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# Country Advice

## East Timor (Timor-Leste)

East Timor (Timor-Leste) – TLS36930 –  
Alfredo Alves Reinado – targeting of IDPs

24 June 2010

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- 1. Please obtain if possible information (particularly an eyewitness account or similar) of Reinado's and his rebels' movements during March/April 2006, where they hid and their logistics. Any further observations would also be useful.**

During March and April of 2006, Major Alfredo Alves Reinado was still in Dili, in his position as the head of the military police in the Timor-Leste army, or FALINTIL – Força de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

According to an October 2006 report from the United Nations Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste, it was on 3 May 2006 that Reinado deserted his post as chief of the F-FDTL military police and moved into the hills south of Dili with other military police officers, Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) officers and weapons. He travelled to Ermera District, where he met with the petitioners (a group of defectors from the F-FDTL), and on 8 May travelled to Aileu where he established a base. On 23 May 2006, Reinado, some of his followers, members of the Police Reserve Unit (Unidade de Reserva da Polícia – URP), and civilians had an armed confrontation with soldiers from the F-FDTL at Fatu Ahi, on the outskirts of Dili.<sup>1</sup>

Most of Reinado's force made it back to Aileu following the May 2006 altercation at Fatu Ahi, and by June 2006 Reinado was based in Maubisse. Reports vary on when Reinado moved his base to Maubisse, however this may have occurred in May 2006. *Time* magazine reports (based on interviews with Reinado carried out in Maubisse in May) that while Reinado was based there he was directing operations in the hills above Dili and that his men held "the heights overlooking the three main access roads into the capital".<sup>2</sup> Dare is located on the main road south of Dili leading to Aileu and Maubisse – two locations where Reinado had established bases. Dare is not, however, mentioned in any reports as a location of Reinado's base or activities in 2006.

On 24 July 2006 Reinado travelled to Dili for talks at the request of President Xanana Gusmao, which were held on 25 July. On 26 July 2006, international forces arrested Reinado in the Bairopite area of Dili; however, he was not detained for long and escaped from custody on 30 August 2006 and returned to the hills south of Dili.<sup>3</sup>

While Dare is not mentioned in relation to Reinado and the rebels' movements in 2006, Dare is mentioned in a February 2008 report from *The Age* which states that Australian troops were searching for Reinado's followers around Dare after the shooting of Prime

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste 2006, *Report of the United Nations Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste*, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights website, 2 October, pp. 29, 31, 47

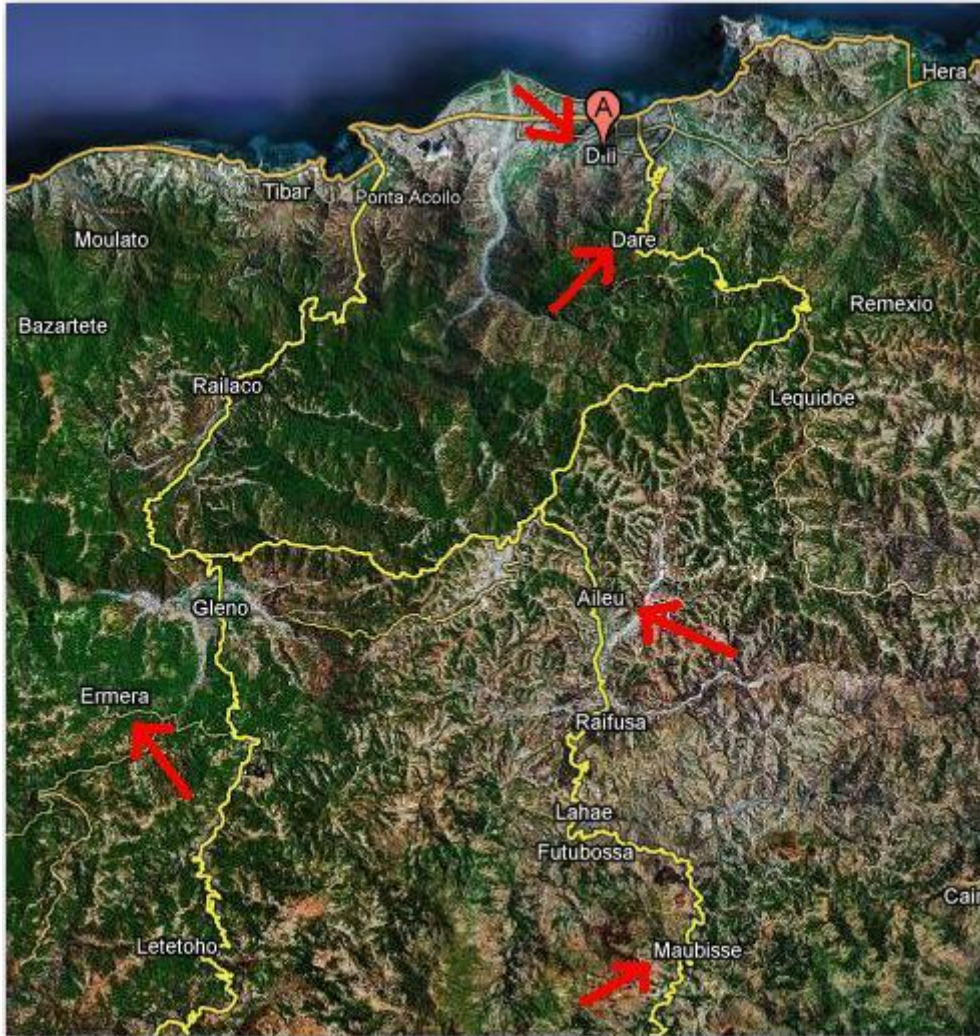
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/docs/CoIReport-English.pdf> – Accessed 30 October 2006 – Attachment 1.

<sup>2</sup> Callinan, R. 2006 'The Rebel Commander: "They Know Where to Find Me"', *Time*, 29 May

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1198948,00.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 2.

<sup>3</sup> International Crisis Group 2006, *Resolving Timor-Leste's Crisis*, Asia Report No. 120, 10 October – Attachment 3.

Minister Jose Ramos Horta and the killing of Reinado in February 2008.<sup>4</sup> The map below shows the locations of Dili, Ermera, Aileu, Maubisse, and Dare.<sup>5</sup>



No information on the logistical arrangements made by Reinado and his followers could be located. Notwithstanding this, they are reported to have enjoyed popular support among the highland villages in which they were based, and it is feasible that civilians assisted Reinado and his supporters in various logistical capacities.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Murdoch, L. 2008, 'Timor rebels vow to never surrender', *The Age*, 15 February <http://www.theage.com.au/news/world/timor-rebels-vow-to-never-surrender/2008/02/14/1202760491044.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 4.

<sup>5</sup> 'Dili, Dare, Aileu, Ermera and Maubisse, Timor-Leste' (undated), Google Maps website [http://maps.google.com.au/maps?hl=en&safe=off&rls=EGLC.EGLC:2009-24.EGLC:en&q=Dili&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Dili,+Timor-Leste&gl=au&ei=znOpTJDSCcugkQWVgfH8Aw&sa=X&oi=geocode\\_result&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CB8Q8gEwAA](http://maps.google.com.au/maps?hl=en&safe=off&rls=EGLC.EGLC:2009-24.EGLC:en&q=Dili&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Dili,+Timor-Leste&gl=au&ei=znOpTJDSCcugkQWVgfH8Aw&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CB8Q8gEwAA) – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 5.

<sup>6</sup> See: Callinan, R. 2008, 'A Last Meeting with East Timor's Rebel Leader', *Time*, 12 February <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1712214,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-bottom> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 6; Murdoch, L. 2008, 'Timor rebels vow to never surrender', *The Age*, 15 February <http://www.theage.com.au/news/world/timor-rebels-vow-to-never-surrender/2008/02/14/1202760491044.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 4; Callinan, R. 2008, 'A Frustrating Manhunt in Timor', *Time*, 17 February <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1714159,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-bottom> – Accessed 30 June 2010 – Attachment 7; 'We will protect Major Alfredo: Eduardo' 2006, UNMIT Daily News Review, 8 September – Attachment 8.

## 2. Do reports indicate whether the displaced people (especially those going to Dare) were targeted in any way, by Reinado's group or by the military?

Reports do not indicate that Reinado's group or the military specifically targeted displaced people (in Dare or elsewhere) in the aftermath of the violence of May 2006. Some reports indicate that youth gangs *affiliated* with Reinado's group and members of the security forces *supportive* of Reinado were responsible for some of the violence and intimidation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Dili at this time; however, the violence was generally attributed to opportunistic conflict between youth gangs, or clashes between East Timorese from the eastern and western regions of the country.

The social and political instability caused in part by the existence of Reinado's group, and which manifested itself in street violence and widespread damage to urban areas, was a cause of the large-scale internal displacement in and around Dili. Many of those living in IDP camps were unwilling to leave the camps and return home due to the sense of impunity with which Reinado and his followers operated, and the lack of security which his continuing liberty implied. Following Reinado's death in February 2008, several reports suggested that the remaining IDPs in Dili would be likely to return home due to the improved security situation.<sup>7</sup>

Reports on the violence affecting IDPs in Dili in 2006 generally attribute the violence to competing youth gangs fighting for territory and influence, or clashes between groups representing the west (*loromanu*) and the east (*lorosae*) of Timor-Leste.<sup>8</sup> Some of this violence is reported to have occurred in IDP camps, including the camp at Dili Airport.<sup>9</sup> A May 2008 article on the gang violence in Dili quotes then-Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, who claimed that the violence was unrelated to Reinado, and was instead opportunistic gang violence.<sup>10</sup>

Three reports from the Australian media were however located which claim that groups with links to Reinado were involved in violence against residents of Dili and IDPs between May and September 2006. A May 2006 report from the *Sydney Morning Herald* claims that forces linked to Reinado "had terrorised residents for days" in the west of

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<sup>7</sup> See: 'IDPs begin to return home as security improves' 2008, *Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)*, 20 March – Attachment 9; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2008, *Timor-Leste: IDPs returning home, but to ongoing poverty and lack of access to basic services*, IDMC website, 31 October, pp. 16, 193

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/504ACA7476A44544C12574F30043BEC4/\\$file/Timor-Leste+-October+2008.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/504ACA7476A44544C12574F30043BEC4/$file/Timor-Leste+-October+2008.pdf) – Accessed 28 June 2010 – Attachment 10; International Crisis Group 2008, *Timor-Leste's Displacement Crisis*, Asia Report No. 148, 31 March, p. 7 – Attachment 11.

<sup>8</sup> For an overview of the youth gangs of Timor-Leste, including which groups were supportive of Reinado, see: Scambary, James 2006, 'A survey of gangs and youth groups in Dili, Timor-Leste – A report commissioned by Australia's agency for international development, AusAID', East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) website, 15 September [http://www.etan.org/etanpdf/2006/Report\\_Youth\\_Gangs\\_in\\_Dili.pdf](http://www.etan.org/etanpdf/2006/Report_Youth_Gangs_in_Dili.pdf) – Accessed 12 September 2007 – Attachment 12.

<sup>9</sup> 'Refugees in East Timor camps are afraid' 2006, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 August <http://www.smh.com.au/news/World/Refugees-in-East-Timor-camps-are-afraid/2006/08/23/1156012593123.html#> – Accessed 24 October 2006 – Attachment 13; Murdoch, L. 'Timor tensions build as army makes push' 2006, *The Age*, 26 October, <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/diggers-fire-shots-in-renewed-dili-violence/2006/10/25/1161749190079.html#> – Accessed 27 October 2006 – Attachment 14.

<sup>10</sup> Forbes, M & Allard, T. 2006, 'Special forces under fire as Dili violence worsens', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 May <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/speed-up-deployment-horta/2006/05/27/1148524930862.html?page=fullpage#> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 15.

Dili.<sup>11</sup> In August 2006, *The Age* quoted “observers in Dili” who claimed that some gang members who “roamed the streets terrorising residents” were supporters of Reinado, creating fear and instability in the wake of his arrest by Australian security forces.<sup>12</sup>, while a September 2006 report from *The Australian* quoted claims from unnamed displaced persons that a group of police who supported Reinado had attacked IDPs in Dili.<sup>13</sup>

No information relating to attacks on IDPs fleeing from Dili to Dare could be located but, as noted in Question 1 above, Reinado’s men reportedly held positions above the main roads out of Dili in May 2006, including the road to Dare.<sup>14</sup> It is therefore feasible that any IDPs travelling from Dili to Dare could have been caught up in fighting between Reinado’s followers and East Timorese security forces, although no reports were located suggesting that this occurred.

### 3. Deleted.

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<sup>11</sup> Allard, T. 2006, ‘Diggers caught between rebels and angry locals armed with machetes’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 May <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/diggers-caught-between-rebels-and-angry-locals-armed-with-machetes/2006/05/27/1148524930881.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 16.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Police arrest 40 as violence returns to Dili’ 2006, *The Age*, 8 August – Attachment 17.

<sup>13</sup> ‘Dili refugee attacks raise tensions’ 2006, UNMIT Daily Review, (source: *The Australian*), 2 September – Attachment 18.

<sup>14</sup> Callinan, R. 2006 ‘The Rebel Commander: “They Know Where to Find Me”’, *Time*, 29 May <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1198948,00.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010 – Attachment 2.

## Attachments

1. United Nations Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste 2006, *Report of the United Nations Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste*, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights website, 2 October, pp. 29, 31, 47 <http://www.ohchr.org/english/docs/CoIReport-English.pdf> – Accessed 30 October 2006.
2. Callinan, R. 2006 ‘The Rebel Commander: “They Know Where to Find Me”’, *Time*, 29 May <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1198948,00.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010.
3. International Crisis Group 2006, *Resolving Timor-Leste’s Crisis*, Asia Report No. 120, 10 October.
4. Murdoch, L. 2008, ‘Timor rebels vow to never surrender’, *The Age*, 15 February <http://www.theage.com.au/news/world/timor-rebels-vow-to-never-surrender/2008/02/14/1202760491044.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010.
5. ‘Dili, Dare, Aileu, Ermera and Maubisse, Timor-Leste’ (undated), Google Maps website [http://maps.google.com.au/maps?hl=en&safe=off&rls=EGLC,EGLC:2009-24,EGLC:en&q=Dili&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Dili,+Timor-Leste&gl=au&ei=zn0pTJDSCcugkQWVgfH8Aw&sa=X&oi=geocode\\_result&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CB8Q8gEwAA](http://maps.google.com.au/maps?hl=en&safe=off&rls=EGLC,EGLC:2009-24,EGLC:en&q=Dili&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Dili,+Timor-Leste&gl=au&ei=zn0pTJDSCcugkQWVgfH8Aw&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CB8Q8gEwAA) – Accessed 29 June 2010.
6. Callinan, R. 2008, ‘A Last Meeting with East Timor’s Rebel Leader’, *Time*, 12 February <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1712214,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-bottom> – Accessed 29 June 2010.
7. Callinan, R. 2008, ‘A Frustrating Manhunt in Timor’, *Time*, 17 February <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1714159,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-bottom> – Accessed 30 June 2010.
8. ‘We will protect Major Alfredo: Eduardo’ 2006, UNMIT Daily News Review, 8 September. (CISNET East Timor CX161291)
9. ‘IDPs begin to return home as security improves’ 2008, *Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)*, 20 March. (CISNET East Timor CX196085)
10. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2008, *Timor-Leste: IDPs returning home, but to ongoing poverty and lack of access to basic services*, IDMC website, 31 October [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/504ACA7476A44544C12574F30043BEC4/\\$file/Timor-Leste+-October+2008.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/504ACA7476A44544C12574F30043BEC4/$file/Timor-Leste+-October+2008.pdf) – Accessed 28 June 2010.
11. International Crisis Group 2008, *Timor-Leste’s Displacement Crisis*, Asia Report No. 148, 31 March.
12. Scambary, James 2006, ‘A survey of gangs and youth groups in Dili, Timor-Leste – A report commissioned by Australia’s agency for international development, AusAID’, East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) website, 15 September [http://www.etan.org/etanpdf/2006/Report\\_Youth\\_Gangs\\_in\\_Dili.pdf](http://www.etan.org/etanpdf/2006/Report_Youth_Gangs_in_Dili.pdf) – Accessed 12 September 2007.

13. 'Refugees in East Timor camps are afraid' 2006, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 August <http://www.smh.com.au/news/World/Refugees-in-East-Timor-camps-are-afraid/2006/08/23/1156012593123.html#> – Accessed 24 October 2006.
14. Murdoch, L. 'Timor tensions build as army makes push' 2006, *The Age*, 26 October, <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/diggers-fire-shots-in-renewed-dili-violence/2006/10/25/1161749190079.html#> – Accessed 27 October 2006.
15. Forbes, M & Allard, T. 2006, 'Special forces under fire as Dili violence worsens', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 May <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/speed-up-deployment-horta/2006/05/27/1148524930862.html?page=fullpage#> – Accessed 29 June 2010.
16. Allard, T. 2006, 'Diggers caught between rebels and angry locals armed with machetes', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 May <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/diggers-caught-between-rebels-and-angry-locals-armed-with-machetes/2006/05/27/1148524930881.html> – Accessed 29 June 2010.
17. 'Police arrest 40 as violence returns to Dili' 2006, *The Age*, 8 August. (CISNET East Timor CX158818)
18. 'Dili refugee attacks raise tensions' 2006, UNMIT Daily Review, (source: *The Australian*), 2 September. (CISNET East Timor CX160959)
19. Deleted.
20. Deleted.
21. Deleted.
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