

**By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office**

**Dili, 7 August 2002**

## **RECONCILIATION MEETING CONTINUES**

A fourth reconciliation meeting between a refugee delegation led by João Tavares and the Timorese government was held in Batugade yesterday.

The request made in a previous meeting by Tavares for a cantonment center for returnees has been declined by the East Timor government in order to avoid conflicts.

Mr. Tavares showed disappointment with the decision but requested a follow up meeting with President Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and the Speaker of the National Parliament, Francisco Guterres.

Representatives of the East Timor government suggested that a letter should be addressed to them through UN Military Officials or UNHCR.

The meeting was held at the UNHCR compound in Batugade and facilitated by UNHCR.

Representatives from UNMISSET, UNMO and UNHCR were present at the meeting.

## **SRSG VISITS REFUGEES**

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Deputy SRSG accompanied by the Head of the Human Rights Unit, Patrick Burgess, visited the Sri Lankans refugees at the transit centre last evening.

Today the SRSG and the DSRSG met with PM Mari Alkatiri. The DSRSG also had a meeting with Portuguese ambassador Rui Quartim dos Santos and the head of the NZ mission Susana Gordon with whom he discussed the status of international assistance provided to East Timor.

The SRSG also welcomed President Gusmão at Dili's airport upon his arrival from Brazil.

## **HEAD OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT**

The head of UNMISSET's Human Rights office, Patrick Burgess, today addressed the parliament about the role of the mission in the country's judiciary system.

Mr. Burgess stressed that the role of UNMISSET is to assist the government of East Timor by fostering stability, democracy and justice in the nation.

He said that as part of the UN family, his department assisted with the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judiciary. The Head of the Human Rights Office said that based on many years of experience from many countries, the Special Rapporteur has written to members of Parliament expressing his views on the draft judicial magistrates.

Mr. Burgess added, he would be more than willing to provide technical assistance and facilitate in obtaining international documents, especially those that outline the progress made by other countries on issues confronting developing nations.