

## JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

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## Members of the National Parliament raise the issue of violence against women during debate on the 2015 State Budget

On 3 December 2014 the National Parliament held a plenary session to discuss and vote Draft Law No. 16/III (3<sup>a</sup>) on the 2015 State Budget which is still being debated.

MP Alvina Marçal Freitas from the CNRT bench and Olinda Morais from the PD bench expressed their concerns and raised the issue of violence suffered by women during a debate on government programs in the draft 2015 State Budget. They raised the specific issue of cases involving incest, neglect, domestic violence and divorce which are now faced by women and children.

These cases are a serious concern for the general public, and the members of parliament urged the government to draft a concrete action plan to combat these problems.

JSMP is pleased to see the members of parliament addressing these issues during the budget debate and urges the relevant institutions to draft a concrete plan to respond to such incidents.

"JSMP believes that in order to combat the problem of incest and other violence against women, it is important to consider amending the Penal Code to include a specific provision on incest," said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

JSMP is currently preparing a submission on proposed comprehensive changes to provisions in the Penal Code to better protect women and children who suffer gender based violence. JSMP hopes that in 2015 JSMP will have an opportunity to discuss these issues with the National Parliament.

JSMP also hopes that the draft budget for 2015 can give priority to the creation of appropriate means to deal with the circumstances that victims in these cases are facing.

JSMP recommends that the Parliament and government consider the importance of amending the Penal Code to prevent incest and other types of gender based violence and give better protection to victims.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio Executive Director JSMP Email: luis@jsmp.minihub.org info@jsmp.minihub.org Telephone: 3323883/77295795 Website: www:jsmp.tl Face book: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp Twitter: @JSMPtl