



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU**

***Press Release  
4 November 2013***

**JSMP praises the commemoration of National Women's Day in Timor-Leste**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> November is commemorated every year as National Women's Day in Timor-Leste. This is a very important day for the women of Timor-Leste as this date has been established as a national day. This commitment shows that the State of Timor-Leste acknowledges the importance of the contribution, role and participation of women in the context of national development.

However, based on court monitoring conducted by JSMP to date, the majority of cases registered and tried by the courts are still predominantly cases associated with gender based violence, which mainly involve women and girls as victims.

These types of violence include domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse of minors, incest, abandonment and a wide range of other crimes and behaviors that impact on the lives of women in particular, and on national development in general. This will place a large burden on the State in the future.

*"JSMP congratulates all women and all components of society who have taken part in the movement for change in order to 'Say NO to domestic violence',"* said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

JSMP hopes that by commemorating National Women's Day in Timor-Leste every component of Timorese society will be able to think about and reflect upon what needs to be improved in the future to ensure that women and men have the same roles/equal roles in national development.

JSMP urges the State institutions, especially the government, to set up a system and to develop a responsive policy to ensure adequate protection for women.

JSMP is aware that women in remote areas still continue to face a wide range of structural challenges to defend their constitutional rights because local customary practices are often discriminatory which can lead to their neglect and can undermine their rights. The RDTL Constitution does not allow for such discriminatory practices, by specifically guaranteeing the

involvement of women in national and State affairs and ensuring that women are free from all forms of violence.

Although there is still a lot of work ahead of us, JSMP continues to encourage everyone to maintain their enthusiasm in saying 'NO to domestic violence'.

For more information, please contact:

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