



SRSG and Police Commissioner visit to Lautem and Baucau Baucau and Ainaro next districts for police resumption

Schedule for voter registration



» UNMIT Photo/Antoninho Bernardino
SRSG Ameerah Haq and Police Commissioner Luís Carrilho visit Baucau ahead of PNTL resumption

The chief of UNMIT, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq, made her first district visits on 26-27 January to see first-hand the progress of police work in Lautem and Baucau. Travelling with Police Commissioner Luís Carrilho and PNTL Commander of Operations Command, Inspector Mateus Fernandes, the main purpose of the visit was to see progress in the first district in which PNTL resumed primary policing responsibility, Lautem, and to see preparations underway in Baucau which is due for resumption in the coming weeks.

Late last year, the Government-UNMIT joint assessment teams recommended Baucau and Ainaro districts for resumption, after each district met the mutually agreed criteria. Resumption is expected to take place in the near future, pending final preparations by the Government.

SRSG Haq travelled first to Lautem district, where she visited the District Police station as well as the Los Palos sub-district station.

"I am impressed by the level of organization and professionalism displayed by PNTL

officers in Lautem district," said Haq, "as well as the continuing working relationship with UNPOL officers who now focus on monitoring and mentoring their PNTL colleagues in that district."

In Baucau, Ameerah Haq met with the Acting District Administrator, Mr Antonio Guterres, visited the district police headquarters, as well as the District Court where she met with a District Judge, lawyers and court officials, and later with the District Prosecutor.

"The courts and police are part of one justice system," said Haq. "For citizens to have confidence in the rule of law, both aspects of the justice system need to function well and be responsive to the needs of communities."

SRSG Haq also visited the Baucau District Hospital, the Villa Nova 11 Primary School where she met hundreds of the 1,443 students and many of the 38 teachers and learned about the World Food Programme School Feeding Programme, met with district NGOs and held a short media conference.

District	Dates
Liquica, Oecusse, Manufahi	1 - 6 February
Bobonaro, Lautem	15 - 20 February
Ermera, Baucau	1 - 6 March
Viqueque, Ainaro	15 - 20 March
Manatuto, Covalima	29 March - 3 April
Dili, Aileu	12 - 24 April

Dates as announced by the official newspaper 'Journal de Republica'

Delta Nova case: update



» UNMIT Photo/Martine Perret
Police Commissioner Luís Carrilho and PNTL General Commander Longuinhos Monteiro at the UNPOL-PNTL press conference.

On 12 January, Police Commissioner Carrilho and PNTL General Commander Monteiro held a joint press conference focused on police matters in Dili district. They assured the public that the case of the 28 December shooting in Delta Nova is under both joint UNPOL-PNTL internal inquiry and a separate criminal investigation controlled by the Officer of the Prosecutor-General. One PNTL officer is under suspension pending the results of the internal inquiry. Both police leaders emphasized the need for UNPOL and PNTL to continue to develop strong relations with communities, and urged community members to work with police to ensure safety and security in all districts of Timor-Leste.



Technical Assessment Mission considers future UNMIT mandate

Jan Martin led a Technical Assessment Mission to Timor-Leste between 10 to 17 January. The TAM was made up of specialist staff from UN headquarters in New York and senior UNMIT staff. SRSG Haq told media on 13 January that "the role of the TAM is to assess the requirements and the situation in Timor-Leste as it relates to the mission of UNMIT." She added that in meetings with Government authorities, with Members of Parliament, with civil society and a broad range of stakeholders, and they are looking at what the role of UNMIT will be between now and 2012."

The recommendations of the TAM will be presented to the UN Security Council in the second half of February when it considers Timor-Leste and the future mandate of UNMIT.

Special Panel for Serious Crimes reactivated in the Dili District court

Former Mahidi militia member on trial for crimes against humanity

The trial of a former Mahidi militia member, from Zumalai, Covalima district, started on the 18 January, in Dili. Domingos Noronha is charged with crimes against humanity: four counts of murder and one count of rape. He chose not to make any statement about the accusation.

The Prosecution alleges an attack on the house of an independence supporter in Mape village, Zumalai, on 27 March 1999 by a group of Mahidi militia, which resulted in his death and that of his whole family.

Following decree 13/2005 (Article 3), which enacts the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Dili District Court formed a Special Panel composed of two international judges

and one Timorese judge to hear this case. Judge Maria Leonor Botelho is presiding. The Panel has held three sessions, and so far heard six witnesses. The next session of this case will take place on 8 February in Suai, to hear witnesses that cannot travel to Dili.

The indictment against this former militia was filed in 2004 by the Serious Crimes Unit (SCU), and he was arrested by the PNTL in December 2008.

304 people accused of crimes against humanity committed in 1999 are still at large. UNMIT's Serious Crimes Investigation Team (SCIT) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1704 with a mandate to complete the investigations into the serious human rights violations of 1999.

PNTL tests



» UNMIT Photo/Martine Perret

Promotional testing of PNTL officers took place last week, as a key step in developing the professionalism of the national police. Out of 3172 police officers, 3085 from all districts were eligible to sit for the test.

Run by the Office of the

Secretary of State for Security, the tests were supported UNPOL who assisted with security and coordination.

Youth Parliament



» UNMIT Photo/ Antoninho Bernardino

Timor-Leste's Youth Parliament was launched on 18 January by President José Ramos-Horta and Secretary of State for Youth and Sports Miguel Manetelu, with SRSG Ameerah Haq attending the ceremony. Supported

by UNICEF, the Youth Parliament will give young people direct experience of democratic processes of decision-making, will allow for the voice of young people to be heard on issues of nation-building and will be a unique school for future leaders.

Back-to-school

Around 300,000 students returned to school in January for the new academic year. Government reforms now require free, compulsory education for nine years for all school age children. With the start of the academic year now being set to the calendar year, students will have 223 teaching days within three school terms. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education by training of 9,000 teachers in general knowledge and maths between October and December 2009.



» UNMIT Photo/Antoninho Bernardino

PNTL Maritime Unit

PNTL's Maritime Unit was established in 2001 and has 51 personnel, including police officers, boat crew, certified divers and support staff. It operates a 9-metre fiber glass patrol boat and two rigid-hull inflatable boats. The Unit is responsible for coastal security, protection of the marine environment, safeguarding of human life through search and rescue and prevention of criminality and illegal immigration at sea. PNTL resumed responsibility for the Unit on 14 December.



» UNMIT Photo/Martine Perret