

Fokupers: "Bainhira Amo-Lulik ida book parte íntimu hosi labarik nia isin-lolon, ne'e mak krim"

By **Tempo Timor**

March 01, 2019

English version on following pages



Tempo Timor - i" Igreja Katóliku iha Timor-Leste presiza halo asaun barak liután, atu apoia vítima sira hosi eis-padre ne'ebé hetan akuzasaun abuzu seksuál, ba labarik sira iha enklave Oecusse," Maria José Guterres, diretora Fokupers, dehan.

Fokupers mak ONG ne'ebé mak hatán ba violénsia hasoru fetu no labarik sira.

Nia esplika katak pasu inisiál sira-ne'ebé Igreja hola iha kazu ida-ne'e mak pozitivu.

Iha fulan Marsu tinan 2018 kongregasaun Societas Verbi Divini (SVD) simu alegasaun katak, padre-SVD Richard Daschbach abuzo seksualmente labarik sira iha aldeia Kutet ne'ebé lokaliza iha foho ida, iha Rejiaun Administrativa Espesial Oecusse Ambeno (RAEOA), ne'ebé mak sai Uma Mahon Topu Honis ida, hosi sira-nia fatin rua, ne'ebé padre ne'e rasik mak harii iha dékada 1990.

Kongregasaun ne'e relata abuzo ne'e ba Polísia Nasionál Timor-Leste (PNTL), lori padre ne'e ba SVD nia sede rejionál iha Dili, no hodi hahú sira-nia investigasaun.

Iha fulan Novembru tinan 2018, Vatikanu hasai Daschbach hosi ninia knaar nu'udár padre, tanba krime kontra labarik, maibé desizaun ida-ne'e la fó sai ba públiku.

Fokupers agora apela ba Igreja, atu servisu hamutuk ho organizasaun hirak ne'ebé apoia vítima sira, hodi lori Daschbach atu hasoru justisa. "Ami fiar katak Igreja sei koopera ho ami durante prosesu legál," Guterres hatete.

Guterres nia liafuan refleta liafuan sira-ne'ebé Amu-Papa Francisco hato'o iha loron-Domingu liubá, hodi remata sorumutu estrordináriu amo bispu sira iha Roma, kona-bá protesaun ba labarik sira iha Igreja Katólíka. Eskándalu barak kona-bá abuzo seksuál ba labarik, ne'ebé envolve husi padre sira, mak halo Igreja nakdoku durante tinan hirak liubá. Maioria kazu sira-ne'e deskobre iha Amérika, Europa no Austrália, inklui Ázia no África la'o ikus.

Kazu kontra Daschbach mak primeiru ne'ebé fó sai iha Timor-Leste, tanba kazu ne'e deskobre hosi Tempo Timor. Maski Amo-Papa Francisco ezije iha konferénsia amo bispu sira-nian katak, vítima sira mak prioridade, ne'ebé labele taka ona krime sira-ne'e, no tenke kastiga abuzadór sira, Igreja no autoridade sira, iha kazu Daschbach sei dook hosi kumpre objetivu sira-ne'e.

Presauun psikolójiku

Diretora Fokupers Guterres preokupa tebes katak, Daschbach rasik deside iha fulan Agostu tinan 2018, hodi fila-fali ba Kutet, fatin ne'ebé nia hela dadaun ho comunidade sira, iha ne'ebé nia komete krime ba. Guterres ezije katak tenke hasai Daschbach hosi fatin refere. "Iha risku boot katak violénsia seksuál sei kontinua atu akontese iha Kutet," Guterres deklara.

Nia mós hato'o katak Daschbach nia prezensa sei estraga prosesu legál ne'ebé hosi Prokuradoria no Polísia Nasionál Timor-Leste. "Ninia prezensa fó presauun psikolójiku maka'as ba vítima sira-ne'ebé sei hela nafatin iha Oecusse, ne'ebé sei ta'uk atu ko'alia sai," Diretora Fokupers dehan.

Amu Lulik

Guterres esplika katak enjerál amu-lulik-klibur sira iha pozisaun ho kbiit boot iha sosiedade nia laran. "Amu-lulik mak ema daruak atu reprezenta Maromak, nune'e bolu 'Amu Lulik'," nia dehan, hodi refere ba ninia estatutu espirituál no lulik. "Ema barak labele imajina katak padre ida bele komete krime abuzo seksuál," diretora Fokupers esplika.

Iha mós faktór sekulár sira seluk ne'ebé mós sei halo susar ba ema atu ko'alia sai, tanba sira sente obrigasaun ba padre ida. "Iha kazu Daschbach nian, ema sei dehan katak nia hanesan aman ba labarik sira, tanba nia ajuda sira ho hahán, roupa no edukasaun. Ema respeita nia no fó agradese, maibé mós depende ba nia. Padre ida-ne'e iha kbiit no bele kontrola ema barak, tanba nia mak kontrola hotu. No sira ta'uk katak se sira la halo tuir padre nia hakarak, nia la fó osan, edukasaun no hahán ona."

Falta koñesimentu

Problema ida tan mak falta koñesimentu kona-bá krime seksuál sira. “Ema barak hanoin katak abuzu seksuál kona-bá mane nia penetrasaun ba feto de’it. Sira la hatene katak abuzu seksuál mós inklui padre ida-ne’ebé toba hamutuk ho labarik sira no kaer sira-nia isin-lolon ho maneira seksuál. Sira la hatene katak se labarik ida hariis no ema adultu kaer labarik nia parte privadu sira ho intensaun atu sente tizaun, ida-ne’e mós abuzu seksuál. Sira mós la hatene katak se mane ida iha seksu orál ho labarik, ida-ne’e mós krime.”

Impaktu todan

Guterres dehan katak abuzu seksuál fó impaktu todan ba labarik sira, tanba afeta sira-nia ‘rahun-di’ak psikolójiku no fíziku’. Durante período ne’ebé labarik esperiéncia abuzu seksuál, vítima ne’e bele sente emosaun oioin, inklui ta’uk, laran-todan, hirus, kulpadu, sala-na’in, no konfuzsaun. Labarik sira-ne’ebé terus abuzu seksuál bele sente susar atu mantein “relasaun ne’ebé sira bele fiar”, ne’e signífika katak, sira-nia moris ho família, belun no parseiru bele hetan efetu tebes. To’o labarik sira bele sente “responsável ba mudansa sira ba dinámika uma-ka’in nian no membru família sira-nia rahun-di’ak”, Guterres esplika.

Abuzu ne’e mós bele perjudika labarik sira-nia dezempeñu iha eskola no iha servisu-fatin iha tempu oin. Inan-aman sira mós sei hetan efetu tanba sira sente responsável tanba sira kbiit-la’ek no labele proteje sira-nia oan rasik.

Guterres dehan katak vítima sira bele sente susar atu ko’alia ho parseiru, família ka belun kona-bá abuzu seksuál, no ida-ne’e sei hanetik ema seluk hodi bele oferese tulun no apoiu. Maibé nia hakarak fó lia-menon ba vítima sira katak sira la mesak. Fokupers no organizaun sira seluk iha Timor-Leste, hodi proteje sira, fó tulun ba sira, fornese mahon, konsellu no informasaun legál ba sira.

Krime públiku

Guterres dehan katak kazu kontra Daschbach importante tebes. “Krime ida-ne’e mak konsidera hanesan krime públiku. La’os importante se nia padre ka lae, ita hotu tenke luta ba justisa. No ami fiar katak Igreja apoia ami”. Nia hato’o katak prosekusaun Daschbach nian bele fó sinál preventivu ida. “Se padre sira seluk rona kona-bá kazu ida-ne’e, karik sira sei ta’uk atu komete abuzu sira hanesan”.

Fokupers: 'It is a crime when a priest touches intimate parts of the body of a child'

By **Tempo Timor** (</en/author/759-tempotimor>) February 25, 2019

The Catholic Church in Timor-Leste needs to do more to support the victims of a former priest who is accused of sexually abusing children in the enclave of Oecusse, says Maria José Guterres, director of Fokupers, the NGO that addresses violence against women and children.

She says the initial steps taken by the church in this case were positive. In March 2018 the congregation Societas Verbi Divini (SVD) received allegations that SVD-priest Richard Daschbach had sexually molested children in the mountain hamlet of Kutet, which is one of the two locations of the Topu Honis shelter home that he had set up in the early 1990's in Oecusse. The congregation reported the alleged sexual abuse to the Timorese police, took the priest to SVD's regional headquarters in Dili and started their investigation. In November 2018 the Vatican expelled Daschbach from priesthood for crimes against children, although this decision was not made public.

Fokupers now calls upon the church to work with victim's organisations in order to bring Daschbach to justice. 'We hope the church will cooperate with us in the legal process,' Guterres says.

Pope Frances

Her call reflects the words spoken by Pope Frances last Sunday at the end of an extraordinary summit of bishops in Rome about the protection of minors in the Catholic Church. Sex abuse scandals involving the clergy have rocked the church to its core in the last years, with the bulk of the cases being uncovered in the America's, Europe and Australia, while Asia and Africa are lagging behind. The case against Daschbach is the first that comes to light in Timor-Leste, after the case was uncovered by Tempo Timor. While Pope Frances insisted at the bishops conference that victims are a priority, that cover-ups have to be ended and abusers must be prosecuted, the church and authorities in the Daschbach-case are far from meeting these goals.

Psychological pressure

Fokupers-director Guterres is much concerned about the fact that Daschbach unilaterally decided in August 2018 to move back to Kutet where he currently lives with the community where he committed the alleged crimes. She insists he will have to be removed from the area. 'There is a risk that sexual violence will continue to take place in Kutet,' says Guterres. She also points out that his presence will frustrate the legal process by Timor Leste's prosecution service and police. 'His presence puts a lot of psychological pressure on the victims still living in Oecusse, who will be afraid to speak up,' says the Fokupers-director.

Amu Lulik

Guterres explains that in general the clergy has a powerful position in society. 'The priest is the second person to represent God and is called Amu Lulik,' she says, referring to his spiritual and magical status. 'Many people simply can't imagine that a priest can commit the crime of sexual abuse,' the Fokupers-director explains. There are also more earthly factors that will make it difficult for people to speak out as they feel obliged to this particular priest. 'In the case of Daschbach they say he was like a father to the children, as he helped them with food, clothes and education. People have respect for him and are grateful, but also depend on him. This priest has a lot of power over people as he controls everything. And they fear that if they don't do what the priest wants, he will not give them money, education and food anymore.'

Lack of knowledge

Another problem is the lack of knowledge about sexual crimes. 'Many people think that sexual abuse is about a man penetrating a woman. They don't know that it is also sexual abuse if a priest sleeps in bed with children and touches their bodies in a sexual way. They don't know that when children take a shower and an adult touches their sensitive parts with the intention to feel aroused, it is sexual abuse. They don't know that if a man has oral sex with children, it is a crime.'

Severe impact

Guterres says that sexual abuse has a severe impact on children because it affects their 'psychological and physical well-being.' During the time that a child is sexually molested the victim can experience a range of emotions including fear, sadness, anger, guilt, self-blame and confusion. Sexually abused children can find it difficult to have 'trusting relationships' which means their lives with family, friends and partners can be seriously affected. Children can even 'feel responsible for changes to family dynamics and the well-being of family members,' Guterres explains. It can also harm the children's school results and careers. On their turn parents can be affected as 'they feel responsible for having been powerless and unable to protect their child.' Guterres says that victims 'may find it difficult to talk to partners, family and friends about the sexual abuse, preventing others from being able to help and offer support.' But she wants to tell the victims that 'they are not alone.' Fokupers and other organisations in Timor-Leste are here to 'protect them, to give assistance, provide shelter, counselling and legal information.'

A public crime

Guterres says the case against Daschbach is of utmost importance. 'This is a public crime. No matter if it is a priest, we must fight to bring this case to justice. And we hope the church stands on our side.' She points out prosecuting Daschbach can give a preventative signal. 'If other priests hear about this case, they might be afraid to commit similar abuses.'