



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE
GABINETE DO PRIMEIRO-MINISTRO

SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON
TRUTH, JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

**“Formal and informal justice – Opportunities to
strengthen Peace, Reconciliation and Prosperity in
Timor-Leste. National and international perspectives.”**

21 October 2010
Conference Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Díli

Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen,

Over these last four years, we have been meeting and debating on the issue of formal and informal justice, reconciliation and peace. And the Reverend Bishop Gunnar has been tireless in his endeavours to bring us together to jointly reflect on these issues.

The first meetings were held in Hotel Timor, from where we could see tens of thousands of IDPs, as we could across other areas in Dili. The meetings continued in this hall at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where we are today.

Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are now living in a climate of stability. Instability and violence do not arise simply from problems of formal justice. They also result from a lack of social justice.

Last month we followed the events taking place in nearly all of the capital cities of Europe – “the day of action”, which was filled with demonstrations and violence. There were two days in Paris and yesterday also in Jakarta.

All this that is happening in the world should make us avoid looking at the issue of peace and stability from only one angle.

As we are all responsible for the process of consolidating peace and democracy in our country, I cannot on this occasion forget to remind us all of the need for greater clarity of ideas so that they can guide our actions with certainty and consistency.

The whole process surrounding Maternus Bere, of which I am solely responsible, could be an appropriate case for reflection in forums of this nature.

This may help the conclusions drawn from this conference in terms of validity and objectivity, and help us respond to situations that we will face in the future.

I hereby declare that I am and will continue to encourage a Timorese, who lives in West Timor, to submit himself to justice.

One dual citizen that is responsible for more than half a thousand people who are anxious to return to their homeland. He is on the list of those accused of crimes against Humanity. He consciously made the decision that he could not continue living with the burden of guilt – 1) of being responsible for dozens of people who want to return, 2) of having been involved in the violence of 1999.

Thus, he prefers to live at peace with himself! Bringing these people back and serving his sentence.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is a case of honesty and courage and I will continue to assist him both morally and psychologically.

I invite you all to think that while we brandish the sword of justice, there exist humble people who know how to sacrifice their personal interests in favour of the interests of hundreds of innocent people.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

21 October 2010