



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAM PEMANTAUAN SISTEM YUDISIAL

*Press Release*

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**Suspect in case of murder of spouse is sentenced to 18 years imprisonment**

On 4 May 2012 the Dili District Court conducted a hearing to read out its decision in a case of murder registered as Case No. 209/2012/TDDIL. The crime was committed by the convicted person Jose Carlos against the victim Maria Carlos (deceased) who was the wife of the convicted person. This case allegedly occurred in Aisirimou Village, Aileu on 01/12/2011.

The panel of judges who presided over the trial were represented by judge Antoninho Gonçalves. The Public Prosecution Service was represented by Felismino Cardoso and the defendant was represented by public defender Olga Barreto.

The Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, stated that *“the crime of murder of a spouse is a very serious crime, therefore the sentence handed down against the convicted person is appropriate and proportional to the act committed by the convicted person.”*

JSMP values the work of the court actors, especially the public prosecutor who has worked hard to gather sufficient evidence to support the charges and to convince the court to hand down a sentence that is appropriate and proportional to the act committed by the convicted person.

In the court’s final decision announced on 1 December 2011 the judge explained that based on the facts that had been proven the convicted person was arguing with the victim and suddenly the convicted person took a piece of pipe and struck the victim on the head causing the victim to suffer heavy bleeding from the mouth and the ear. After that incident the victim received treatment at the Aileu Medical Centre and the Guidu Valadares National Hospital in Dili, however the victim died three days later.

JSMP observed that the criminal offence committed by the convicted person fulfilled the elements or provisions of the crime in accordance with Article 139 (g) of the Penal Code which formed the basis of the public prosecutor's charges.

Therefore, after considering and evaluating all of the facts and the entire process the judge handed down a sentence of 18 years imprisonment against the convicted person, however the court did not order the convicted person to pay compensation or court costs.

JSMP also noted that after reading out the decision the judge advised the convicted person not to commit similar acts in the future.

In accordance with the rules of criminal procedure, the convicted person has 15 days to lodge and appeal against the decision of the court.

For more information, please contact:

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