

MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 13 November 2002

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TWO PEACEKEEPERS KILLED IN BALI

A memorial service was held at Motael Church in Dili today for two United Nations Peacekeepers killed in the Bali Bombing while on holiday from the UN mission in Timor-Leste (UNMISSET). They have both been missing since the terrorist incident of 12 October 2002.

In a packed church, Sargeant Marco Antônio Farias of the PKF's Brazilian Contingent and Private Diogo Miguel Dantas Ribeirinho of the PKF's Portuguese Contingent were praised by their colleagues as "loyal and dedicated soldiers and thoughtful and helpful friends" who will be long remembered.

Attendees at the ceremony included the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) Sukehiro Hazegawa; the PKF Commander Maj. Gen. Huck Gim Tan; the Deputy Force Commander Brig. Gen. Justin Kelly; Commanders of the Portuguese and Brazilian Contingents and Diplomatic Representatives. Sgt. Farias's father, Lieutenant Antônio Carlos da Silva Farias, who had traveled from Brazil, also attended the memorial service.

This was the second ceremony in Timor-Leste related to the Bali Bombing. On 20 October 2002, President Xanana Gusmão led a memorial service in Dili to remember all the victims of the Bali tragedy. Government and UNMISSET officials, UN agency representatives and diplomats, as well as members of the public attended the beach-front service near Cristo Rei.

Seargent Marco Antônio Farias was born in Porto Alegre City, Brazil, on 17 April 1978. His parents are Marga Helena Machado Farias and Antônio Carlos Da Silva Farias. Seargent Farias served in Brazil's 19th Infantry Battalion.



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With a platoon from the same unit and others from the 3rd Military Police Battalion, he integrated with the Brazilian Battalion when it began operations with UNMISSET in Timor-Leste on 18 June 2002, serving in the 2nd Military Police Platoon in Batugade.

Private Diogo Miguel Dantas Ribeirinho was born in Lisbon, Portugal, on 30 May 1981. His parents are Maria of Conceição Cunha Riveirinho Danatas and Ismael Duarte Riveirinho Ferreira Dantas. He entered the Portuguese army on 26 May 2000, and served in the 2nd Parachute Battalion with a specialty of transmission operator. His unit joined Portuguese Battalion operations with UNMISSET in Timor-Leste on 09 June 2002, and he served in Battalion Headquarters in Caicoli, Dili.

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