



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

Press Release

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JSMP organizes training for local authorities in Bobonaro District

On Wednesday 1 December 2010, the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP), through its Victim Support Service (VSS), organized training activities in Atudara Village, Cailaco Sub-District, Bobonaro District. 30 people participated in this training, comprising the Village Chief, Sub-Village Chief, youth, women's group and Village Council. 21 of the participants were women and the other 9 were men. In addition to training, the VSS also carried out activities related to the 16 day campaign to halt violence against women under the national theme of "the Domestic Violence Law – Protect Me, Protect My Family".

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, the Executive Director of JSMP, stated that this training was intended to raise awareness amongst community leaders in relation to Law No. 7/2010 Against Domestic Violence which was just recently enacted in Timor-Leste on 7 July 2010.

JSMP believes that this training can remind us of the international standards ratified by the State and the laws drafted by national parliament to protect the rights of citizens. The reality is that women are always victimized through unjust practices and gender inequality, which reflect various forms of violence resulting from discriminative cultural norms that are passed on from generation to generation and are part of our culture.

In addition to the Law Against Domestic Violence, the training discussed other materials such as the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code from the perspective of the victim (gender based violence), international standards that have been ratified and the law on local government authority (Law on Community Leadership). This training was made possible with support from the government of Australia in the form of funding through the Justice Facility.

This training was warmly received by the participants. They recommended for JSMP to continue this training through the Victim Support Service (VSS) and to keep disseminating information about the law.

JSMP hopes that the training can help the local authorities to better understand the legal process, especially the Law Against Domestic Violence that was recently enacted in Timor-Leste.

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