

# URGENT ACTION

## DOZENS ARRESTED AND TORTURED IN TIMOR-LESTE

**Dozens of individuals were arbitrarily arrested and tortured or otherwise ill-treated by Timor-Leste security forces as part of security operations in the Baucau district. There are ongoing concerns for their safety.**

The Timor-Leste security forces have arbitrarily arrested and allegedly tortured or otherwise ill-treated dozens of individuals in Laga and Baguia in Baucau district over the last few months. These incidents have occurred as part of a series of joint security operations by the police and military to capture Mauk Moruk (Paulino Gama) and his followers.

Local human rights organizations have documented dozens of cases where individuals, accused of being followers of Mauk Moruk, were beaten and kicked repeatedly by security forces during arrest and detention. Some had their hands and legs tied. Most were released after brief periods of detention and interrogation. Security forces also reportedly destroyed property of individuals suspected of supporting Mauk Moruk, as part of the operations, such as windows, furniture and other household items. Some also allege that food and money were stolen from their houses. Hundreds have been traumatised by these operations.

Mauk Moruk, a former independence fighter, leads the banned Maubere Revolutionary Council (KRM) and has been a strong critic of the current government. He has reportedly called for the resignation of the government and the dissolution of parliament. 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.

**Please write immediately in Portuguese, Tetum or your own language:**

- Urging the 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;
- Urging them to ensure that all those tortured or otherwise ill-treated have access to any medical attention they may require, including psychological treatment;
- Calling on the authorities to 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.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 JUNE 2015 TO:**

Minister of Justice

Ivo Valente

Ministry of Justice

Avenida Jacinto Cândido

Dili, Timor-Leste

Email: [mj@mj.gov.tl](mailto:mj@mj.gov.tl) /

[webmaster@mj.gov.tl](mailto:webmaster@mj.gov.tl)

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Permanent Representative of Timor-

Leste to the UN in Geneva

Marciano da Silva

Rue Pestalozzi 7, 1202 Genéve

Fax: +41 227 883 564

Email: [info@timor-lestemission.ch](mailto:info@timor-lestemission.ch)

**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

**And copies to:**

Ombudsman, Human Rights and Justice

Dr Silverio Pinto Baptista

Office of Ombudsman for Human Rights

and Justice (PDHJ)

Estrada de Caicoli, Dili, Timor-Leste

Email: [provedoriatl@gmail.com](mailto:provedoriatl@gmail.com)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

There have been continued reports of torture and other ill-treatment, as well as unnecessary or excessive use of force, by security forces in Timor-Leste. Investigations into these acts have been rare and accountability systems remain weak.

In March 2014, two groups, the Maubere Revolutionary Council (KRM) and the Popular Democratic Council of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (CPD-RDTL), were declared illegal by a parliamentary resolution for "attempting to cause instability". Subsequently, security forces reportedly arbitrarily arrested and ill-treated dozens of individuals in March 2014 allegedly linked to the two groups.

Mauk Moruk was arrested and held in pre-trial detention in March 2014 but was released in December 2014.

Name: unknown

Gender m/f: both

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