



## National police resume responsibility in Timor-Leste

The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) handed over policing responsibility from the UN police to the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) at a ceremony celebrating the 11th anniversary of the PNTL on 27 March 2011. Starting on Monday 28 March 2011 the PNTL are responsible for policing throughout Timor-Leste, with the UN police (UNPOL) in a supporting role.

“The United Nations assumed authority for policing at the request of the Government of Timor-Leste in 2006 after a period of instability,” said Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão. “Today, I am delighted to announce that PNTL is resuming this important responsibility for maintaining law and order in Timor-Leste. I congratulate General Commander Longuinhos Monteiro and all PNTL officers for this achievement. I extend my thanks to the United Nations and the international community for its assistance in strengthening our nation’s policing capabilities.”

PNTL started resuming policing responsibilities almost two years ago in the



» UN Photo/Martine Perret

district of Lautém. Since then, PNTL has resumed command in nearly all districts and units with no increases in crime rates or public order incidents.

“PNTL and UNMIT have worked together for more than four years to rebuild and develop PNTL’s abilities to maintain the rule of law in Timor-Leste, the youngest nation in Asia,” said Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the head of the UN’s mission in Timor-Leste. “We will continue to

work side-by-side. However, PNTL will be squarely in the driver’s seat, and the UN will focus on providing the training and support Timor-Leste’s police service needs to further strengthen its capabilities over the long term.”

“The resumption of policing responsibility by PNTL at this time has the advantage of enabling PNTL to assume its role before next year’s elections and well before the anticipated withdrawal of the UN’s mission at the end of 2012,” said Haq.

The UN will maintain a police presence of up to 1,280 personnel to support the PNTL until after the elections of 2012, when UNMIT is planning to withdraw from Timor-Leste.

“President Ramos-Horta and I are working together with SRSg Haq to plan the withdrawal of the UN’s peacekeeping mission in Timor-Leste,” said Gusmão. “Our High-Level Committee on transition will receive regular reports on PNTL’s progress to ensure that we are building the strength of our national police service through a Joint Development Plan.”

## “Women’s Voices” celebrated International Women’s Day on 8 March

This year, March 8 marked the 100th celebration of International Women’s Day, which honours the economic, political and social achievements of women of the past, present and future. To mark this day, the photo exhibition “Women’s Voices” opened to the public at Casa Europa in Dili.

“Empowering women empowers communities”, is the message from the photo exhibition showcasing the thoughts and aspirations of Timorese women.

The images and stories in the exhibition reflect the courage of ordinary women, the progress they have made, and the changes that are still needed for a better future for generations of Timorese women.

As a nation, Timor-Leste is committed to advancing women’s rights and achieving gender equality. It recognizes that every woman has the right to live free from

discrimination and violence, and gender equality is essential to build and develop a just society.

“I feel privileged to be invited to contribute to this celebration of the centenary of International Women’s Day,” said Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General. “I am especially happy to launch this exhibition because it expresses the importance of all Timorese women having the opportunity to freely express their aspirations, needs and dreams. These pictures of Timorese women also contribute to the documentation of women’s achievements in the country’s history which will inspire the future generations of Timorese girls and boys to better understand their own society.”

“Women’s Voices” is a collaborative effort of the United Nations Integrated Mission in



» UN Photo/Bernardino Soares  
The photo above, which is part of the exhibit, features Rosaria Martins da Cruz, a Director of Hiam Health (NGO).

Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the Delegation of the European Commission in Timor-Leste.

The exhibition is open to the public between 9 am and 5 pm daily from 9 March to 8 April in Casa Europa.





## Action plan against human trafficking is under discussion

A new plan to protect victims and prevent human trafficking is currently being discussed by communities throughout Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste has been identified as a destination country and a potential source for trafficking victims. People trafficked to Timor-Leste have come from countries including Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, China and the Philippines.

Over the past two weeks, the Counter Human Trafficking Unit of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted meetings in Baucau, Covalima, Oecussi, Bobonaro and Dili to discuss issues surrounding human trafficking, to socialize the content of the draft National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and to solicit feedback from community members. The project is supported by the MDG Achievement Fund, from the Spanish Government.

The National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking was drafted by a subcommittee of the Inter-Agency Trafficking Working Group, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The plan's objective is to protect trafficked persons and those vulnerable to trafficking, prevent trafficking, and to prosecute offenders.

IOM has supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Inter-Agency Trafficking Working Group since 2003.

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## Love the forest to protect our future



» UNMIT Photo/ Cesaltino Ximenes

Around 2,000 sandalwood tree seedlings have been planted on public land in Uatulari suco, Vemasse sub-district, Baucau district. The seed planting is part of a Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry campaign to "green" Timor-Leste, under the theme "Love the forest to protect our future".

About 100 people participated in the Vermasse event including the Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, the District Administrator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, NGOs, and children from the local primary school.

"The seeds are being planted on five hectares of land," said Fernandino Vieira da Costa, a national coordinator for the campaign. "Sandalwood seeds are normally very difficult to obtain, so the Government wants this area to become a sandalwood nursery centre. Hopefully then the seeds that are produced can be distributed to the public."

Members of the local community were proud Uatulari suco had been chosen as the site for the new seedlings. They hope sandalwood production could become a sustainable industry for the area in future.

Twelve districts in Timor-Leste are taking part in the national tree-planting celebrations.

## IOM supports migration management

IOM's Enhanced Migration Management project in Timor-Leste is building a Border Management Information System (BMIS) for the Migration Service. The BMIS will be used at all Migration Service offices, border posts, as well as in the consular section at the Foreign Ministry and in Timor-Leste's consulates in Indonesia. The key features of the system include a movement database, a visa-processing module, and alert capabilities, which will support the Migration Service achieve enhanced border management in Timor-Leste.

While managed by IOM, the development and implementation of the BMIS is a collaborative effort among the Timor-Leste, Australian and Portuguese governments. The Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship is funding the system. The Portuguese Foreigners and Borders Service (Servico de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras) have tailored their own movement database, and developed the visa module specifically for Timor-Leste. The system relies upon Timor-Leste's communication infrastructure, which is currently being implemented.

The first phase of installation occurred in June 2010. The Movements Module was installed and has been operating in a pilot mode at Dili International Airport. IOM has been providing ongoing support to the Migration Service to ensure the BMIS is operating successfully. IOM has also supported the

delivery of training to all border officers in the use of the system.

In February 2011, a second phase of the BMIS was installed. This included the introduction of the Visa Module. It has a range of capabilities, but most critically it will allow the Migration Service to process visas globally and to monitor and report upon their visa processing activities. In addition to the Visa Module, Borders Service upgraded the Movements Module so that it can be installed at all Migration Service offices and border posts. This will mean that information about the entry and exit of people, which is collected from every location, can be stored and reported upon centrally.

The BMIS will be formally launched at Dili International Airport in April 2011. It will then be rolled out to all border and visa processing locations throughout 2011.

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