



Judicial System Monitoring Programme

Programa de Monitorizasaun do Sistema Judicial

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JSMP has meeting with the Bishop of Dili at the Dili Diocese of Timor Leste

On 9 June 2011 the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP) had the special privilege of meeting with the Bishop of Dili, Mgr. Alberto Ricardo, in his place of work, the Dili Diocese of Timor-Leste at 10.30am. JSMP was represented in the meeting by a group of six people and the Dili Diocese was represented by the Bishop and also the Vicar General.

The Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, *stated that the main aim of this meeting was to garner support from the Timorese Catholic Church and other religious institutions to contribute to the development of the justice sector in Timor-Leste, and therefore JSMP had the initiative to visit all of the dioceses in Timor-Leste to strengthen ties and commitment to improve the justice sector and defend principles enshrined in the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Also, this meeting was very important to have first-hand knowledge of the stance of the Catholic Church on justice in Timor-Leste.*

The Executive Director also said that the Church from the outset has had a major influence and has represented the voices of nearly the entire community of Timor-Leste and the Church has legitimacy in all aspects to defend the interests of the people. Therefore we believe that the active involvement of the church, as well as other religious institutions, is very important in the process of developing the legal system in Timor-Leste.

JSMP used this opportunity to provide detailed information about the establishment of JSMP, its main role and the scope of its work, namely to contribute to the development of the justice sector in Timor-Leste as well as the challenges faced by JSMP in carrying out its duties.

In addition, JSMP also conveyed a range of complaints and concerns that members of the community currently face in relation to domestic violence, sexual violence including incest, problems which have been occurring in nearly every part of Timor-Leste.

After detailing the history of JSMP, its tasks and its scope of work, as well as achievements and challenges in the justice sector, justice for past serious crimes or crimes against humanity, cases of sexual violence, domestic violence and incest, JSMP took the opportunity to seek moral support and feedback on the Church's support for these processes. Before providing clarification and responding to the complaints raised by JSMP, the Bishop Alberto Ricardo started off by welcoming and congratulating JSMP for all of its efforts and dedication to this sector. The

Bishop stated that the duties and work carried out by JSMP are very important for upholding that strong and credible justice for the people of Timor-Leste.

The Bishop believes that justice is extremely important and must be provided for all, in terms of their social life, education, health etc. In addition, the Bishop also stated that the main duty of the Church has been clear since the olden days, namely that the Church has resolute principles of defending the rights, values and dignity of every human being in the world based on justice and truth. All of these fundamental principles are reflected in people's character, whether they are women or men, children or adults, poor or rich, who are all the same in the image of God and everyone, must value them.

The Bishop also stated that as human beings, values of humanity are of utmost importance and cannot be measured against anything else, no person or group has the right to place their interests above the rights of other humans.

Before finishing his statement Bishop Ricardo once again congratulated JSMP for being a community that has the spirit and commitment to continue endeavoring to strengthen the justice sector. He also requested for JSMP to maintain its strong level of enthusiasm and to consistently uphold justice that is fair, credible for all levels of society in Timor-Leste.

For more information, please contact:

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