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Shane Stone, left, with his mother Pam and brother Terry. Mr Stone said the family was traumatised by Terry's murder.

## Brother of Liberal Party head stabbed to death in East Timor

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DILI

Liberal Party national president Shane Stone was in mourning yesterday with his family after the murder of his brother Terry in East Timor on Monday night.

Terry Stone, 44, was attacked and stabbed outside his home in Dili, where he had met and become engaged to an East Timorese woman, Berta Soares, 30.

United Nations police have arrested and charged Ms Soares' former husband and her brother with Mr Stone's murder.

Police Commissioner Luis Carrilho said the men were being held in the Dili district police

station and had made confessions.

Mr Carrilho said the murder was a "crime of passion".

Mr Stone and Ms Soares had been romantically involved for about eight months but close friends told *The Age* the woman's husband had refused to accept the relationship. Ms Soares had been separated from her husband for more than three years.

Shane Stone, who has unrelated business interests in East Timor, said his family was traumatised by the murder and the subsequent police description of the murder as a "crime of passion".

"This was no bar girl — my brother was not some man running amok in Asia," Mr Stone said. "This was a man making plans to marry,

settle down and make a life with an East Timorese lady — she was divorced and they were going to build a future together."

Terry Stone had lived in East Timor for two years. He was branch manager of sewage disposal company Wastemaster, a Northern Territory-based arm of Brambles.

He had recently brought Ms Soares to Darwin to introduce her to his family.

Mr Stone said preliminary reports suggested his brother had been stabbed in the back outside his home in the company's Dili compound, where he was found by workmates and taken to a United Nations hospital, where he later died.

"He was one of those fellows

who had a heart of gold," Mr Stone said.

"He was a bloke who it was a privilege to know — he was a good tradesman and a thoroughly decent man," he said.

Terry Stone had moved to East Timor from Albury, where he had separated from his first wife after building a career there as a solid plasterer.

His murder is the latest violent incident against a foreign national in Dili, but Mr Stone said his brother would be horrified if the people of East Timor were blamed for his death.

"He never regretted going to Dili — for him it was a fresh start, a new beginning," Mr Stone said.