



Dili, 04 December 2002

UNMISSET UPDATE ON SITUATION IN DILI

Shortly after the initial violence, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Kamallesh Sharma visited the Timor-Leste Parliament Building and met with Francisco Xavier de Amaral, the Acting Head of the Parliament. He was informed that a group of students from yesterday's street incident were given assurances that they could come to the Parliament at 9:00 AM this morning to discuss yesterday's situation with the Parliamentarians.

A group of students arrived at 9:00 AM this morning, but the Parliament was not yet in session and some of the group apparently grew restless. At some point a Parliamentarian, Antonio Cardoso, Head of the Education Committee, went out to the front of Parliament to talk with the students who were assembled in the street. He was then apparently hit with a stone and sustained an injury to the head.

The situation then deteriorated and resulted in gunshot injury to two students and significant material damage to both the Parliament and to GPA, the Timor-Leste Government's principal administrative building.

One of the two injured students subsequently died. The other injured student and the injured Parliamentarian, Mr. Cardoso, were transported and admitted to hospital. The student who sustained a fatal injury was also carried to hospital.

The SRSB, Mr. Sharma, has expressed his concern at the injuries and loss of life and damage to property.

He asked for the immediate deployment of peacekeeping forces, in addition to the police force, around the Parliament and the GPA. Mr. Sharma says UNMISET remains fully prepared to exercise its mandated role of assisting the Timor-Leste Government maintain Peace and Security.

END

Brennon Jones

Spokesperson, UNMISET

Mob: (61) 0417868485

Mob: (61) 0438021918

Ext: 6059