

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 10 December 2002

THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN EAST TIMOR (UNMISSET) ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES IN WAKE OF 04 DECEMBER VIOLENCE

While investigations into last Wednesday's violence continue, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Kamalesh Sharma announced on December 10 a number of steps that will be taken immediately to serve the strengthening of security preparedness in Dili and throughout Timor-Leste.

The SRSG said the police service (TLPS) is young and still in the process of fully establishing itself. The events of last week highlight this and demonstrate the importance of the international community providing full support to the long-term process of creating a police service which operates to the highest professional standard, and respects the human rights and dignity of the community it serves.

In consultation with the Government of Timor-Leste the following measures are being taken to increase the capability of the police:

- Supervision of a Rapid Deployment Unit of TLPS will be tightened and TLPS officers will be rotated through the Unit on assignment for periods of two years to establish a broader skill base within the police service.
- Training for the Rapid Deployment Unit of TLPS will emphasise the development of integrity, leadership, client-oriented service delivery, action management, interpersonal relations, communications skills, enhancement of problem-solving skills, adherence to the principle of the use of force and proportionality, the Constitution and on human rights standards.
- Monitoring of all TLPS officers will be conducted to ensure compliance with the highest standards of accountability and discipline.
- Uniforms of the Rapid Deployment Unit will also be changed to make them more like those of the TLPS and not of a separate entity.

Mr. Sharma said he wholeheartedly supports all efforts of the Government, the Church, Human Rights Organizations and other NGOs to promote the observance of the rule of law by all individuals.



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TLPS officers are very much the public face of a new democratic institution and they play a fundamental role in the development of democratic governance, he said.

Mr. Sharma said he hoped the international donor community would give quick support to these initiatives, some of which were recommended by the Police Needs Assessment Mission that examined police operations in late November.

UNMISSET will support the comprehensive public information campaign on the role of the police, at all levels of the community.

The SRSG emphasized that the UN peacekeeping force will continue to provide back-up support to the police.

TIMOR-LESTE DONORS' MEETING CONCLUDES ON HIGH NOTE

A two-day "Timor-Leste and Development Partners Meeting" ended in Dili on Tuesday with Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri commending the more than 200 international donors and mission and agency representatives for attending the meeting only days after the 04 December violence.

"Your coming shows how much you trust us, our Government and the Timorese people", he told attendees to the conference which was undertaking a six-month progress review of the National Development Plan. Mr. Alkatiri noted the serious challenges ahead, but told the delegates to the meeting, which was sponsored jointly by the Timor-Leste Government and the World Bank, "we are committed to going forward" in the development of the country. He also said that they would do it in a spirit of respect for human rights. "We are few and we are small", declared Prime Minister Alkatiri, "but with your support, we will win".

In his closing remarks, World Bank Vice President Mr. Jemal-ud-din Kassum took note of the 04 December violence as well, saying the incidents "show the challenges the young nation faces." Mr. Kassum called Timor-Leste one of the poorest countries in Asia, "but a nation of people determined to work together to see the fruits of a struggle begun long ago – a struggle for peace, and prosperity".



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Mr. Kassum said the Government “has made substantial progress toward building a solid economic base, especially through the establishment of core institutions to provide government services. Once this base is established,” he declared, “economic and social conditions will improve, making a real difference to the everyday lives of the people of Timor Leste”.

He urged the Timor-Leste Government and its development partners “to prioritize, and coordinate, and focus resources and energies in a collaborative development effort that is accountable and transparent”. He said the World Bank is committed to this effort. “We commend the government and the people of Timor-Leste for their commitment to our joint dream – a world free of poverty.

Mr. Kassum concluded by praising the high turnout at the Dili meeting of donors. Their actions here, he said, send a “strong signal of support” by the Development Partners for the Timor-Leste Government and its people.

In remarks to conference participants, the Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General and UN Resident Co-ordinator Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa said that in the aftermath of the violent incidents of 04 December an internal UNMISSET investigation was proceeding in a thorough manner. He said the results of the investigation would be made known as soon as available.

In the interim, Mr. Hasegawa said, “the Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) Mr. Kamallesh Sharma, in consultation with Timor-Leste Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and his Government, is taking immediately a number of steps”. He said UNMISSET is strengthening its security preparedness in Dili and throughout the country with the involvement of the Peacekeeping Forces (PKF).

Regarding the Timor-Leste Police Service (TLPS), he said that UNMISSET would be implementing new capacity building measures and increasing the rapid deployment capabilities of the TLPS. Mr. Hasegawa said TLPS training will be stepped up, a Code of Conduct developed and efforts taken to improve community police relationships. He also said that they would be stepping up the incident management



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system and crowd control capabilities, including training in crowd psychology and dynamics. The DSRG said that the police will now be asked to use teargas and other non-lethal means for crowd control if necessary.

The Deputy SRSG said that UNMISSET has also decided to implement many of the suggestions of the 18 –29 November joint UNMISSET/UNDP/Donor Police Needs Assessment Mission.

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