

Östtimorkommittén



To: Minister of Justice
Ivo Valente
Ministry of Justice
Avenida Jacinto Cândido
Dili, Timor-Leste
Email: mj@mj.gov.tl / webmaster@mj.gov.tl

Dear Minister,

It has come to our knowledge that dozens of individuals have been arbitrarily arrested and tortured or otherwise ill-treated by Timor-Leste security forces as part of security operations in the Baucau district by the police and military to capture Mauk Moruk (Paulino Gama) and his followers.

Security forces also reportedly destroyed property of individuals suspected of supporting Mauk Moruk, as part of the operations. Some also allege that food and money were stolen from their houses. Hundreds have been traumatised by these operations.

Followers of Mauk Moruk allegedly carried out attacks on the police in Laga and Baguia in January and March 2015. In response, the authorities launched a number of security operations where the use of unnecessary and excessive force has been documented.

With this background we, as long time supporters of East Timor's right to self-determination, independence, democracy and human rights, urge Timor-Leste authorities to

- Halt the arbitrary arrests and torture or other ill-treatment by security forces as part of the joint security operations being conducted in Baucau district
- Ensure that all those tortured or otherwise ill-treated have access to any medical attention they may require, including psychological treatment
- Urgently initiate an effective and independent investigation into all the allegations of arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment and the destruction of property by security forces, and bring all those responsible to trial, including those with command responsibility.

On behalf of the Swedish East Timor Committee, May 18, 2015

Gabriel Jonsson
Chairman

Postadress:	Telefon:	Plusgiro:	epost:
c/o Jonsson Råsundavägen 24, 2 tr 169 67 SOLNA	08-33 62 47	1 81 92-5	info@osttimorkommitten.se
		Webb:	
		www.osttimorkommitten.se	