

# MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 21 November 2002

## NEW INDICTMENT ISSUED BY SERIOUS CRIMES UNIT

The Serious Crimes Unit filed an indictment at Dili District Court on 19 November, charging 12 people for the murder of Verissimo Dias Quintas, the traditional king (*Liurai*) of Lospalos. The murder took place on 27 August 1999 in Lospalos town.

The 12 people are all charged with crimes against humanity: murder and persecution. They include the former district administrator (*Bupati*) of Lautem District, Edmundo da Conceicao Silva; two members of the Indonesian Special Forces (*KOPASSUS*), Rahman Zulkarnean and Syaful Anwar; members of the militia group Team ALFA, Tomas Da Costa, Inacio Oliveira, Joaquim Januario, Gilberto Fernandes, Anton Regu, Jose Da Costa, Lamberto Dos Santos; and members of BRTT (a pro-autonomy political organisation) Martinho Da Costa and Jose Solari.

The charges stem from an attack made on the residential compound of the *Liurai*, where the local office of the CNRT (the pro-independence political organisation) was also located.

The attack was carried out while a large number of CNRT supporters celebrated the end of the campaign period in the compound. Both the *Liurai's* house and the CNRT office were burnt down in the attack and the *Liurai* was killed. The attack was carried out jointly by a group consisting of *KOPASSUS*, Team ALFA militia and BRTT members.

Of the 12 people charged, nine are believed to be at large in Indonesia. They include the former *Bupati* and both *KOPASSUS* members. Arrest warrants have been requested from the Dili District Court for all the people charged.

An arrest warrant had already been issued, in February 2001, for Syaful Anwar (*KOPASSUS*) for his involvement in the murder of an independence supporter in



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April 1999. One of the accused, Gilberto Fernandes, is currently serving a sentence at Becora prison in Dili for his involvement in the same case.

## PEACEKEEPING FORCE COMMANDER AND HIS DEPUTY AWARDED

In a ceremony today at UNMISSET Peacekeeping Headquarters in Dili, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Tan Huck Gim and Deputy Force Commander Brig. Gen. Justin Kelly received UNMISSET Peacekeeping Medals from the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) Sukehiro Hasegawa. The awards are for distinguished service in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Hasegawa commended Maj. Gen. Tan and Brig. Gen. Kelly “for their leadership and commitment in maintaining a secure environment in Timor-Leste, particularly in the aftermath of the Bali incident”. He also praised their skills at “overseeing the complex PKF role in the UNMISSET downsizing process. They are doing a fine job in ensuring that responsibility for security is gradually but successfully being turned over by the PKF to the Timor-Leste Defence Force”, said the DSRSG.

Maj. Gen. Tan has been UNMISSET Peacekeeping Force Commander since August 2002. He was previously the commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> Singapore Division of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Brig. Gen. Kelly, an Australian, became Deputy Force Commander in August as well. He was previously the Commander of the Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville.

## SRSG KAMALESH SHARMA ON OFFICIAL AUSTRALIA TRIP

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Kamalesh Sharma left Dili today for a seven-day, official trip to Australia, including meetings in Sydney, Canberra and Darwin.

Mr. Sharma is scheduled to meet in Canberra with Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer and with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs



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and Trade; AUS AID; the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs; the Department of Defence; and the Australian Federal Police.

While in Sydney. Mr. Sharma will visit the United Nations Information Centre as well as meet with the Australian-East Timor Joint Business Council.

In Darwin, the SRSG is scheduled to meet with the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Claire Martin. Mr. Sharma returns to Timor-Leste on 28 November.

