Notes on the editors Laura Soares Abrantes and Isabel ‘Beba’ Sequeira by Jude Conway

Laura Soares Abrantes and Isabel ‘Beba’ Sequeira are co-editors and compilers of a book of Timorese women’s oral histories - Secrecy: The Key to Independence. The English version is to be published by the Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters Project in May 2012.

Laura has very good English and is a charismatic speaker who can project the emotional truth of the historic struggles of East Timorese women. Beba Sequeira also has good English and a persuasive way of arousing your interest in the women from her homeland.

Laura Soares Abrantes was active in the Timorese resistance as a student in Java where she received a bachelor’s degree in educational psychology in 1993. Returning to East Timor she clandestinely worked for independence through the church scouts and as a staff member, first of Caritas and then Fokupers, (a women’s organisation) in Dili. Laura received a master’s degree in sociology from Brazil in 2011 with an analysis of Rede-Feto Timor Leste (the Timorese Women’s Network).

Laura Soares Abrantes has contributed to many books about Timorese women’s history including:


Laura now is a Gender Consultant with APSC-TL and has written a number of reports including Baseline Study on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Covalima and Bobonaro, APSC-TL, 2009.

Isabel ‘Beba’ Sequeira alongside her whole family were involved in the clandestine movement in Baucau and Dili pre-referendum and she has three children and a degree in Business Management from Universidade de Paz in Dili. Beba is now the director of APSC-TL and was co-researcher and writer for Baseline Study on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Covalima and Bobonaro.

Beba has also contributed to a number of publications about Timorese women’s history:


Co-editor of Segredu : Xave ba Ukun Rasik-An (Secrecy: The Key to independence), Asia Pacific Support Collective Timor-Leste (APSC-TL), Dili, 2008.