

SANDER THOENES

Sander Thoenes was a Dutch journalist, murdered while covering the landing of the Interfet Peace Keepers for The Financial Times and Dutch magazine Vrij Nederland in the weeks after the Referendum.

On 21 September 1999, he was on the road with a motorcycle taxi, when he was killed by soldiers of the Indonesian Army's Battalion 745. Sander was shot when their paths crossed in Becora, Dili, as the Indonesians withdrew from the territory.

Australian UN peace-keepers discovered his body on 22 September, with gunshot-wounds in the back-yard of a house on a side-road. It was concluded Thoenes had been moved off the road to delay his being found, and that he had been shot at close range.



Florindo Araujo was Sander's motorcycle taxi driver. He managed to get away and told the investigators that they had been stopped by at least six men wearing gray Indonesian police uniforms at a roadblock while en route to Becora.

Sander Thoenes was murdered while in search of the truth, only weeks before his 31st birthday.

The perpetrators are known, but the Indonesian and Dutch governments closed the case. A clear example of impunity.



Sander at work in Timor-Leste, during the Referendum.