

SITUATION REVIEW – MARCH 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ Fewest incidents recorded since July 2015
- ▶ Rama Ambon (slingshot arrow) attacks continue in Dili
- ▶ PNTL personnel victims of attacks in three incidents

Fewest incidents recorded since July 2015

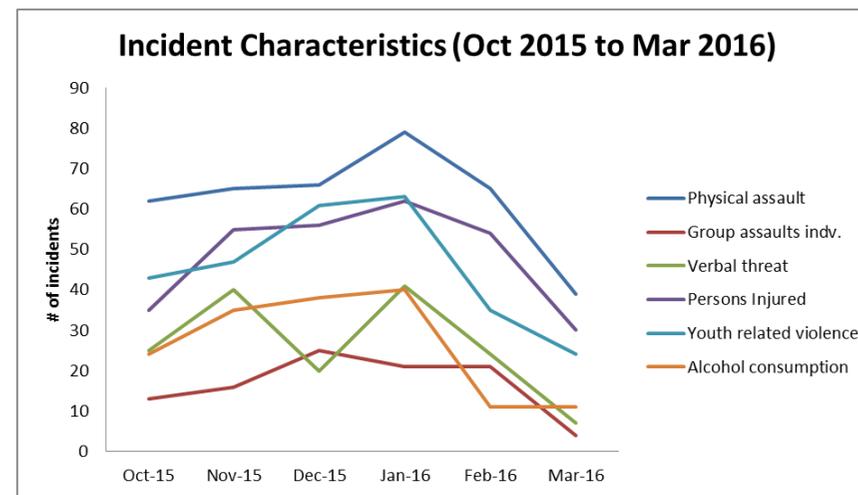
In March, Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 101 violent incidents, which is fewest recorded since July 2015 (90 incidents). The graphic on the right hand side of the page shows a reduction in certain types of incidents in March, and an especially notable reduction in alcohol-related violence in February and March, a time during which the consumption of locally made palm wine usually decreases due to increased agricultural activity. Furthermore, many people abstain from alcohol in the five weeks ahead of the Easter celebration, which this year fell at the end of March. Police also increased patrolling during Easter weekend, which may have also had an effect in suppressing violence.

Rama Ambon (slingshot arrow) attacks continue in Dili

In February, the EWER system recorded 10 incidents perpetrated by unknown people, 7 of which were Rama Ambon (slingshot arrows) attacks in Dili. In March this trend continued, with three incidents perpetrated by unknown people using rocks and Rama Ambon in and around the same areas of Dili that experienced the attacks in February. These incidents create panic in the affected communities and prevent people from moving around or sitting on their veranda freely during the nighttime.

The most serious incident in March occurred during a nighttime Easter Mass on 26 March outside the Aimutin Church in Dili, when an unknown person fired a slingshot arrow at a youth attending the mass, killing him on the spot. In another incident in Comoro Suku (village) on 8 March, a youth was watching television on his veranda when he was shot by a

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in March 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	3
Ainaru	2
Baukau	7
Bobonaru	3
Covalima	5
Dili	38
Ermera	9
Lautein	3
Likisá	11
Manatutu	1
Manufahi	8
Oekusi	2
Vikeké	9
Totál	101



Rama Ambon and gravely injured. In the final incident, on 1 March, unknown perpetrators threw rocks at people leaving Timor Plaza at 3:40am in front of the Aimutin Church, hitting one man in the head and causing life-threatening injuries to his face.

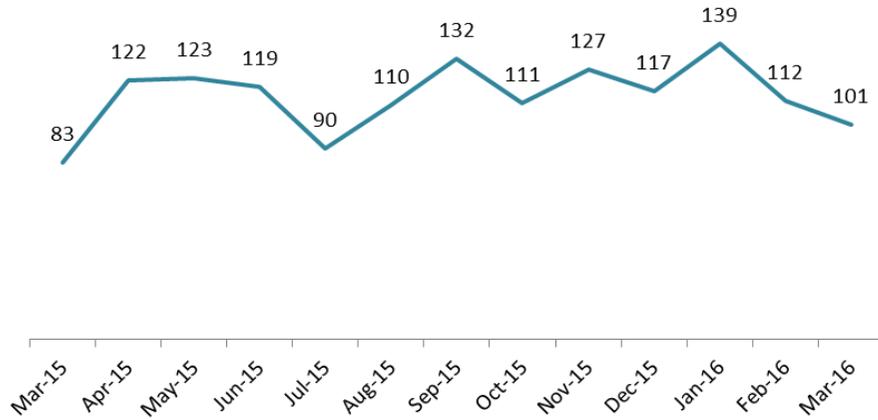
PNTL personnel victims of attacks in three incidents

Every month, the EWER system records at least a few violent incidents perpetrated by PNTL personnel. However, over the past two months, the difficult and sometimes dangerous role of the police has also been highlighted by three separate incidents in which PNTL personnel have been targets of violent attacks.

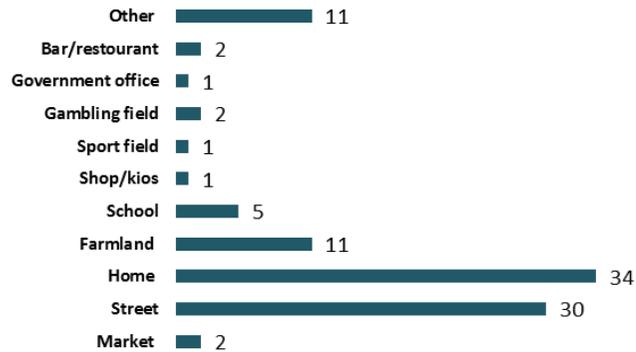
In the most notable incident, on 24 February in Metinaro Administrative Post, Dili Municipality, the uniformed 2nd Commander of the Metinaro PNTL Squadron was driving a private car when a youth waved for him to stop and told him that he had found a dead body in the forest near the road. The 2nd Commander went with the youth into the forest, where a group armed with knives and swords surrounded him, sliced up his clothes and robbed him of \$100 and his telephone. In another incident on 11 February inside the PNTL post in Dato, Likisá Municipality, a man attacked a PNTL member because of a private land dispute and seriously injured her arm. On 13 March in Becora suku, Dili, a group of intoxicated youth stopped a uniformed member of the PNTL's Public Order Battalion (BOP) as he was returning from work and beat him badly, causing him to fall off of his motorbike and injure his hands and legs.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

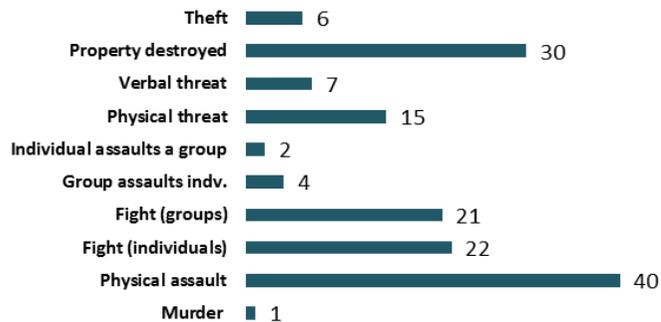
Monthly incident totals: Mar 2015-Mar 2016



Incident location



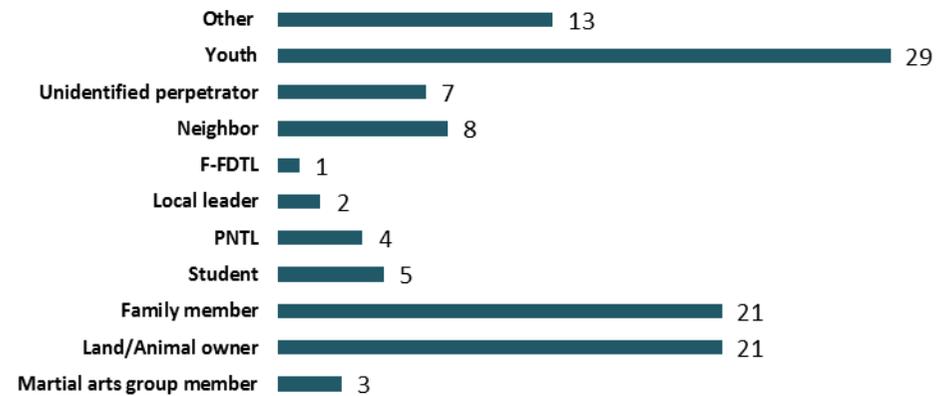
Incident Type



Weapon Used



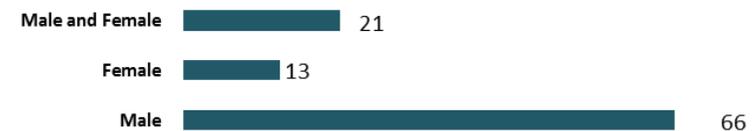
Who Initiated the Incident?



Gender of Initiator(s)



Gender of Victim(s)



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) team:

- ▶ On 28 March, the team participated in a workshop about the rights of prisoners along with the Ministry of Justice, the Provedor for Human Rights, Caritas Australia, HAK, HDS and other stakeholders. Belun’s work conducting cultural ceremonies to resolve local conflicts was cited as an important accompaniment to the formal justice system – one that effectively eases tensions that the formal justice system cannot, thereby easing prisoner reintegration.

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ On 15 March, the CPSP team and EWER teams facilitated a *Nahe Biti Boot* cultural ceremony, which re-established peace between families involved in a serious incident on 30 December 2015, which resulted in two deaths and six houses destroyed. The successful peacemaking ceremony was attended by representatives from Belun, local authorities, community leaders, veterans, the PNTL, the local Community Policing Council, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the local Conflict Prevention and Response Network.
- ▶ On 17 March, the team facilitated a quarterly meeting of the Manufahi Municipal Security Council to evaluate the work of the Community Policing Councils in the municipality over the past three months. The meeting was organized by the Manufahi PNTL Community Policing Unit and supported technically by Belun and the Asia Foundation.

By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution team:

- ▶ In March, the team worked with the Department of Land, Property and Cadastral Services to mediate two land disputes in Bobonaro Municipality. One dispute was resolved successfully, while the other was referred to the formal judicial system as no agreement was reached.

ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This situation review reports on violent incidents and trends in Timor-Leste that were identified by Belun’s Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) monitoring system in 43 of Timor-Leste’s 65 Administrative Posts in March 2016. Descriptions of all incidents recorded by the EWER system can be found at: www.belun.crowdmap.com. Belun strives to share up-to-date and verified information. Considering that situations change rapidly, we appreciate receiving information to clarify or update our EWER monitoring data.

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