



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

PRESS RELEASE

27 June 2007

JSMP: STOP TORTURE. CONSOLIDATE JUSTICE IN TIMOR LESTE

Article 1 of the Convention Against Torture defines torture as any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted for such purposes as obtaining a confession, as punishment or intimidation when inflicted by, or at the order of, a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

The 26th of June is an important day for the international community, especially for Timor Leste. This day marks the international day of support for victims of torture. On Tuesday, 26 June 2007, the community of Timor Leste also celebrated this internationally recognized occasion to support victims of torture in Timor Leste.

JSMP, PDHJ, GPMADH, ASSEPOL, MINSAU, FOKUPERS, PNTL, Sta.BAKHITA, A.HAK, ICMC and FTM worked together to commemorate this event with the support of UNDP. A number of important activities marked this special day, including: a talk back show broadcast on the radio and television, a seminar and other activities. The seminar was held at FISIPOL-UNTIL and invited the following speakers: dr. Rui Maria de Araujo (Deputy Prime Minister of Timor Leste), Aniceto Neves from HAK Association and Maria Lurdes also known as 'Mana LU' from the ISMAIK Congregation.

During the seminar Maria Lurdes alias "Mana LU" spoke about "The Practice of Torture: Its implications on General Development and Moral Decadence". She stated that to prevent acts of Torture in Timor Leste, it is necessary to build Justice and Peace and promote feelings of warmth and affection within the community. Mana LU asked the question: Why is there no justice in relation to the high ranking officials in Timor Leste? Mana LU challenged them, stating that if they are courageous then they will submit themselves to law and justice. If we merely bow to the high ranking officials and choose to condemn the common people, justice will not prevail. Mana LU requested for the high ranking officials to protect our community from distress. Mana LU demonstrated her feelings by saying that the people of Timor Leste are not the garbage of the state. The people of Timor have suffered so much. So many of them have ended up as

JSMP

Address: Rua Setubal, Kolmera, Dili, Timor-Leste, **Mailing address:** P.O. Box 275 Dili, East Timor

Phone: +670 332 3883, **E-mail:** info@jsmp.minihub.org, **Website:**

<http://www.jsmp.minihub.org>

victims. Even now many young people are unable to remove themselves from crime.

dr. Rui Maria de Araujo, Vice Prime Minister of Timor Leste, was also invited to speak at the same event, his topic was “**Human Rights and Practical Contributions to Torture in the Human Development Process: Consequences and Solutions**”. dr. Rui stated that human rights and development are both part of a vicious cycle, meaning that where human rights abuses occur, development can not move forward. If development can not move forward, then there are increased opportunities for human rights abuses. The next speaker Aniceto Neves reiterated this point and stated that everybody in Timor Leste must oppose any acts constituting a disrespect of human rights, a misuse of power or human rights violations. Aniceto emphasized that disrespect of human rights, misuse of power and human rights violations are all crimes. Any person who commits such crimes must be processed in accordance with the applicable criminal procedure code. On 16 April 2003, the Timor Leste Government demonstrated a desire to oppose criminal acts with the ratification by the National Parliament of the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

In response, JSMP would like to say that it is not enough to merely ratify this convention, it must be implemented. Article 2 of the aforementioned Convention states that the government shall take effective measures to prevent acts of torture in Timor Leste.

JSMP is a Non Government Organisation (NGO) that strives to promote and develop justice and human rights in Timor Leste and all over the world. With a sense of patriotism we oppose any person who intends to practice torture to achieve their goals. JSMP appeals to everyone to link hands, work together and courageously announce that we will not tolerate acts of torture in any shape or form committed by public authorities against any citizen.

JSMP is an independent organ who fights for justice and truth on behalf of everyone and wishes to remind all public entities, especially our colleagues in the armed forces such as the PNTL and F-FDTL, as well as other public authorities, to respect and adhere strictly to the law and uphold justice. As good citizens we all want to preserve this beloved nation of ours, thus we must develop and respect human rights. We all must be brave and with a patriotic spirit announce “STOP TORTURE AND CONSOLIDATE JUSTICE, TRUTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS in our beloved nation Timor Leste. Torture is a criminal act that violates the dignity of us all.

JSMP

Address: Rua Setubal, Kolmera, Dili, Timor-Leste, **Mailing address:** P.O. Box 275 Dili, East Timor

Phone: +670 332 3883, **E-mail:** info@jsmp.minihub.org, **Website:**

<http://www.jsmp.minihub.org>

For further information please contact:
Timotio de Deus
Director of JSMP
E-mail: timotio@jsmp.minihub.org
Landline: +670 3323883

JSMP

Address: Rua Setubal, Kolmera, Dili, Timor-Leste, **Mailing address:** P.O. Box 275 Dili, East
Timor

Phone: +670 332 3883, **E-mail:** info@jsmp.minihub.org, **Website:**
<http://www.jsmp.minihub.org>