



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

*Press Release*  
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**JSMP organizes training on justice for all in Ainaro Villa Suco –  
Ainaro District**

On 24 April 2015 the Legal Research Unit and Outreach Unit of JSMP conducted training for the community in Ainaro Villa Suco, Ainaro District.

The training materials which were presented and discussed in the training session encompassed the concept of basic human rights, relevant provisions in the Penal Code, the Law Against Domestic Violence, the Criminal Procedure Code and types of crimes which occur the most in the community.

“This training is a continuation of activities to disseminate information to communities on access to formal justice and increase the understanding of target groups on how they can process cases through the formal justice system,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

The training was attended by 30 participants, comprised of 17 women and 13 men. The participants included members of the village administration, representatives of women’s groups, customary elders, young women and other members of the community.

In addition, the training discussed the institutional roles and responsibilities of court actors, such as judges, prosecutors and other actors, like public defenders, private lawyers and the police. This training also focused on the rights and obligations set out in the law that apply to defendants, victims and witnesses.

The Ainaro Suco Chief, Agapito Freitas Martins, in his opening speech expressed his gratitude and appreciation to JSMP for carrying out this initiative to disseminate information in the village on the functioning of formal justice. Because this information is important and very useful for the village.

The Village Chief added that crimes occur in his village, particularly cases in the nature of domestic violence, but they don’t yet understand how to process these cases through formal justice. He also noted that in the ten years that he has been the Suco Chief they have never received any information from the Ministry of Justice in relation to the functioning of the formal justice system.

In closing, the Suco Chief again expressed his gratitude to JSMP for sharing information about formal justice with the community in his village and thanked the donors who provided support to make this training possible.

JSMP observed that the participants actively participated in the discussion and asked questions in relation to crimes of domestic violence and other crimes which often occur in their village. In addition, the participants asked questions about the balance between the rights and obligations of each citizen because problems often occur because many people only demand their rights.

In relation to these questions, JSMP explained that normally rights and obligations go together. Situations like that often occur because citizens have limited information and knowledge.

JSMP hopes that this training activity can strengthen the understanding of the community in rural areas and, in particular, can help provide options to deal with semi-public and public crimes involving family members.

This training was made possible with the financial support of **UNDEF**.

For more information, please contact:

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