



## FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

### FRETILIN

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**Media release**

**Sunday 8 April 2007**

## Fretilin rejects accusations by Ramos Horta

Timor-Leste's (East Timor's) majority party Fretilin today rejected claims by presidential candidate Jose Ramos Horta that "certain Fretilin activists" have engaged in a "door to door" campaign to intimidate voters before tomorrow's presidential election.

"This allegation is a cheap attempt by a worried and desperate man to influence the electorate," said Fretilin Deputy General Secretary Jose-Manuel Fernandes.

Fernandes, who is the official campaign representative of Fretilin-backed candidate Francisco Guterres Lu Olo, said: "On behalf of Fretilin, I totally reject these allegations by Ramos Horta who has not provided a shred of evidence to support them. Fretilin has never and will never engage in these types of activities. These sorts of allegations have been raised against us before and have proven to be unfounded.

"It is interesting that Ramos Horta is making these allegations so late in the campaign when a lot of commentators are now favouring Lu Olo to win the presidential election."

Fernandes said Fretilin had been on the receiving end of serious and proven intimidation and violence as evidenced when more than 40 of its supporters were hospitalised after a Fretilin rally in support of Lu Olo was attacked in Dili on 4 April (Wednesday).

Fernandes pointed out that on Friday 6 April Lu Olo and Fretilin general secretary Mari Alkatiri issued a joint appeal to members of all parties, including Fretilin, to avoid violence and campaign peacefully. Their appeal said:

"We condemn every act of violence against any citizens independent of their political party affiliation. Fretilin militants have known how to show their maturity over the last 12 months of the crisis, responding to violence with a high level of tolerance and restraint. We are going to maintain this position.

"Violence is a weapon of those who don't want democracy, that is why they do not respect its rules."

**For more information contact:**

Jose Manuel Fernandes (+670) 734 2174 (Dili)

Filomeno Aleixo: (+670) 724 3460 (Dili)

Arsenio Bano: (+670) 733 9416 (Dili)

Paulo Araujo (+670) 424 413 525 (Darwin, Australia)