

## **ICRC medal awarded to five victims of a helicopter accident in Timor**

The joint ICRC and Indonesian Red Cross mission to provide assistance to needy persons in East Timor was plunged into mourning on Saturday, 2 April. A helicopter with five persons on board, including two Indonesian Red Cross collaborators, crashed in bad weather after colliding with a tree 10 km south of Dili, the capital. At the time of the accident the team was returning to its base at Dili after carrying out a mission of assistance in the south of the island of Timor.

The accident caused the death of two persons, Dr Bagus Rudiono and the pilot of the helicopter, captain Ashoka P. Lolong. Dr Pudjo Hartono, a Ministry of Health doctor, Mr Toyib Kartadinata, an Indonesian Red Cross nurse, and Mr Suhardi Sulaeman, the helicopter mechanic, were seriously injured.

The President of the ICRC, Mr Alexandre Hay, sent a message of condolence to the Indonesian Red Cross as well as to the families of the deceased. The ICRC was deeply touched by this tragic event and decided to award its medal to the three wounded and, posthumously, to the two deceased.

Mr Harald Huber, former Vice-President of the ICRC, went to Jakarta and presented the ICRC medal to the widows of the deceased and to the three persons who had been wounded at a ceremony held on 13 May at the headquarters of the Indonesian Red Cross in the presence of representatives of the government, the National Red Cross, UNICEF and the Swiss Ambassador.

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