

Horta's diplomatic protege accused of sexual harassment

www.southeastasianimes.com

April 2, 2007

Darwin, April 2: East Timor's first ambassador to Australia and principal spokesperson for "Fretilin Mudanca," or Fretilin Reform, which is supporting Jose Ramos Horta in his country's presidential election, Jorge Da Conceicao Teme, has been accused of sexual harassment by a young woman who worked at Dili's embassy in Canberra.

The complaint by Margarida de Araujo — an Australian of Timorese descent who is in her 20s and is now believed to live in Brisbane — was originally to have been heard by Federal Court Magistrate Stewart Brown in Darwin on July 5 last year but after two adjournments has now been scheduled for a decision on May 23, 2007.

Margarida de Araujo is reported to have been an administrative assistant at the East Timor embassy in Canberra in either 2004 or 2005 when Teme was ambassador and Jose Ramos Horta East Timor's foreign minister.

Tempe is a regular spokesperson for Fretilin dissidents and was interviewed for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation by Karon Snowdon on March 28.

The Southeast Asian Times



East Timor's first Ambassador to Australia, Jorge da Conceição Teme, front row third from left, after presenting credentials in Canberra in May 2003. The principal spokesperson for "Fretilin Mudanca," or Fretilin Reform, which is supporting Jose Ramos Horta in his country's presidential election, has been accused in the Federal Magistrates Court, Darwin, of sexual harassment