



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**INTERVENTION BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE
UKRAINE PEACE SUMMIT**

Bürgenstock, Switzerland

15 June 2024

Excellencies,

Thank you for giving Timor-Leste the opportunity to share our perspective. I would like to thank Her Excellency Viola Amherd, President of the Swiss Confederation, for inviting me to this peace summit.

I will keep my intervention brief, focusing on a message that I humbly ask you to bear in mind as we discuss the pathways forward to bring peace to Ukraine and its people.

Timor-Leste profoundly understands the suffering faced by the Ukrainian people as a result of the ongoing conflict.

We also experienced invasion and occupation, and our people still carry the haunting memories of the war, which still remain all too vivid for us.

From our experience, we learned that we could not put an end to a war which was being supported by Western nations. The same countries that used to speak of the importance of international law and the rules-based order.

What kept us determined to continue to fight and die, was the hope that after the war we would live in a new world order that was being promoted at the time. But, unfortunately, after 24 years of war, and now being independent, what we see is a world of disorder with even more conflict than before.

Excellencies,

International law is the foundation of global peace and order. However, it must be applied uniformly to every nation, and all states must abide by it.

Today, we continue to see the selective application of international law.

We see some nations oppose occupation in one country, but not in another.

Too often, the very nations that proclaim the sanctity of international law are the ones that violate it.

If we are committed to maintaining international peace and security, we must apply international law consistently, without selective enforcement, and treat all conflicts with equal importance.

We have a moral obligation to address and be concerned about all conflicts equally. Currently, around 65 wars continue worldwide. Even if they seem distant from our own countries, we must not forget them.

We must hold on to international law's promise of justice and reach for peace.

Excellencies, I will conclude my message by once again appealing to you to remember these points as we move forward in our discussions, and more importantly, after we return to our respective countries.

Thank you.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão