

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 12 July 2002

SRSG AWARDS WINNERS OF NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

On Thursday evening SRSG addressed the first commemoration of World Population Day in Dili, East Timor. Mr. Sharma emphasized that this year's theme "Poverty, Population and Sustainable Development" is particularly relevant to the millennium's newest country because it has a very young population with a rapid growth rate.

SRSG presented the winners of the first East Timorese National Poster Contest to commemorate World Food Population Day 2002 with prizes ranging from \$15 to \$100.

Various organizations and individuals including the United Nations Population Fund organized the event.

Today Mr. Sharma met with the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Dato Param Cumaraswamy and discussed East Timor's legal system.

The Special Rapporteur is on a three-day visit aimed at exploring how the Office of the High Commission of Human Rights can assist East Timor's nascent judiciary.

This is the second trip by the Special Rapporteur to East Timor, the first taking place in November 2001.

The officer-in-charge of the Asian Development Bank in Dili, Zacarias da Costa paid a courtesy call on the UN Special Representative today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ATTEND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEMINAR

Next week, representatives of community-based organisations throughout East Timor will attend "training of trainers" sessions in Dili aimed at providing them with the skills to raise awareness on the issue of domestic violence.

A total of 78 women will be divided into three groups, the first of which begins a three-day training session on 17 July.

This "Strengthening Response to Gender-Based Violence" project is funded by the UNFPA and implemented by the Office for the Promotion of Equality.

UN Police officials say that last month, domestic violence represented one-third of reported crimes, and that over the past year domestic violence has consistently been in the top three categories of reported crimes.



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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HEAD OF EAST TIMOR DEFENSE FORCE THANKS THAILAND PKF

Having completed his visit to China, the Commander of the East Timor Defence Force, Brigadier-General Taur Matan Ruak is now in Thailand. Last Wednesday Mr. Ruak met with Thai Defence Minister, General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the Armed Forces Supreme Commander, Admiral Narong Yuthawong, and the Army Commander, General Surayud Chulanont. General Ruak expressed his gratitude for Thailand's support for the peacemaking process in East Timor and for its assistance to the FDTL. A Thai contingent of 350 soldiers is currently in East Timor and a Thai, Lieutenant-General Winai Patthiyakul, is Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor.

REPLACEMENT FOR MILITARY OBSERVER

Brigadier General Paulo Guerreiro from Portugal has replaced the Chief Military Observer, Major General Sergio L. Vasconcelos Rosario from Brazil who has completed his mission in East Timor.

