Forensics Training for Human Rights Investigators

Forensic science helps the investigation, interpretation and development of justice”, explained forensic pathologist, Dr Nurul Islam, to the 14 members of staff from the Provedoria of Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ) who attended his training session.

The three-day course, run by UNDP, was designed to help members of the human rights investigations team get to grips with the basics of forensics.

“Around 60% of total complaints made to the PDHJ relate to its human rights mandate. Since 2005 the PDHJ has received over 250 complaints on human rights violations”, said Alison Ryan, the project manager for UNDP.

For the human rights investigators from PDHJ it is very important that they have an awareness of different forensic science techniques and can apply this knowledge in their evidence gathering and analysis.

The 35th anniversary of the formation of The Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor - Forças Armadas da Libertaçao Nacional de Timor-Leste (FALINTIL) was commemorated on 20 August.

Established on 20 August 1975, FALINTIL was dissolved on 1 February 2001. In 2002 the official armed force of the newly independent Timor-Leste was named, Força de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

In honour of the anniversary, the Government of Timor-Leste held activities in the Dili including a ceremony where President Jose Ramos-Horta, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao and UN SRSG Ameraeh Haq threw flowers into the ocean in front of the Government Palace.

Second annual Tour-de-Timor

The second annual Tour-de-Timor bicycle race will take place between 13-17 September.

The route for the grueling race will take place through the western districts of the nation, starting in Dili, through to Balibo, Sua, Ainaro, Aileu and back to Dili.

The inaugural race last year attracted international attention with many professional cyclists participating in the event.

The Tour-de-Timor is organized by the Office of the President.

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Timor-Leste recently celebrated the first ever International Year of Youth which started on 12 August. This day has special resonance for Timor-Leste given that it has one of the youngest populations in the world with more than half of all Timorese under the age of 18.

With such a young and growing populace, Timor-Leste must determine what role youth will play in nation and state building processes. In an effort to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world’s youth in overcoming the challenges facing humankind.

Timor-Leste Youth Parliament inaugurated in Dili

The Timor-Leste Youth Parliament has been inaugurated in Dili. Over 130 young parliamentarians aged 12-17 were selected across 65 sub-districts to sit on the parliament.

Supported by UNICEF, the parliamentarians underwent three days of training on leadership and citizenship and are expected to represent the views of young people and engage with policy makers to facilitate the inclusion of youth voices in national development.

Young Timorese brought together through dance

Young Timorese members of the Movimento Adolescente Crianca regularly practice Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian art form that combines elements of martial arts, music, and dance.

Consisting of 74 young men and women aged between 11-21, MAC is a youth NGO that promotes children’s rights through the arts. Dance and acrobatics techniques are used as a way to teach discipline, respect and unity among Timor’s youth.

Mercy Ship provides vital treatment to Timorese

Mercy Ship left Dili on 24 August after two weeks of providing vital medical services to Timorese in Dili and the districts. Treatment was free and available to all Timorese who were referred by a doctor to the Ship. Staff from the Mercy Ship visited health clinics throughout the country to get the referrals and provide transport to patients outside of Dili.

Some of the treatments included surgery to repair cataracts and hernia and more complex treatments for cancer patients. The Mercy Ship travels all around the world providing mobile medical services, including acute surgical medical facilities, to U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide. Some of the services provided by the ship include surgery, primary health care clinics, dental clinics, preventative medicine, and veterinary care.

The last time the Mercy Ship came to Timor-Leste was in 2008 as part of a humanitarian and civic assistance mission throughout Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Thoughts of young Timorese at the celebration of International Youth Day

Natalina Beliana
from Fini Kreatifu Group Dili

"As a youth, I am very happy to follow International Youth Day. If we want to developed our nation we must come together to build our nation for the future. We must avoid violence and stay in peace within our families. If we do this, we will certainly create peace in the community and help contribute to the development of our future."

Luis Takur
from Baucau District, Sub-District Baguia

"Young people in Timor-Leste know how long it took to fight for freedom. The freedom was also won because of the contribution of youth. Young people have an opportunity to reflect on the contribution we can make to this thing we call ‘development’. I believe that that all young people- from rural areas and cities- have a role to help move the nation forward and to contribute to development."

UNMIT’s regular radio programme every Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 6:00pm on RTL and 15 community radios

UNMIT’s regular TV programme every two weeks on Monday at 7:30pm on TVTL

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