

## Question 24 (6 marks)

With reference to ONE contemporary human rights issue, explain the role of state sovereignty in enforcing human rights.

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East Timor is a part of Indonesia, but up until 1975 was under a different rule because it was under Portugal's control. Due to state sovereignty Portugal was able to make laws and enforce human rights upon its people in East Timor, however, when they gave up their control over East Timor, Indonesia took over and exercised state sovereignty by taking away rights that these people once had. Although there was enormous external pressure to return these rights Indonesia did not comply. It wasn't until Australia and the rest of the world became extremely appalled at the situation and intervened that the people of East Timor began to regain their rights. Now under a different rule, the people of East Timor have regained their rights and are slowly rebuilding their nation.