



NEWSLETTER UNMIT LIA-NAROMAN



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Two PNTL officers to join the UN peace-building mission in Guinea Bissau



» UN Photo/Bernardino Soares

Augusto da Costa Tilman and José Soares, are the two Timorese police officers (PNTL), selected for deployment to UNIOGBIS, a United Nations peace-building mission in Guinea Bissau. The police officers will join the UN

mission for maintaining peace and security in the country.

Police Division conducted two UN Selection Assistance Team (UNSAT) Assessments last year. The assessment covered English language capacity, driving competency and weapons handling and shooting capability. One hundred and four duly certified PNTL officers underwent the UNSAT test and Da Costa and Soares were among the 8 officers who cleared it. Clearing the UNSAT Assessment is mandatory for police officers who are to be deployed in any UN mission.

The two police officers are the first to be deployed to Guinea Bissau for a period of twelve months. Explaining the process, Da Costa said, "We have undergone a two-week pre-deployment training here at the PNTL HQ. We are proud of representing our country in a

UN peacekeeping mission abroad." There are a total of 3,135 officers in PNTL.

It all started in 2004 when 10 PNTL officers were screened and selected for the UN mission in Kosovo. The deployment was for a year. Dr Afonso de Jesus, PNTL Deputy General Commander sharing his views said, "I fully support the deployment. It is an opportunity for the police officers to learn and gain new experiences. This will definitely support in the development of the PNTL."

Commenting on the deployment, Luis Carrilho, the UN Police Commissioner said, "I strongly reiterate the determination and commitment of the officers selected. Their professionalism and dedication will meaningfully contribute to the peace and security of Guinea Bissau under the UN flag."

UNMIT personnel officer wins scholarship to study law in Japan

Junevio Da Silva, UNMIT personnel officer, was recently awarded a Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarship offered by the Japanese Government. To date, about 65,000 students from approximately 160 countries and regions around the world have studied in Japan through this scholarship programme. Five Timorese students are currently studying for their master's degree via the programme.

Da Silva applied for the scholarship to the Ministry of Education in Timor-Leste in May last year. He was among the 34 Timorese who were shortlisted for a written test and later 13 underwent an interview and only one, Da Silva, was selected. There is one scholarship quota



» UN Photo/Martine Perret

allotted to Timor-Leste per year.

Da Silva completed his bachelors in International Relations from Bandung Indonesia. He has had an affiliation for Japan ever since he read about the

Kyoto protocol during his bachelors programme. The Ministry of Education informed him about the scholarship programmes offered by the Chinese, Japanese and Brunei governments.

Da Silva will be doing his masters in International Law from Kyoto University, Kyoto. His scholarship is for two and a half years with first six months dedicated to learning Japanese, next six months for research on Timor Sea and the last one and half years to complete the master degree.

Da Silva feels honoured and grateful to be selected in Timor-Leste. Sharing his thoughts, Da Silva said, "Every Timorese has the opportunity to go and study abroad. One thing is certain that never give up on your dreams. The country needs educated people for its development."

Making policing child-friendly

Creating an environment where children feel safe and are able to talk openly can be a challenge for police in all countries. To tackle this issue, UNPOL's Vulnerable Persons Unit and PNTL with the collaboration of the Ministry of Social Solidarity have established a child-friendly interview room in Gleno, Ermera District.

The room is decorated with colourful murals and has books and toys to help the children feel comfortable. Within the same building there is a bedroom that can be used as a safe house, for women and children who need temporary refuge.

"This interview room is the right environment for talking to vulnerable people," said Jony Viana das Regras, PNTL District Commander. "Investigating child abuse and domestic violence cases has previously been difficult, without a space where the victims can feel secure."

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has supported the building of the child-friendly police interview rooms in ten districts. "We will continue to support the new facilities with equipment and also training, for instance techniques on how to interview children so that



» UN Photo/Sandra Magno

they don't feel afraid," said Jacinto da Silva, a child protection officer working with UNICEF.

UNICEF and its partners plan to build three more child-friendly interview rooms in Oecusse, Maliana and Manatuto.



Nineteen specialists join PNTL for capacity enhancement

The Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) resumed primary policing responsibilities on 27 March 2011. As a result, the focus of the UN Police (UNPOL) component of UNMIT has turned towards capacity-building. In addition to the significant support provided by UNPOL officers on ground, 19 civilian advisors with specialized skills have been recruited to ensure that remaining gaps and weaknesses identified as priorities by the PNTL can be addressed through training and other development activities. The goal is to have an even stronger, fully reconstituted professional police institution able to function independently and sustainably throughout Timor-Leste by the end of 2012 and beyond.

The recruitment process started in July 2010 and concluded in February 2011, with over 6000 applicants and approximately 100 shortlisted candidates interviewed. The selection process was rigorous.

Nine experts are already on board with another five expected by the end of April. These advisors will support the PNTL in monitoring & evaluation, developing databases, forensics, human rights, public information, information analysis, donor coordination and resource mobilization, legal affairs, human resources, finance & budgeting, programming, protection, procurement, registry, community policing, maritime policing, special operations, weapons & explosives, and project development.



» UN Photo/Martine Perret

Ahmet Yildirim, a newly arrived advisor said, "My task is to help develop an information system for the PNTL and train my counterpart in database administration." While he is still in the process of discussing with his national counterpart and identifying the needs of the institution, he has already noted that some databases are not connected to a network.

According to Tania Felicio, an Information Analyst who joined recently, "I am here to improve the quality of reporting and research in the PNTL." In her cross-cutting position, she will support different sections of the PNTL, as and where needed.

Welcoming the new staff, Luis Carrilho, the UN Police Commissioner said, "The specialists will bridge the capacity gap in the post-resumption period and bring continuity to effective development of the PNTL."

The PNTL General Commander also welcomed the newcomers personally and gave directions to his Unit and District Commanders to "take advantage of the presence of such high-level expertise in Timor-Leste."

Young women of Lahomea open a training centre

Eight young women of Lahomea received some funds for setting up a training centre from the ChildFun, a non-governmental organization, in December last year.

These women were jobless and did not have access to education. At the centre, they learnt to stitch different types of clothes such as Pontu Cruz, Kurse, Kabaya, Pasta, Bordadu and also to make a photo frame. The training helped them find work through which they have managed to improve their lives.

Francisca de Senna, a woman trainee said, "I am happy the training has taught me to stitch. I can now support my family with my work." ChildFun also donated sewing machines to the women.



» UN Photo/Cristovao Guterres

From Timor-Leste to the DR Congo – one national staff member's UNV experience



» UN Photo/Sandra Magno

Armindo de Jesus, a 27-year-old former UNMIT national staff, is working as a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) webmaster at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the past two years.

"I worked with UNMIT for 18 months, and when the opportunity came up to work in the DR Congo, I knew it would be a challenge, but also a great experience," said De Jesus.

De Jesus grew up in Suai, Covalima district. Working in the DR Congo has given him the chance to explore the world; he enjoys travelling to countries in Africa and Europe during his holidays.

"I will never forget these years. The work environment, lifestyle and culture are all very different to Timor-Leste. My language skills have improved and I have learnt to administer a website in a big UN mission."

But De Jesus has not forgotten his homeland and is looking forward to sharing his new skills and knowledge with his country men and women, upon his return.

"My new experiences will be very useful back home. I am not only proud of representing Timor-Leste overseas, but also excited about the contribution I can make to my own country in the future."

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