



JUDICIAL **SYSTEM** MONITORING PROGRAMME

Press Release

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National Seminar on Domestic Violence “ The Role of the Witness in Domestic Violence” Organised by JSMP and FOKUPERS with a support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy 17 November 2011, Salao Popular China, Palacio Presidencia, Dili, Timor Leste

On 17 November 2011, JSMP and FOKUPERS with support from the Norwegian Embassy Jakarta, will hold a half-day seminar on the role of the witness in domestic violence cases. This seminar will also celebrate the 16 day campaign against violence against women which is held every year in Timor-Leste.

This seminar will take place in the President’s Office from 8.30-1400 and will be launched by Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI), Ms Idelta Maria Rodrigues. The Norwegian Deputy Minister of International Development, Ms Ingrid Fiskaa will share her remarks about Violence against Women. A famous theatrical group, Doll House from Jakarta will also present a story of domestic violence.

The seminar will focus on the importance of the role of the witness in domestic violence cases . It will also address the impact of article 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code on protecting victims and how to synchronize the perception of legal support and protection to the victims of domestic violence.

Minister Fiskaa said “ *to combat gender-based violence we have to take a number of factors into account, including individual, cultural and structural factors such as political, legal and economic dimensions. Here in Timor Leste you have taken several important legal steps recently*”

Further SEPI stated that “ *we will continue to work together with civil society and relevant key institution to implement the law against domestic violence*”. She further added that “*the recent decision of the Court of Appeal to allow witness of victims to testify in the court is a positive step in the protection of the rights of the victims of domestic violence to access to justice*”.

JSMP and Fokupers believe this is a very good forum for both civil society and court actors, as well as the key actors in the gender and justice sectors, because it will enable them to discuss and understand the real challenges victims of domestic violence face during the trial process.

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