

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 06 December 2002

SRSG STATEMENT ON CURRENT SITUATION IN DILI

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Kamallesh Sharma stated that the situation in Dili remains calm following the 04 December incidents of violence. He said that two Timorese had died in the violence, two were critically injured and another three seriously injured, with some 20 others sustaining less serious injuries.

Mr. Sharma said that UNMISSET was conducting autopsies on the two deceased to determine the exact cause of death. Further investigation will be undertaken as indicated.

Mr. Sharma expressed once again his concern at the injuries and loss of life and damage to property and his conviction that this event underscores the need for Timor-Leste to have a robust and effective security force which enjoys the confidence of the community.

The SRSG stated that the violence that unfolded this past Tuesday appeared to be part of a planned attack against selected targets throughout Dili. He said it required the Timor-Leste Police Service (TLPS), UN Police and the Peacekeeping Forces that were backing them up, to be involved in protecting simultaneously a multitude of targets in different parts of the city.

The SRSG said that the violence of 04 December will be thoroughly investigated by UNMISSET in parallel with inquiries of the Government and the Parliament.

Mr. Sharma met again yesterday, 05 December, with Timor-Leste President Xanana Gusmão and with Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri to assess the security situation and to review the necessary corrective measures that need to be applied in the medium- and



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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longer-term. They also discussed cooperation and joint efforts toward social stability and the strengthening of core administrative structures of government.

Mr Sharma also met yesterday with António Luis Arnaut, the visiting Deputy Minister to the Portuguese Prime Minister, and discussed the security situation in Timor-Leste. Mr. Arnaut promised the SRSR further assistance from Portugal generally and particularly in the training of the TLPS riot police.

The Special Representative to the Secretary-General said that UNMISSET is committed to discharging its mandate of assisting in the development and strengthening of the Timor-Leste Police Service. He added that appropriate deployment of security forces, including Peacekeeping Forces, will continue throughout Dili as required.

