

Tetum iha pajina tuir mai

GUILTY VERDICT ON CRIMES OF SEXUAL ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN BY EX-PRIEST WELCOMED HOWEVER DOES NOT REFLECT THE SEVERITY OF THE CRIMES

JU,S Jurídico Social Press Communiqué – 21 December 2021

Today, 21 December 2021, will go down as a historical day in the development of the Timor-Leste judicial sector: the District Court of Oecusse issued a guilty verdict against the defendant for sexual abuse against 4 female children at the orphanage of Topu Honis, with 2 proved crimes having prescribed. In its decision, the Court sentenced the defendant to 12 years' imprisonment for the crimes he has committed.

By far, this case is the biggest case of sexual violence registered in the courts of Timor-Leste, considering the number of victims involved and the length of time during which the crimes were committed.

On behalf of the 9 victims registered in this case, JU,S Jurídico Social declares: despite the guilty verdict which is welcomed, with the punishment of 12 years in prison the Court fails to reflect the gravity of the case and the actual practice of Courts.

In fact, considering the gravity of the crimes, the accused should have been given the maximum sentence as provided in Timor-Leste: 30 years in prison. The victims disagree with the punishment given by the Court and we will make an appeal.

The prison sentence handed down by the Court will not remove the suffering and the scar left on the victims. The guilty verdict and its sentence will not restore the happy youth days the girls have lost. However, the sentence by the court today will pave the way for the victims and their families to restore their dignities and rebuild their lives, knowing that the wrong against them has been recognized by the Timorese Court.

Despite the sentence being too light for the severity of the crimes, the decision of the Court today determined the guilt of the accused. The accused committed a series of crimes against girls who were under his care.

The defendant is a former priest, who was defrocked by the Vatican in connection to the same acts as accused in this case.

The defrocked American priest used his influence as the Director of the orphanage, his position as a priest, taking advantage of the vulnerabilities of the local community, to sexually prey on girls under his care.

Despite not being satisfied with the Court decision, we, who represent the victim, still would like to show appreciation for the efforts of a number of entities in order to conclude the process.

The history written today is a bitter history for the entire nation. Our children were subjected to horrendous crimes for such a long time because we, as a society, were blinded by the belief that a figure as the defendant in this case would not commit such crimes against children.

We invite the entire society to learn from this case, and do everything we can to ensure that such terrible crimes are not repeated in the future.

KOMUNIKADU IMPRENSA

EIS-PADRE HETAN KONDENASAUN BA ABUZU SEKSUÁL HASORU LABARIK MAIBÉ HETAN PENA PRIZAUN LA REFLETE GRAVIDADE HOSI KRIME

JU,S Jurídico Social – 21 Dezembru 2021

Ohin 21 dezembru tinan 2021, marka istória importante iha setór justisa iha Timor-Leste: Tribunál Distritál Oecussi foti desizaun hodi kondena arguidu ba krime abuzu seksuál hasoru labarik-feto na'in 4 iha orfonatu Topu Honis, ho vitima 2 nia krime preskreve ona. Tribunál mós determina kastigu prizaun tinan 12.

Kazu ida-ne'e hanesan kazu violénsia seksuál boot liu ne'ebé registu iha Tribunál iha Timor-Leste tomak, haree ba número vítima no haree ba akontese iha tempu naruuk nia laran.

JU,S Jurídico Social, ne'ebé representa vítima na'in 9 iha kazu ida-ne'e, lori vítima nia naran hodi deklara katak: mezmuké Tribunál kondena arguidu, ho kastigu prizaun tinan 12 la refleta gravidade hosi krime no prátika hosi Tribunál.

Tuir loloos, haree ba gravidade krime, arguidu devia simu kastigu másimu tuir lei iha Timor-Leste: tinan 30 iha prizaun. Ho nune'e, vítima sira la konkorda ho kastigu ne'ebé Tribunál fó ba arguidu, no sei halo rekursu.

Kondenasaun ba arguidu sei la hamate terus no sei la halakon fitar ne'ebé vítima sira sente ba sira-nia moris tomak. Kondenasaun no kastigu mós sei la fó fila labarik no joven feto sira-nia moris hodi haksolok, hamnasa no halimar.

Apezárde kastigu la todan, desizaun hosi Tribunál ohin laron hatudu katak arguidu sala duni. Arguidu komete duni krime lubuk ida hasoru labarik-feto ne'ebé iha ninia mahon.

Kondenadu hosi Tribunál uluk nu'udar Padre, no hetan ona demisaun hosi Igreja Katólíka tanba aktu hanesan.

Eis padre Amerikanu ne'e uza ninia influénsia nu'udar Diretór orfanatu, ninia pozisaun nu'udar Padre no aproveita vulnerabilidade comunidade lokál hodi halo abuzu seksuál ba labarik ne'ebé nia tau-matan bá.

Mezmu ami la haksolok ho desizaun ida-ne'e, ami, ne'ebé representa vítima, nafatin apresia esforsu hosi entidade hotu ne'ebé konsege termina prosesu ida-ne'e.

Istória ne'ebé ohin ita hakerek, nu'udar istória moruk ba Timor-Leste tomak. Ita-nia oan rasik sai vítima durante tempu naruuk nia laran, tanba ita hotu taka matan no la fiar katak figura ida, hanesan condenadu iha kazu ida-ne'e, sei komete violasaun grave ba labarik sira.

Husu ba sociedade tomak mai hamutuk aprende hosi istória ida-ne'e, no asegura sei la repete tan iha futuro.