

INTERVIEW WITH VIRGINIA DE CRUZ DIAS QUINTAS, 8 April 1985

Joao Bosco Galucho Soares was a first sgt in the infantry. He had been born in ^{Habela} Atalaia (?) and lived in Ainaro. He was educated at the seminary in Dare. His mother, Sara de Jesus Soares, was from ^{Ainaro}, and his father, Augusto da Costa Soares, was from Lacluta. He had several brothers, Valente, a professor in Same who was married to Elsa Ferreira, and Guido Soares who was killed by landmines near Dare on the Carrascalao plantation. Something about Costa Alves.

Her elder brother, Verissimo Dias Quintas, is a kepala kampung in Muapitene. He had been with Joao Branco and surrendered in 1976. Olinda, Verissimo's wife, is an aunt of Joao Branco. Verissimo was a driver for Timor Oil. (Virginia recognized the names of all of those listed as members of Joao Branco's group, reportedly executed in Gari Uai. Duarte Romao Vieira of that list is the brother of Gil Crisovao. "Nicolau Quintas" on that list is her brother, Nicolau Dias Quintas, who was not a member of that group.) She gave us a picture of Joao Branco and ^{Nicolau?} Verissimo at Taman Mini where they had gone to try and meet with Suharto. Nothing came of the ^{trip} meeting.

Nicolau was among those killed around Los Palos between April and June 1979. After he surrendered, he went back to the bush. The bupati called him in from where he was living on a horta, and he was killed. He was then 36. The family was told by the KOREM commander that Nicolau had been sent to Jakarta to build traditional Timorese houses (for tourists?) but it was a lie. Nicolau had a 4th grade education. (?) His wife, Lucia Sanches, was the sister of Pedro Dias Sanches, another person on the list of the Los Palos missing. Pedro was a 2nd sergeant in the army.

Pedro's uncle, Fernando Dias Sanches, also on the list, was married to Virginia's sister, Angelina Dias Quintas Sanches. She was in the house when Tome Cristavao and her husband Fernando were taken away. She waited six months for his return and then realized they weren't coming back. When Fernando was taken, he gave Angelina his watch and wedding ring.

Angelina's son was in the bush with Fretilin when ^{Fretilin} came down and attacked and burnt several houses in the area. As a result of the attack, Angelina was sent to Atauro for one and a half years. She was released and returned to Los Palos on 18 January 1983.

Another brother of Virginia's, Felipe Dias Quintas, died in the Los Palos hospital where he had gone for treatment for high blood pressure. He was injected with water by an Indonesian nurse and died. This was August 30, 1978, when Felipe was about 42. He had been in the bush in 1977. His wife is Ana de Jesus Almeida Quintas.

Two others on the Los Palos disappeared list are linked to Virginia's family. Tome Cristovao is a cousin of Virginia's father and brother-in-law of Fernando Dias Sanches. His nephews include Gil Cristovao who was with Joao Branco, and Aleixo da Costa (also on the Los Palos list.) Aleixo was an APODETI man and an informer for KOREM who was killed because he lied. He was also a protege of Joao Branco. Branco and Tome were both from Fuiloro. Virginia's father was the liurai of Fuiloro.

Pedro Dias Sanches had four brothers. He was the eldest; the next was Afonso Savio, a teacher at the Fuiloro mission. Next was Benedito, also a teacher, who was a Fretilin commander. The two younger brothers were Horacio Sanches and Alcino Sanches. Domingos Savio of Branco's group was their cousin.

Virginia said Verissimo worked in the kabupaten office, lived in Los Palos, but was village head of four villages: Taimoho, Raca, Souro and Muapitine (I think she mentioned others and these are all approximations of the spelling). Her mother-in-law (Joao Bosco's mother) was the sister of the liurai of Ainaro, Antonio Magno. The bupati of Ainaro used to be an illiterate Apodeti man named Moises Amaral who had been the liurai of Vintura. He fled to Los Palos. (?) The present bupati of Lautem is Claudio Vieira, also an Apodeti man. The head of the DPRD in Los Palos is Luis Monteiro, a UDT man, who was with the army in Aileu (trope). At the time of the UDT-Fretilin confrontation, he fled to Kupang. Jose Monteiro surrendered in Bibileu in 1978. He was an administrador posto, died in Ainaro.

She said something about raids every day and bombings in the area around Los Palos.