

TIMOR-LESTE DEMOCRACY SUPPORT NETWORK

Media Release

October 18, 2006

Timor Leste Democracy Support Network welcomes the release of the Report of the UN Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste

Yesterday's 88 page UN Report opens the way for a return to normality in Timor-Leste, said TLDSN spokesperson, Sahe da Silva. "FRETILIN called for the release of this Report, and will now study it in detail", said Mr Da Silva, who is also a FRETILIN spokesperson in Australia. "We expect a detailed response from the FRETILIN leadership to be released within the next day or so, after they have had time to study it properly".

Anyone who reads the Report will see just how complex are the conflicts that erupted in Timor-Leste over the last six months. Many many people are named as having responsibility, and many many people are recommended for prosecution. What is important is that a set of facts have now been established, and a number of areas identified which require further investigation. The rule of law should now be restored in full. The armed groups, particularly those under Major Reinado and Rai'los must surrender and face the judicial system. FRETILIN fully supports all efforts to resolve the crisis through the application of the laws of Timor-Leste. No one is above the law, and all who are suspected of having broken it should be charged and dealt with through the judicial processes of Timor-Leste.

"We are not surprised that the Australian media has focused once again almost solely on the findings of the report in relation to FRETILIN Secretary General Mari Alkatiri. The Australian media has been obsessed with Dr Alkatiri, and has attempted to hold him responsible for the crisis," said Mr da Silva. "The Report actually says that there is no evidence that justifies prosecution of Dr Alkatiri for being personally involved in any illegal distribution of arms, as many have alleged".

The UN Report says that further investigations are needed to see if Dr Alkatiri had any knowledge of the arming of civilians. In fact, those investigations began in June, immediately after Rai'los - whose prosecution has been recommended - made his allegations on Four Corners. "The investigations are continuing, with Dr Alkatiri's full cooperation, and we welcome them, as does he. They will establish the truth, which is the only basis for justice," said Mr da Silva.

TLDSN encourages all friends of Timor-Leste to read the report closely, and to support the proper investigation of the crimes it says have occurred. Only when the rule of law returns to Timor-Leste will the people have peace.

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