

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 22 September 2003.

Man shot dead in clash with BPU identified, body being delivered to next-of-kin

The body of the man shot dead by the BPU [Border Patrol Unit of PNTL] on Friday during an incident near Maliana [Bobonaro District] is now on its way to West Timor to be delivered to his wife, the next-of-kin. This follows a request made earlier to the Acting Prime Minister, Ana Pessoa, for the body's return.

An autopsy was conducted this morning, and UNMISSET is now transporting the remains by helicopter as a humanitarian gesture.

The man has been identified as Viegas Bili Atu, and he is thought to be approximately 45-years old. Initial reports indicate that he may have been an ex *militia*. Police are continuing their investigation into the incident.

Viegas Bili Atu died on Friday evening when three BPU officers were conducting a patrol near border Junction Point – C [Maliana], an area where an illegal market often operates. They came across four men crossing from West Timor into Timor-Leste. One of the men shot an arrow at the BPU, injuring one officer in the leg. The BPU then opened fire and Viegas Bili Atu was shot dead. The other men fled across the border to West Timor.

