



Security Council

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Letter dated 25 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that the enclosed letter dated 24 May 2006, sent by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and addressed to the Secretary-General, be circulated as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(Signed) João **Salgueiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to share with you the concerns of the Government of Portugal with regard to the present situation of dangerous instability in Timor-Leste.

As you are certainly aware, incidents involving rebellious former elements of the Timorese Armed Forces (F-FDTL) have again occurred in the last 48 hours, in clashes against the Timorese Army and National Police. The prevailing climate of fear has led to the displacement of many thousands of persons.

The authorities of Timor-Leste have already publicly expressed their hope that the United Nations Security Council will urgently consider appropriate measures to help them in order to bring the situation under control, namely by deciding the deployment of an international police force that would assist and reinforce the capability of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) in the period leading up to the 2007 elections.

At the same time, bilateral contacts to that aim have taken place and the Government of Portugal is considering how best to help the authorities of Timor-Leste. It is the strong belief of my Government that the possible deployment of a force of Portuguese gendarmerie, in response to a request by the Government of Timor-Leste, would gain a great deal in terms of effectiveness if it took place in close cooperation with the United Nations.

Following the vehement appeal launched today by the Timorese authorities to the international community to send a multinational security force, Portugal has consulted with Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand in order to coordinate efforts. We all agree that, desirably, such multinational deployment would profit from an expeditious decision of the Security Council confirming its full international authority.

In bringing the preceding facts to your attention, I trust that the Security Council will have an early discussion on Timor-Leste, with a view to deciding measures that the situation urgently requires.

I kindly request the Secretary-General to convey a copy of the present letter to the President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Diogo **Freitas do Amaral**
Minister for State and Foreign Affairs