



In Timor-Leste, the Office of the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI) chose as the theme, "The Law Against Domestic Violence: Protecting Me, Protecting My Family" for its 2010 campaign on the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November to 10 December). The theme commemorates the landmark adoption of this legislation which, for the first time, clearly defines domestic violence as a public crime and provides for emergency medical, legal, psycho-social and shelter support for victims of domestic violence and their families.

On 23 November, SEPI unveiled a billboard highlighting this year's 16-day campaign theme in the Rosa Muki Memorial Garden in Dili. The formal opening followed in Baucau on 25 November, where activities included traditional dances and musical performances to honour the lives of Timorese women. Copies of the Law Against Domestic Violence in Tetum were also distributed. Keynote speakers included Mrs. Maria P. de Jesus, Vice President of the Parliament, Mrs. Idelta M. Rodrigues, Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, and Mr. Pornchai Suchitta, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Timor-Leste.

Some 29 events were organised in 13 districts during the campaign to create greater awareness

The Law Against Domestic Violence: Protecting Me, Protecting My Family

and understanding of the Law Against Domestic Violence and the problem of violence against women in general. Targeting local community leaders and school teachers, activities included a series of trainings, discussions and seminars organised by SEPI in collaboration with district administrators, gender focal points and civil society organizations such as Fokupers and the Aloa Foundation.

UNFPA, the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) assisted SEPI. Spanish Cooperation (AECID) three-year \$1.3 million joint programme on Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Timor-Leste is helping NGOs like Fokupers, PRADET Timor Lorosa'e and Judicial Systems Monitoring Programme (JSMP) to provide emergency medical assistance and forensic examination, trauma counselling and shelter plus information on legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse with.



» UNMIT Photo/ Sandra Magno

One aim of the programme is to strengthen and support existing referral networks of support services and to extend these services to the districts. The Joint Programme also supports trainings in areas of gender-based violence investigations for members of the Vulnerable Persons Unit of the PNTL and in legislation for lawyers and judiciary.

The 16-day campaign was formally closed by representatives of the Office of the Provedor in a ceremony in Suai on 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

Speak up, Stop Discrimination

The Universal Human Rights Declaration states that all human beings have rights including free speech and thoughts. On 10 December, representatives from the Human Rights Office and Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ) together with local youth of Suai, Covalima district, collectively called for an end to all discrimination. With poems, theatre presentations and songs, the youth expressed their desire for the protection of human rights in Timor-Leste.

Provedor Sebastião Ximenes presented the PDHJ 2010 Human Rights prize to the PNTL commander Marco Siqueira Nunes in Manufahi. Manufahi is the district of Timor-Leste that had fewest complaints about police on human rights violations this year.



» UNMIT Photo/ Lidia Powirska

"Let us each be a human rights defender." United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon



» UNMIT Photo/ Martine Perret

The people of Timor-Leste gathered to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December under the theme "Speak up – Stop Discrimination". Events organized by people from all walks of life – from the President, Parliament, the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice to civil society - livened up the celebration of International Human Rights Day throughout the country. Timor-Leste has made much progress in human rights. The Timor-Leste Constitution guarantees all rights and freedoms, and the majority of the international human rights treaties have been signed. In 2010, important laws came into force like the long-awaited Domestic Violence Law. The Provedoria expanded its work to the regions, and the newly opened Anti-Corruption Commission has pledged to ensure that the State budget

will indeed filter down and reach the people. Challenges remain for example universal access to primary education, basic health care, adequate food, water, housing and sanitation. More efforts are needed to bring those involved in crimes and human rights violations to account, including members of the PNTL and F-FDTL.

Human rights defenders who work to end discrimination are being placed in the spotlight worldwide in the year to come, in particular the many unsung heroes who work at the grassroots level. One of them is Joazito dos Santos of the Disabled People's Organization "Raes Hadomi Timor Oan". Film footage of his work in Timor-Leste to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities was shown in Geneva and around the world on 10 December.

In Timor-Leste, the President praised the work of six individuals and organizations by decorating them with the third Sergio Vieira de Mello Human Rights Award. The UN extends congratulations to the recipients: Ms. Simone Barbosa de Assis of Casa Vida, a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, the NGOs HIAM Health, Hope Family Community, the Primary School and Kindergarten "Maria Auxiliadora", Orphanage Santa Bakhita and Ms. Soraya Vieira Nepomuceno.



Commemoration of International Anti-Corruption And swearing-in for CAC staff and investigators



» UNMIT Photo/ Bernardino Soares

In Dili to commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December, the Commission of Anti-Corruption (CAC) held two events. A national seminar titled, "Our Commitment to Fighting Corruption" was organized at the Convention Centre at Mercado Municipal, Dili, in coordination with the Office of the President, the Office of the President of the National Parliament and the Office of Prime Minister. In Mubana sub-district of Liquica district, CAC staff and investigators were sworn in the same day at a special ceremony under the theme "What can I do to prevent and combat corruption?"

Addressing the gathering, CAC Commissioner Adérito de Jesus Soares said: "Combating cor-

ruption is not the responsibility of this Commission, Ministry of Public and Provedor Inspector General only but of everyone. We all must work together to prevent and combat corruption. We need to work with integrity and professionalism to make Timor Leste corruption free." In order for the country to progress towards prosperity, he said it was essential for Timorese children to have access to education, transport, better road network and electricity. It is a big challenge that needs to be overcome with unity and optimal management of resources that would benefit all citizens.

Finn Reske-Nielsen, Deputy SRSR congratulated the newly sworn in staff of CAC and observed that the Commission's credibility will depend on the work of its staff. He noted that combating corruption is a difficult task but that it can be achieved with integrity, transparency and responsibility. He also called upon other institutions, civil society and citizens to support the Commission in its fight against corruption.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities



» UNMIT Photo/ Bernardino Soares

The theme for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities commemorated on 3 December was "Keeping the promise: mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals". The Secretary General noted that battles against poverty, disease and discrimination will not be won without laws, policies and programmes that empower those with disabilities. They should be both beneficiaries and valued agents of change in the five-year push to achieve the goals by 2015.

World AIDS Day



» www.lightforrights.org

The global theme for this year's World AIDS Day marked on 1 December was "Universal Access and Human Rights". The national theme was "People infected with HIV/AIDS are also my friends." Timor Leste is just starting to work towards the global goal of eliminating the transmission of HIV from mother to child. World AIDS Day draws together people from around the world to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity.

A new soap opera for Timor-Leste



While working for camp management and community reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), IOM noted that the root causes of the 2006 crisis were not being addressed at the level of community dialogue. Although the immediate danger had passed, major issues leading to instability – land disputes, youth engagement, demographic shift, population pressures, conflict mediation, factionalism – were still in evidence, with little healthy discussion about them in Timorese society.

As a result, IOM developed a proposal for an educational soap opera to generate dialogue and promote understanding about this sensitive subject. The story theme revolves around two orphaned brothers who migrate to the city in search of their future, but find their new neighbourhood in turmoil following the recent return of IDPs. As characters struggle to improve their lives, each seeks to make some good choices while others make unwise. By the end, it will become clear that the true quiet "heroes" of the show are the people who can put themselves in other people's shoes or who make the effort to build bridges between opposing parties.

The telenovela consists of 20 30-minute episodes for broadcast backed by DVD distribution. There is also an associated radio version. There are four thematic segments, each focusing on a different scenario – IDP return and reintegration; Elections and politics; History and reconciliation; and Violence and non-violent solutions.

"Suku Hali" is on air every Friday at 18:30 hours and is repeated on Sundays at 17:30 hours on TVTL. Launched in October this year, the series continue until mid-February 2011. European Union funded US\$ 434,000 project is implemented by IOM Timor Leste.

Celebrating the spirit of volunteerism in Timor Leste



» UNMIT Photo/ Cesaltino B. Ximenes

International Volunteers Day 2010 on 5 December focused on the young adults and adolescents which form the major part of Timor Leste population. It was commemorated in Dili, Baucau and Oecussi with activities ranging from educational games and tree planting to art competition.

Josephine Calag, a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) from the Philippines working as a training officer in UNMIT said: "When you volunteer you go beyond what is required in a normal job. The sincerity that goes with volunteering fosters a strong connection with the people who you are trying to help. This attitude starts with your friends and family and then extends globally."

At present, there are some 150 UNV's working both for the UN and many volunteer programmes run by other organizations in Timor Leste. Since 2004, many Timorese nationals have also served as International UNV in countries such as Afghanistan, Burundi, Haiti and Liberia.

The Secretary General in his message stressed the significance of volunteerism. He said it promotes mutual respect, solidarity and reciprocity while bringing individuals and societies together.



Listen to Futuru Nabilan

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

Watch ba pás

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