



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR LESTE
PROVEDORIA DOS DIREITOS HUMANOS E JUSTIÇA
Estrada de Caicolí Díli, Timor Leste No. Tlf. [+670 3331030, 3331071]



PDHJ contribution to UPR
34th Session, 27 February – 24 March 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

PDHJ speech: 16 March 2017, 15.00 – 18.00

Esteemed members of the Human Rights Council, dear members of the public, to all others who honour us with their presence here today, at the Thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council on 16 March 2017.

On behalf of the Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça, the A-Status accredited National Human Rights Institution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, please allow me to convey my gratitude for having the opportunity to share with you our contribution to the Universal Periodic Review.

The Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça recognizes the efforts that the State of Timor-Leste has made over the past years with the purpose of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of all citizens of Timor-Leste. Taking in consideration the numerous challenges faced by our young nation, both historically as well as contemporary, these efforts should not be underestimated.

Unfortunately however, sometimes efforts are not enough. Too many citizens have not sufficiently been able to benefit from the development of our country. Inequality between rural and urban populations, between men and women, between rich and poor, are persistent and have left a significant part of our population living under conditions that do not correspond with the potential for inclusive and sustainable development that Timor-Leste has.

Since we are bound by a time limit for this statement, I will not elaborate on the issues discussed in our contribution to the Universal Periodic Review. We warmly invite you to read our complementary report and we hope it will provide you with an alternative perspective on the matters concerned, which have been identified by the PDHJ as a result of intensive

monitoring activities that included desk research, surveys, interviews and meetings with representatives of government organizations and civil society.

I would like to conclude with some finishing remarks

Timor-Leste is a country that has only recently become independent. The country has developed at an incredible speed over the past 15 years. We have made significant progress on a number of important indicators.

It is now time to ensure that all our citizens can enjoy the benefits of development. Too many social groups have insufficiently benefited from the country's progress. They are often vulnerable to violations of their rights. We appeal to the State to increase its efforts to ensure the rights of every person in Timor-Leste is respected. We at PDHJ are ready to support these efforts with all means available. We hope together we can build a better future for every citizen of our beautiful country.

On behalf of the Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça, I would like to thank you for your time and I hope that we can continue our successful collaboration in the future.