



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

*Press Release*  
*Lautem District*  
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**The Muapitine Village community concerned about incest against children and requested for a special provision in the Penal Code**

On 6 August 2015 JSMP organized its third training on “democracy and the role of the National Parliament in the legislative process”, which took place in Muapitine Village, Lospalos Administrative Post, Lautem Municipality. This training was very well attended by the community and village authorities. There were 30 participants who took part in this training, comprising 23 women and 7 men.

During the training the community felt very concerned/upset with cases of incest that are prevalent in Timor-Leste. Therefore, they requested for the parliament and the government to draft a specific article to deal with and impose serious penalties on those who commit incest in order to prevent reoccurrence in the future.

“JSMP considers that the demands of the community in relation to cases of incest are really relevant and should be addressed by the public and in particular the legislative organs of the State, in order to criminalize sexual acts characterized as incest because the aforementioned criminal acts are very disruptive to society’s values and damage sacred relationships in the family,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

On many occasions JSMP has discussed this issue with State authorities, to get them to be sensitive to this reality. JSMP also presented a proposal to the National Parliament and the Government to consider amending the Penal Code. This proposal was based on the observations of JSMP during trials and the experiences of ALFeLa when providing legal assistance to victims.

JSMP places importance on the fact that members of the community are demanding for the parliament and the government to disseminate information on the laws published via the State Gazette so they can be distributed to the villages, and therefore members of the community will be able to have free access.

When the training was being conducted the Muapitine Village Chief, Acacio da Silva, expressed his gratitude and felt that the presence of JSMP was really important to share information and requested for JSMP to convey their concerns to the State via the National Parliament and the government to criminalize the practice of infidelity, living together before being married and polygamy as they are not in accordance with the culture and principles of the Catholic religion.

For more information please contact:

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