



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
29 October 2020

Residents in Sagadate Village raise concerns about the exercise of freedom in a Democratic State and Witness Protection

JSMP facilitated training for members of the administrative structure in Sagadate Village, Laga Administrative Post, Baucau Municipality on 22 October 2020. This training was attended by sub-village chiefs, village support staff, customary elders, and the village chief. There were 15 participants in total. The Sub-Village Chiefs came from the sub-villages of Abuti, Selegua, Samagata, Ia Sula, One Bu'u, Serebui, Ulakuti and Be Liawali.

The aim of this training was to share information and increase the knowledge of the village administrative structure about democracy, the role of sovereign organs, public participation in the law-making process and access to formal justice.

“Training about democracy and formal justice for members of the village administrative structure is very important because through this training or other similar trainings they can increase their knowledge, and therefore they will be able to perform their roles even better” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

In the session about democracy, the main issues raised by participants related to freedoms in a democratic country based on the rule of law, and also those aged less 17 don't have the political right to participate in elections even though democracy gives freedoms to all people.

In response to these concerns, JSMP explained about space, freedoms and limitations on rights that are enshrined in the Constitution and the law. In relation to the issue of age, JSMP explained that the Constitution and the laws grant rights to citizens who have reached adulthood and they have the capacity to vote.

In the second session on access to formal justice, the participants raised concerns about their personal safety if they make a complaint, because they are always threatened by suspects and they might be beaten or killed.

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In response, JSMP acknowledged that such concerns are widespread, therefore the Government through the police has established a Village Police Village (OPS) Unit to prevent and solve such crimes. Also, when threatened, JSMP suggested that a complaint should be made to the police because making threats is a crime.

Sagadate Village Chief, Mr. Aureliano de Jesus, when opening and closing this training, thanked JSMP for facilitating this important training, and said that this training can increase their knowledge about democracy and the formal justice system.

This training took place with the financial support of the Office of the Civil Society Support Fund.

For more information, please contact:

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