



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE
FRETILIN

Media Release
10 August 2007

New Justice Minister interferes with Court Order

FRETILIN today condemned the action of the new Justice Minister of Timor Leste, Ms Lucia Lobato, for her interference on Wednesday afternoon (8 August) to block a court order allowing for jailed former Interior Minister Rogerio Lobato to go to Malaysia for heart surgery.

"FRETILIN in government never interfered with the justice system when Rogerio Lobato, a senior FRETILIN figure, was arrested, tried, sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison, and failed to win his appeal," said FRETILIN parliamentarian and Australian trained lawyer Jose Teixeira today.

"Yet on day one of the new government, there is gross abuse of the judiciary. The new government should continue the previous government's practice of strict respect for the independence of the judiciary," said Mr Teixeira.

"We also condemn international media reports that this court order was a 'deal' to allow Mr Lobato to 'escape'. This spurious allegation continues the wild anti-FRETILIN spin in the international media this week.

"The media reports neglect the fact that the court order to allow Lobato to leave was handed by a judge, the very same judge who had convicted Lobato previously, after three international doctors, including an Australian doctor, had advised that he required heart surgery which is not available here in Timor-Leste.

"Mr Lobato is a prisoner in the jurisdiction of Timor Leste and must return after the heart surgery," Mr Teixeira concluded.

For more information, please contact:

Jose Teixeira (+670) 728 7080, FRETILIN Media (+670) 733 5060 or send an email to fretilin.media@gmail.com

www.timortruth.com, www.fretilin-rdtl.blogspot.com