



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

**PRESS RELEASE**

*28 June 2007*

***PAULO MARTINS AND LEANDRO ISAAC APPEAR AS WITNESSES IN  
CASE OF ATTACK ON RESIDENCE OF BRIGADIER GENERAL TAUR  
MATAN RUAK THAT OCCURRED IN 2006***

During the month of June the Dili District Court examined a number of witnesses to an attack on the residence of Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak that took place on 24-25 May 2006. The witnesses were examined by the Dili District Court which has exclusive jurisdiction in this matter. Three separate hearings have been held for the purpose of examining the witnesses. The court has attempted to examine 8 witnesses, namely 6 members of F-FDTL, the former PNTL Superintendent (Paul de Fatima Martins) and a member of the RDTL parliament (Leandro Isaac).

The six members of F-FDTL were examined individually at differently times. However the other two witnesses were examined in a marathon hearing held on 22/6/2007 in the courtroom of the Dili Court of Appeal.

The first witness to be examined was Leandro Isaac (member of parliament). Thereafter the former PNTL Superintendent Paul de Fatima Martins was examined. Both witnesses were cooperative when providing testimony in response to the questions posed by the public prosecutor, judges and counsel for the defendant Abilio Mesquita and others.

In his first statement Leandro Isaac said that he had vague recollections about the time and date of the occurrence. However, he then said that he was present in Lahane on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006, which is in close proximity to the residence of Brigadier General Taur, when a volley of shots was heard. He believed that the shots were fired from the direction of the Lahane Public Hospital.

At the time of the incident the witness met with the defendant Abilio Mausoko and his men who were wearing PNTL police uniforms and fully armed. The witness did not clearly specify the guns that the police were carrying. The witness only stated that the guns were black and short barreled. The witness testified that on 25 May 2006 at the scene of the crime he gave his hand phone to the defendant Abilio Mausoko so he could speak with Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak in relation to the shots being fired at his residence. The Brigadier General spoke over the phone and requested that they immediately stop firing on his house because there were children and civilians inside. On the same day the witness used the hand phone to speak with Ramos Horta (who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time) who asked that the Brigadier General's residence immediately be secured to prevent any further shooting or looting. After hearing the order from Ramos Horta, the witness and Abilio Mausoko headed to the vacant home of the Brigadier General. When they arrived there they only found bullet casings, military clothing and boots that were scattered around inside the home.

Thereafter Superintendent Paul de Fatima provided testimony and stated that he had no knowledge about the incident that occurred on 24 May at the residence of Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak, because at the time he was in Dili attending a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramos Horta. He heard about the incident after receiving information from his men who said that F-FDTL had seized the weapons of PNTL members. After hearing this information the witness immediately left Dili via Ailok Laran and headed to Dare to stay in Balibar.

In relation to the establishment of Police Posts all over Dili, he said that this was true and was done at his initiative because he assessed the situation at the time and found it to be unfavorable. The establishment of Police Posts started in April. He stated that the purpose of establishing Police Posts was so that police could immediately resolve any problems that arose from rioting within Dili.

In relation to the weapons carried by police members in Lahane, he stated that he didn't know about that because previously he had issued Police Superintendent Instruction No. 306/P/2006 which was an order not to fire. This appeal was directed at all members of the police force in East Timor.

As a follow up to this process, on 28/6/2007 the court will visit the scene of the crime in Lahane and the Marabia hills to gather evidence to be compared with witness testimony and other evidence presented to the court so that the Judges can decide the case fairly.

JSMP has been actively monitoring the examination phase of this trial, which relates to witness testimony about the attack on the residence of Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak that occurred on 24-25 May 2006. However JSMP notes that the witness testimony obtained by the court to date has not provided any indications on the individuals who directly or indirectly perpetrated the attack on the residence of Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak last year that resulted in the death of one police officer and two members of F-FDTL.

JSMP hopes that the efforts of the court to conduct a reconstruction of the crime scene will provide further material evidence for comparison with witness testimony provided to the court to prove who in fact was directly or indirectly involved in the aforementioned criminal act.

We all hope that truth will prevail as we eagerly await truth, justice and respect for the rule of law in Timor Leste.

For further information contact:

Osorio de Deus, Legal Researcher, JSMP

Email: [rio@jsmp.minihub.org](mailto:rio@jsmp.minihub.org)

Or contact:

Timotio de Deus, Director of JSMP

Email [timotio@jsmp.minihub.org](mailto:timotio@jsmp.minihub.org)