

## 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:**

- One of the storytellers and interpreters for ***Step by Step: Women of East Timor, Stories of Resistance and Survival***, Charles Darwin University Press, Darwin 2011.
- Co-editor of *Segredu : Xave ba Ukun Rasik-An (Secrecy: The Key to independence)*, Asia Pacific Support Collective Timor-Leste (APSC-TL), Dili, 2008.
- Co-editor of *Hau Fo Midar Hau Simu Moruk (I Give Sweetness I Receive Bitterness)*, Rede Feto Timor-Leste, Dili, 2007.
- Interviewee for ***Independent Women: The Story of women's activism in East Timor***, Catholic Institute for International Relations, London, 2005.
- Co-editor of *Hakerek ho Ran (Written in Blood)*, Office for Promotion of Equality, Dili, 2003.
- Interviewee and an interpreter for ***Buibere: Voice of Timorese Women***, East Timor International Support Centre, Darwin, 1999. Translated into Tetum as *Buibere: Lian Feto Timor Lorosa'e Nian*, Fokupers, Dili, 2001.

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:**

One of the storytellers and interpreters for ***Step by Step: Women of East Timor, Stories of Resistance and Survival***, Charles Darwin University Press, Darwin 2011.

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

Co-editor of *Hau Fo Midar Hau Simu Moruk (I Give Sweetness I Receive Bitterness)*, Rede Feto Timor-Leste, Dili, 2007.