



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME**  
**PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN SISTEMA JUDISIAL**

***Komunikadu imprensa***

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**Lúcia Lobato's lawyers make serious accusations of judicial misconduct against Appeal Court judges**

On 15 April 2013, the lawyers of former Minister of Justice Lúcia Lobato raised serious allegations of judicial misconduct against members of the Court of Appeal who tried Ms. Lobato's *habeas corpus* appeal.

The lawyers circulated documents at a press conference suggesting that an international judge had been pressured and threatened into deciding against Ms. Lobato's release by his international and national colleagues. These documents also allege the involvement of a member of parliament in exerting pressure on the judges.

Ms Lobato's lawyers announced that they have submitted a criminal complaint against the judges and member of parliament mentioned in these documents for coercion of a judge and for obstruction of justice.

*"JSMP is extremely concerned about these very serious allegations. Suspicion of lack of impartiality, collusion among judges against a defendant and interference from a member of parliament in a court case are grave accusations,"* said Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

*"Judges are obliged to guide themselves by the principles of justice, impartiality and the highest moral standards."*

If substantiated, these allegations have the potential to undermine the credibility of Timor-Leste's formal justice system.

*"JSMP calls upon competent authorities to thoroughly and promptly investigate these allegations. JSMP expects all parties to cooperate fully with the competent authorities so that Timor-Leste can continue on the path to a stronger rule of law,"* said Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

For more information, please contact:

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