



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE
FRETILIN

Media release
Monday 21 May 2007

FRETILIN condemns violence on Independence Day

FRETILIN, the majority political party in Timor-Leste (East Timor), today condemned violence that marred the country's Restoration of Independence Day and denied its supporters were involved.

The party said international media were incorrect in reporting that FRETILIN supporters were involved in fighting in the Dili suburb of Lecidere which left one person dead yesterday.

FRETILIN MP Francisco Branco said the fighting involved supporters of the Democratic Party (PD) and the Timorese Social Democratic Association (ASDT).

Branco said that it was completely unacceptable to engage in violence, particularly on a historic day such as the Restoration of Independence Day.

"FRETILIN condemns all forms of violence and the perpetrators should be arrested and brought to justice. Our party's position against violence has never wavered," he said.

"It was supporters of ASDT and PD who clashed in Lecidere yesterday, not FRETILIN supporters as alleged by sections of the international media. The incident had absolutely nothing to do with FRETILIN.

"Some international media have consistently misreported events in an attempt to demonise our party – this has to stop. The international media should make a greater effort to check facts on the ground. If they want to write articles critical of FRETILIN, we should be given the opportunity to put our case."

For more information, please contact:

Jose Teixeira (+670) 728 7080 (Dili, Timor-Leste)
Paulo Araujo (+61) 424 413 525 (Darwin, Australia)
www.timortruth.com, www.fretilin-rdtl.blogspot.com,