights violations committed by the occupying Indonesian military forces as well as promoting a peace plan that sought to end the violence in his country. He and Bishop Carlos F.X. Belo received the 1996 Nobel Peace for their efforts to bring peace and independence to East Timor.

In 1999, with Indonesia's occupation over, the United Nations created a UN Transition Administration in East Timor and Ramos Horta was finally able to return to his country. He continued to advocate for forgiveness and reconciliation as the way to heal the new country, and was appointed as East Timor's foreign minister in 2000. After East Timor gained its independence in 2002, he became the new country's first Foreign Minister, until 2006 when he became the Prime Minister. In May 2007 he was elected as the nation's President, receiving 70% of the votes.



"We believe that human rights transcend boundaries and must prevail over state sovereignty."

José Ramos-Horta was born on December 26, 1949 in Dili, East Timor

### Be A Hero For A Better World!

1. Find out more about this hero
2. Hold an event to raise awareness about human rights issues
3. Contribute to organizations working to defend human rights

### Human Rights Organizations

- Amnesty International ([amnesty.org](http://amnesty.org))
- Carter Center ([cartercenter.org](http://cartercenter.org))
- Human Rights First ([humanrightsfirst.org](http://humanrightsfirst.org))
- Human Rights Watch ([hri.org](http://hri.org))
- Rights International ([rightsinternational.org](http://rightsinternational.org))
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ([ohchr.org](http://ohchr.org))
- Witness ([witness.org](http://witness.org))
- Women's Human Rights Net ([whrnet.org](http://whrnet.org))

For more information: [www.betterworldheroes.com/ramos-horta.htm](http://www.betterworldheroes.com/ramos-horta.htm)

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