



JSMP Press Release

Monday 9th December 2002

Nineteen conditionally released, nine remanded following police station hearing in Dili East Timor

Following the violent demonstrations in Dili last week police arrested 77 people on suspicion of looting and rioting. Detainees were held in a makeshift cell in Tasi Tolu and at Dili Police Station. Subsequently, 67 detainees were released on Thursday and Friday last week.

On Saturday 7th December, 28 people were brought before an investigating judge in a hearing convened in the Caicoli Police Station. This included a number of additional arrests. According to one of the Public Defenders the hearing occurred in the police station, rather than the Dili District Court, for security reasons.

The majority of those arrested were suspected of looting and theft, while Daniel Soares and Carlito Soares are accused of stabbing to death a rival martial arts group member in Bebonuk, near Dili's Nicolau Lobato airport, on 24 November this year. It was the arrest of Daniel Soares, a school student, on suspicion of murder that sparked the violent protests in Dili last Tuesday and Wednesday.

As a result of the hearing on Saturday the majority of detainees were released conditionally. However, nine of the detainees, including Daniel Soares and Carlito Soares, were remanded in custody for thirty days in Becora Prison.

According to one of the Public Defenders there has not been any preliminary dates set for trial for any of those arrested in these incidents.

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