



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

Press Release

8 March 2007

Reflections on International Women's day

The **International Women's Day** is celebrated on 8 March every year. This day finds its origin in the protests of women at the beginning of the 20th century, in Europe and in the United States, calling for better working conditions and the right to vote. It was officialised by the United Nations in 1977, calling on each country of the planet to celebrate this day for women's rights.

It is a day celebrated throughout the world: the occasion to assert equality, and to make an assessment on the situation of women, to celebrate victories and goals. This year Judicial System Monitoring Program's Women's Justice Unit invites you to think over that: 115 million children between 6 and 11 years of age who are not in school, more than 80 million are girls and that at least one in three women has been the victim of some form of violence in the world.

WJU – JSMP chooses education as the key for women's to achieve equality with men. In order to be free for decision making, women have to be able to understand the options and take their own choices, independent from men. Timor-Leste authorities must encourage girls to attend classes and also their family to send girls to school.

WJU urges international community in Timor-Leste to collaborate with the civil society in the development of a preventive and friendly justice system for women. Empowering women with knowledge of their rights as human beings, providing them with means to be able to incorporate to the labor market and to be able to enjoy their own profits. Is the receipt to be followed.

Commitment to ending violence against women is also to create a formal Justice System that will deliver excellency in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. Courts should be able to implement modern and effective legal tools in cases of violence against women.

We hope that during 2007, authorities will study, discuss and approve the domestic violence law that already drafted.

WJU- JSMP, could overwhelm you describing thousands of cases of domestic violence and sexual assault that occur daily and are disclosed to the Police, Prosecutors or Courts. Instead we exhort you to imagine the cases that happen and are not denounced. We want women to come to light, to be brave enough to meet justice and denounce, but we want

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court officers to be sensible and to treat women with the respect they deserve, as human beings with so much to give to their families and for themselves.

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