



Office of the  
Deputy General Prosecutor  
for Serious Crimes  
Timor Leste

**SERIOUS CRIMES UNIT PRESS RELEASE**

**16 February 2005**

### **SPECIAL PANELS ACQUITS APARICIO GUTERRES**

On 14 February 2005, the Special Panels for Serious Crimes rendered its final decision on the case of the Deputy General Prosecutor against Aparicio Guterres. The alleged Dadurus Merah Putih militia member was charged for murder as Crime Against Humanity. With this verdict, 3 people have now been acquitted by the Special Panels for Serious Crimes.

The Special Panel for Serious Crimes of the Dili District Court, presided by Judge Schmit found the defendant Aparicio Guterres not guilty of murder as a crime against humanity. The panel of judges decided following an oral submission from the Prosecution, made in the previous hearing, to close the case due to changing of statement by the only eyewitness.

Aparício Guterres was indicted by the SCU on the 18 June 2004. He was charged for allegedly taking part in the murder of 13 people in September 1999, in Mulao, sub-district of Maliana, Bobonaro.

.The Special Panels are expected to issue the written decision on the 28 of February 2005.

**The Serious Crimes Unit has filed 95 indictments charging 392 individuals with some accused charged in multiple indictments. Cases have been completed through trial for 77 accused persons, with 74 convicted of one or more charges.**