

**Letter to the Sydney Morning Herald 12.12.08
On the death of Mr Ali Alatas, former
Foreign Minister of Indonesia**

The photograph of Ali Alatas and Gareth Evans gleefully grabbing each other's hands as well as the Timorese people's oil nearly says it all ("Envoy played many aces", December 12). Another instructive image is the map of the areas of the Timor Sea which were so greedily raided. Area A, the infamous 'Timor Gap', is the one most usually seen, but when Areas B and C are added to either end the resulting image is, embarrassingly, a coffin.

Shakespeare was right. With so many salutes to Mr Alatas being heavily devoted to East Timor, it seems that he joins those whose good deeds are 'interréd with their bones'. Death is indeed the great leveller.

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See the published portion:
<http://www.smh.com.au/letters/?page=5>