



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE

MINISTÉRIO DA JUSTIÇA

SPEECH

**Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): MoJ, APT and PDHJ
Cooperation on Torture Prevention in Timor-Leste**

Excellency Provedora for Human Rights and Justice, Ms. Jesuina Maria Ferreira Gomes, MPA

Excellency Secretary General of the Association for the Prevention of Torture, Ms. Barbara Bernath

Distinguished Guests! Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good Morning!

Thank you for attending the signing of tripartite agreement ceremony of the Ministry of Justice Timor-Leste (MoJ), Provedor for Human Rights and Justice Timor-Leste (PDHJ) and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) for torture prevention and ill-treatment.

This is an important step to strengthen the Government of Timor-Leste efforts to promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of its citizen.

The objective of this cooperation is to prevent torture and ill-treatment in Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste is a party to the **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (commonly known as the **United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT)**), under this international Convention, the State Party is required to take effective measures to prevent torture in any territory under its jurisdiction and forbids to transport people to any country where there is reason to believe they will be tortured. The cooperation for prevention of torture will be carried out through education, awareness raising, research and data systematization, informational exchanges, cooperation with relevant part to take immediate steps

to prevent risk and also technical support for the development of national politics for promoting collaboration and dialogue between partner and organization of civil society according to the law and government politic in Timor-Leste.

As we know, after Timor-Leste restoration of independence on 20 May 2002 and after one year later, Timor-Leste ratified seven (7) Human Rights conventions considers as legal standards with RDTL Constitutions Timor-Leste also as state that participate in all conventions that consider as International Instrument for Principle of Human Rights such as : International civil and political rights pact, International rights of economic pact, social and culture, convention against discrimination for women, convention against torture and ill-treatment, convention against racist discrimination and convention on children rights. Since Timor-Leste ratified conventions mentioned, Timor-Leste has been submitted initial reports (4) and progressive report including second combination report and third on convention for children rights.

In 3 November 2016 with the delegation of Government of Timor-Leste lead by the Minister of Justice presented the state report on universal periodic review of human rights second cycle to the United Nations of Human Rights Council and in 23 November 2017, delegations of Government of Timor-Leste lead by Vice-Minister of Justice presented the state initial report on International Convention against Torture and Ill-Treatment to committee of International Convention against torture and ill-treatment in Geneva. Review on those recommendations mostly focus on capacity building of law enforcement officials such as Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) and National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) including prison guards to elevate and enhance their capacity and professional knowledge regarding politic of using force in their daily activities to the citizen against law and public order or to the citizen who fulfills punishment in prison shall be comply to law and regulations as well as human rights principle and values. Lastly, I am proud to say that with this cooperation between Ministry of Justice, Provedor for Human Rights and Justice and the Association for the Prevention of Torture as significant step to contribute to development of human resources in prison services, mainly to capacity building and professional technical training to prison guards, to elevate their capacity and knowledge on legal framework in human rights area to accompany and appropriate security to those who fulfill their punishment in prison with dignity.

Thank you all for the attention!

Dili, 6 October 2020