



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

JSMP Press Release

Dili, 6/2/2006

Serious Crimes Suspects Continue to be Arrested

On 25 January 2006, Dili District Court decided to continue the detention of a suspect who is alleged to be a member of Laksaur militia. This decision was made at the 72 hour hearing upon his arrest in Covalima recently. He was arrested and detained because of his alleged involvement in the commission of serious crimes, in particular, the Suai Church massacre in 1999.

Whilst the suspect is detained, the Prosecution office has been given a chance to review the Serious Crimes files to see whether he has an existing indictment. The prosecutor can prepare an indictment after conducting an investigation if no previous indictment exists.

The arrest and detention of this suspect indicates the court will continue to hear cases of serious crimes under current Timor Leste law. This is also an indication that persons within the jurisdiction of Timor Leste at this time will not be granted immunity for serious crimes, despite the establishment of the commission of Truth and Friendship. The Court has competency in accordance with the law to try suspects who allegedly committed serious crimes. JSMP hopes that, in the future, the Court will continue to bring those suspected of serious crimes to trial if they re-enter Timor-Leste.

For more information:

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