

February 13, 2008

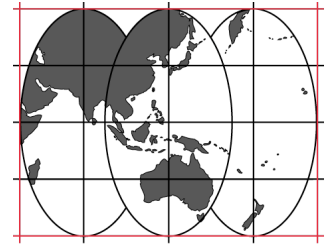
LAWASIA STATEMENT ON RECENT EVENTS IN TIMOR-LESTE

LAWASIA notes with deep concern the recent assassination attempts on Timor-Leste leaders, President José Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão.

It affirms its condemnation of attacks of this nature against the leaders of an elected government in the full knowledge that they pose a serious threat to democracy and the rule of law not only in Timor-Leste, but in the wider region.

The maintenance of rule of law in Timor-Leste is a vital component in its development. As an organisation that works to defend this principle in all member countries of the Asia Pacific region, LAWASIA notes that the people of Timor-Leste deserve all international support in their efforts to maintain peace and stability in their developing nation. The attempted assassinations indicate a move towards lawlessness that should not be tolerated by the international community.

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