

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNMISSET

United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

UNMISSET PRESS RELEASE

PKF BID FAREWELL TO PORTUGUESE MARINE

(Dili, 27 March) – The Commander of the 21st Marine Company (Portuguese Battalion of PKF) mourned the loss of Corporal Antonio Nascimento with a moving prayer entitled ‘Silence and Peace’ at the memorial service held in Dili this afternoon for the deceased marine. “The music is [left] submerged in deep waters...[but] the sun will forever shine on his face and an intangible peace shall forever guarantee [the security of] his borders”, said First-Lieutenant Fonseca.

Cpl. Nascimento died on Monday [24th March] while snorkelling on Liquica beach. Today, his former comrades joined other members of the Portuguese Battalion and soldiers from other contingents of PKF in bidding a final farewell to Cpl. Nascimento on the tarmac of Comoro Airport.

The PKF Commander, Major-General Tan Huck Gim, presented Cpl. Nascimento posthumously with the UN medal, and the Commander of the Portuguese Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Nunes Henriques, presented the marine with the UN blue beret. After prayers and a reading from the Bible, they joined the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Timor-Leste, Ambassador Kamallesh Sharma, and the RDTL Prime-Minister Mari Alkatiri in placing flowers over the casket.

The PKF Commander led the final salute to Cpl. Nascimento as the coffin, draped in the UN and Portuguese flags, was lifted on to a UN plane bound for Darwin. Following a 3-gun salute, the marines and other Portuguese soldiers waved their berets in the air as the plane took off.

The F-FDTL Commander [Brigadier-General Taur Matan Ruak], the Portuguese Ambassador to Timor-Leste [Rui Quartin Santos], the Portuguese National Contingent Commander [Colonel Armando Borges] and other senior UNMISSET officials also attended the service.

For further information contact:

Marcia Poole

Spokesperson/UNMISSET

Mobile: + 670 723 0793

Telephone: + 61 8 8946 3900 Ext. 6059