



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 10 February 2011

JSMP Launches Report on 11 February 2008 Trial for Third Anniversary of Shootings

On the third anniversary of the 11 February 2008 shootings, JSMP will publish its report on the trial process, *The 11 February 2008 Case: More Questions Than Answers*. The launch will take place today, **Thursday 10 February**, at Hotel Delta Nova.

JSMP Director, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, congratulates everyone involved in the trial for managing a complex and sensitive case, but notes that there are still important questions about 11 February that have not been answered.

“We still don't know who shot President Horta, or who killed Major Alfredo Reinado and Leopoldino Exposto. The Timorese community may still be confused about what definitely happened that day and what are just rumours or theories, so JSMP's report aims to sort fact from fiction.”

JSMP closely monitored trial proceedings in the Dili District Court, from the case's commencement on 13 July 2009 through to the delivery of the court's judgment on 3 March 2010. *The 11 February 2008 Case: More Questions Than Answers?* will serve as a record of an important legal case in Timor-Leste's history.

JSMP is launching the report, subtitled *Implications for the Justice Sector in Timor-Leste*, to explain the context of the case, and to analyse the trial process and its impact on the Timorese justice system. The report shows how the different actors in the judicial system can have an impact on the trial, on the rights of individuals, and on whether justice is done.

JSMP believes justice is a cooperative project. The judicial process involves judges, lawyers, defendants, witnesses, court interpreters, police, security personnel, the media, and others. Significantly, the 11 February case also involved several high-ranking officials and members of the Timorese public in a unique way. With this new report, JSMP hopes to draw attention to the importance and complexity of the role played by all of these actors in the search for truth and justice.

Luis de Oliveira stresses the need for changes to the justice sector. “The 11 February case shows that there are real weaknesses in the Timorese justice system. We must make sure that international human rights standards are met, especially the right to a fair trial.”

The report contains sixteen practical recommendations – drawn from the experiences of the 11 February trial – on how the justice system of Timor-Leste can be improved. It also includes a hearing-by-hearing trial chronology, a table summarising the charges, findings and sentences

against each of the defendants, and excerpts from relevant legislation and a selected bibliography for further reading.

JSMP warmly extends an invitation to the justice sector and to all members of the public, to attend the launch and comment on the report.

The 11 February 2008 Case: More Questions Than Answers? will be available from 11 February 2011, exactly three years following the incident in question. JSMP trusts the report will be a useful resource both for the legal professional and for the layperson.

For further information, or a copy of the report, contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio

Executive Director, JSMP

Email: luis@jsmp.minihub.org

Landline: +670 332 3883