



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME**  
**PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL**

Press Release

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**Case of Attack on F-FDTL HQ is adjourned once more**

The 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 was set as the date to continue the trial of the case relating to an attack on the F-FDTL HQ in Tasi Tolu involving three defendants (VC, LB and M "AR"). However the hearing did not eventuate because the international prosecutor handling this case was in Cape Verde due to the death of his child. The substitute prosecutor admitted that he was not fully aware of the details of this case and therefore requested for the trial to be adjourned to give him enough time to familiarize himself with the case. The defence for the accused was disappointed with the second adjournment in this trial.

JSMP recommends for the Court and the public prosecution unit to ensure that this case is tried in the near future, recalling that the defendants have the right to a speedy trial. The panel handling this case consulted the other court actors and then decided to adjourn the trial until 28 April 2009.

The Panel also made an official announcement that an agreement had been reached to conduct a separate trial for one of the defendants in this case (M "AR") because the Dili District Court remains unaware of his whereabouts. In principle JSMP supports the decision to hold a separate trial for this case, because JSMP previously issued a press release entitled "Need for Separation of Proceedings".

JSMP also hopes that the substitute prosecutor who is replacing the aforementioned international prosecutor who was handling this case is able to study this case in detail to avoid any human error

in subsequent decision making, to ensure that those seeking justice are satisfied that justice has been done.

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