



## PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA

April 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Mary Wald has functioned, on repeated occasions, as my Special Representative in the United States.

Mary and I have worked together in various capacities and projects since 2000. At that time she was involved in raising school supplies for my country. I was Acting Foreign Minister, at a time when my country, East Timor (Timor Leste) was rebuilding after being devastated by militia in 1999.

In 2001 we created a web site for my fellow Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to speak after 9/11. The site received impressive international media coverage, with a valuable message of peace building in a time that was traumatic for millions. This action also led to extensive conversation between the offices of many of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, including communication with the Palestinian Authority and some of the leading Laureates regarding a goodwill mission by Nobel Laureates to the Middle East. Mary acted as my liaison on this communication.

In 2002, with the UN Foundation, Mary webcast East Timor's Independence Day celebrations, when the United Nations handed the reins of our country over to our newly elected government and East Timor became the world's youngest democracy. Mary produced media for and hosted a lunch at the UN with the United Nations Development Program when our country was inducted into the UN as its newest nation state.

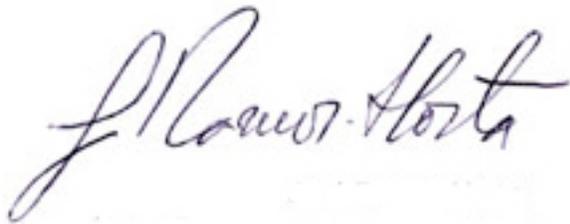
In every season, she has worked with me to rally the other Nobel Laureates for vital causes including Sudan, Iraq and others. She has represented me in drafting sessions for joint statements of the Nobel Laureates on important international matters. In 2002, when I was on my way to a conference of Nobel Laureates, I was forced to return home by a terrorist bombing in Bali. I asked Mary to deliver my speech to the conference for me, which she did.

As I moved on to the positions of Prime Minister and now President, Mary has continued to provide me with valuable communications support. She and her team in Los Angeles have introduced celebrities to the cause of East Timor, including Jennifer Lopez, Antonio Banderas, Peter Gabriel and others. She brought Paul Simon to the country to distribute mosquito nets as part of our malaria prevention program for small children and pregnant mothers.

For many years I have trusted Mary to edit and place my work with international media, including the New York Times, the International Herald Tribune, the Wall Street Journal and others. Most recently she worked with me to edit and place -- on CNN.com -- my first Op Ed article after an assassination attempt. She is extremely literate and able to navigate politically sensitive material. She demonstrates confidence and competence in working with high-level editors and agents.

I find Mary extremely bright and creative, and most importantly, trustworthy. I have repeatedly relied on her good judgment and consider her an asset to the government of East Timor, and to the world of the Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "José Ramos Horta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, there is a faint, illegible stamp or watermark.

Dr. José Ramos-Horta  
President, Republic of Timor Leste