

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 13 December 2002

The Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) Mr. Kamallesh Sharma announced today that the UN Police (UNPOL) investigation of the 04 December violence continues and that UNPOL has requested the public to share any information it has (including film and still pictures) in order to advance its investigation. The SRSG Mr. Sharma thanked those witnesses who have already come forward to provide information to UNPOL investigators regarding the 04 December violence.

Mr. Sharma also announced today that UNPOL has arrested seven suspects in the burning of the house of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. In addition, he said that the police also arrested earlier 10 people for looting and that a quantity of stolen property including three vehicles, television sets and refrigerators has been recovered. The police are in the process of identifying the owner of the goods.

The SRSG said that some discipline problems were evident within the Timor-Leste Police Service (TLPS) during 04 December, and immediate steps have been taken to deal with it. They include the suspension, pending investigation of conduct, of six TLPS officers, three of whom were members of the National Security Coordination Unit, one from the Dili District Investigation Unit, one from the Marine Unit and one from the Police Headquarters Security Unit.

These actions come three days after the SRSG announced a number of new initiatives, taken in consultation with the Government of Timor-Leste, to strengthen the preparedness, capabilities, responsiveness and professionalism of the TLPS. They include:

- Supervision of the Rapid Deployment Unit of TLPS is being tightened and TLPS officers are to 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



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skills, adherence to the principle of the use of force and proportionality, the Constitution and on human rights standards.

- Monitoring of all TLPS officers is to 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.
- Equipment requirements, particularly for riot control, is being comprehensively reviewed and the necessary procurement procedures are being applied.

