



Vote for FRETILIN!

2007 Parliamentary Elections

“Defending Timor-Leste’s independence”

Media release

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Opposition discredited over its claim for peace, law & order

“The leader of CNRT chose to blame FRETILIN for the fatal shootings at Viqueque last week claiming them to be acts of political violence. His totally unfounded accusations against FRETILIN serve only to undermine his claim to stand for peace, law and order” said FRETILIN President Francisco Lu Olo Guterres today.

“CNRT’s actual proposal for law and order is a modest repetition of the FRETILIN government’s. We are proud of our track record – to ensure that corruption is controlled by a truly independent Inspector-General and the Office of the Ombudsman, a National Parliament able to hold the government accountable, a judiciary capable of speedy and fair justice, reforming of both the police (PNTL) and the army (F-FDTL) as professional, non-politicised, security institutions,” said Lu Olo.

“Where the CNRT leader goes wrong is his allegation that it was the FRETILIN government which organised or at least ‘allowed’ the police and the army to fight each other last year, bringing our young nation again to its knees,” said Lu Olo.

“The CNRT leader himself must take responsibility for including as a candidate for his party the former head of the police, Paulo Martins, who was named by the UN Independent Special Commission of Inquiry last year for unauthorised arming of a force led by Deputy Commander Abilio Mesquita, who later led a group to attack the home of Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak on May 24, 2006” said Lu Olo.

The UN Report states on page 41:

The PNTL General Commander removed weapons from the PNTL National Armoury without the knowledge of the armoury officer. On 23 March 60 Steyr weapons and 50 boxes of ammunition were sent to the URP compound at Alieu. On 15 April 10 Steyr weapons and ammunition were sent to the Liquiça police station. Following the 25 May incident he ordered 10 Steyr weapons and ammunition to be stored at Gleno police station. The Commission also notes with concern the selective arming of western PNTL officers under the command of PNTL Dili District Deputy Commander Abilio Mesquita, who conducted weapons training of 10 western PNTL officers from the Dili District Task Force on 11 May. Thereafter, those officers remained under his command and were armed with Steyr weapons. A further 20 western PNTL officers were armed with Steyr weapons by Commander Mesquita on 17 May and thereafter came under his command. This training and arming of western PNTL officers was done with the authority of the PNTL General Commander.

“These weapons distributed by Paulo Martins and used to try to overthrow the elected FRETILIN government are the very ones that the leader of CNRT is using to now say that FRETILIN was responsible for the violence.

“Exactly the same problem arises for the leader of CNRT in relation to Railos and his armed group. The UN Independent Special Commission of Inquiry said that Railos should be charged and put on trial, but it hasn’t happened. The leader of CNRT should take responsibility for that, but instead, Railos is a campaign coordinator for CNRT today in Liquica District.

“This double talk must end now,” said Lu Olo.

“The leader of CNRT knows full well that after the UN Independent Special Commission of Inquiry call for more investigation of former Prime Minister Dr Alkatiri in relation to the arms distribution, there was a sustained, lengthy investigation which concluded that there was no case to answer,” argued Lu Olo.

“Why does he continue to quote the UN report but not the outcome of the investigation? Is he trying to mislead the people by providing only half the story?”

“This Parliamentary election is above all about peace and security, and uplifting our people from poverty. FRETILIN has been the victim of the violence of this last year and a half, and not its instigator. We ask the people to vote for FRETILIN candidates on June 30 because a FRETILIN government will act to:

- stop the perpetrators of violence,
- continue its fine record of fighting corruption,
- strengthen our judicial capacity,
- rebuild our police and army on professional lines, and
- carry through the economic development program to achieve GDP growth of 7% per year, based on sound management of the Petroleum Fund.”

“FRETILIN challenges the Opposition parties to reveal to the public the details of its proposed programs rather than to continue to talk in vague terms using slogans without substance” said Lu Olo.

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