



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE
FRETILIN

MEDIA RELEASE

5 February 2007

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AGAINST ALKATIRI DROPPED BY TIMOR'S
PROSECUTOR GENERAL

Former Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and Secretary General of FRETILIN, Dr. Mari Alkatiri was today notified by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Timor-Leste that the investigation against him was closed and that no further action would be taken for want of evidence of any criminal conduct ON the part of Dr. Alkatiri arising out the allegations made of his alleged involvement in the arming of civilians.

The Prosecutor Generals Office concluded from the investigations that there was no evidence that Dr. Alkatiri either had any knowledge or participated in anyway in the alleged distribution of arms to civilians to warrant any criminal prosecution to be brought against Dr. Alkatiri.

“I have maintained my innocence with respect to any knowledge or participation in the matters alleged from the outset. My family and my supporters vehemently maintained my innocence in this regard. Anyone who knows me knows it would have been against my personal values and my character to be involved with any such practices. I, my family and my supporters have never doubted that the truth would prevail and that I would be vindicated,” said Dr. Alkatiri.

“I have committed my life to the struggle for justice by our people. I have been a strident promoter of truth and justice in our people's cause, and have maintained that truth and justice would prevail during this investigation against me and that I would be cleared. I submitted myself to the justice system, unlike some who have been actors in the crisis in our country of last year, because I believe in a state based on the rule of law and justice. False allegations aired with extreme political bias and utmost ill will has been found to be baseless when subject to judicial scrutiny,” said Dr. Alkatiri.

“This now paves the way for me to seek legal redress for the injustice done to me and my family by the politically motivated smear campaign instigated against my good name and character in Timor-Leste, Australia and elsewhere,” said Dr. Alkatiri.

Dr. Alkatiri continues to be the Secretary General of Timor-Leste’s largest elected party and has returned to parliament where he will continue to play a role in the re-election of his parliamentary party. -ENDS-

Contact for further comment: +670 728 9009