



Office of the
Deputy General Prosecutor
for Serious Crimes
Timor Leste

SERIOUS CRIMES UNIT INFORMATION RELEASE

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SCU FILES TWO NEW INDICTMENTS: THE MURDER OF 2 UNAMET STAFF MEMBERS IN ATSABE AND THE VIQUEQUE INDICTMENT

On 29th October 2004, the Serious Crimes Unit filed two new indictments charging 10 persons with Crimes Against Humanity. One indictment charged seven leaders of military and militia forces with a series of crimes, including murder, torture, deportation and widespread destruction of property committed in Viqueque district in 1999. The second indictment charges three men with the murder of two election workers in Ermera District on the day of the Popular Consultation, 30 August 1999.

THE MURDER OF 2 ELECTION WORKERS IN 1999

This indictment alleges that Second Lieutenant Mohamad Roni and TNI soldiers João da Costa and Domingos de Deus were involved in the planned and coordinated attack at the Baboe Leten polling station in Atsabe sub-district, Ermera district, by the Indonesian National Army or TNI and *Tim Pancasila* militia members, on 30 August 1999, the day of the popular consultation vote in Timor Leste. The attack resulted in the murder of João Lopes and Orlando Gomes and the attempted murder of Alvaro de Deus Lopes, all UNAMET staff members who were administering the election.

Mohamad Roni was the TNI DANRAMIL (sub-district military commander) of Atsabe and João da Costa and Domingos de Deus were both TNI soldiers attached to the Atsabe KORAMIL (sub-district military command) as well as commanders of the *Tim Pancasila* militia. Arrest warrants have been requested against Mohammed Roni and Joao Da Costa whose current whereabouts are unknown.

THE VIQUEQUE INDICTMENT

This indictment focuses on the crimes committed by TNI soldiers, *Makikit* and *59/75 Junior* militias in and around the town of Viqueque during 1999. The indictment targets seven leaders of military and militia forces who are believed to be among those most responsible for the crimes in that district.

The Viqueque indictment charges all accused with the crimes against humanity of murder, torture, deportation or forcible transfer, and persecution. The accused include 2 TNI district commanders of KODIM 1630 Viqueque [DANDIM], Lieutenant Colonel Djoko Soeharsoyo and Lieutenant Colonel Gustaf Heru, the district TNI Special Forces [KOPASSUS] commander, First Lieutenant Minton, the KODIM intelligence section head [KASI Intel], First Lieutenant Yusuf Tandi, a KODIM intelligence section soldier, Head Sergeant Andreas Prawin, the

commander of the Makikit militia and the Viqueque acting district administrator [BUPATI], Martinho Fernandes, and one of his assistants, Emiliano Joaquim Gomes, who was also deputy commander of the Makikit militia.

The indictment alleges that the crimes committed in Viqueque follow the pattern of violence that occurred throughout the rest of Timor Leste during 1999, which targeted in particular independence supporters. Specific crimes charged include 3 murders that occurred in early May 1999 following the *59/75 Junior* militia's inauguration ceremony and the murder of another 3 independence supporters on 11 August 1999 prior to the popular consultation vote. The indictment alleges that these murders, along with others that occurred in Viqueque district, were designed to persuade the population of Viqueque to vote for integration within Indonesia and to disrupt the work of independence supporters. Following the announcement of the result of the popular consultation vote, the physical infrastructure and residences in Viqueque district were torched by the TNI and militia and the population was deported or forcibly transferred. All seven accused are at large, and believed to be in Indonesia.