

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 29 July 2002

UNMISSET, UNFPA BEGIN ETPS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING

Thirty-two East Timor Police Service (ETPS) officers from throughout the country today began a five-day basic training course in Dili on dealing with domestic violence.

Among the themes being addressed are laws and statutes on domestic violence; ETPS rules and guidelines in handling the issue; and skills for the effective handling of domestic violence cases.

The seminar is funded by the UNFPA in cooperation with the Office for the Promotion of Equality, the UN Police Vulnerable Persons Unit and UNMISSET's Gender Focal Point.

In related news, the third and final "training of trainers" course to raise awareness on domestic violence as a crime also opened today in the capital.

The "Strengthening Response to Gender-Based Violence" project aims to provide the participants with the skills to return to their districts and encourage community initiatives to tackle the problem.

Domestic Violence is endemic in East Timor. In May it was the second most frequently reported crime after general violence and assault. Since the beginning of this year more than 280 cases of domestic violence have been reported in Dili alone.

