

SITUATION REVIEW – MAY 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ **Fourteen incidents linked to Restoration of Independence celebrations**
- ▶ **PNTL personnel assault F-FDTL soldier**
- ▶ **Unusually high incident totals in Lautein and Vikéké Municipalities**

Fourteen incidents linked to Restoration of Independence celebrations

In May, Belun's Early Warning, Early Response system recorded 123 violent incidents, 14 of which occurred during or in connection with celebrations to mark the Restoration of Independence on May 20th. Celebrations typically include football matches, cultural ceremonies, exhibitions, concerts and flag-raising ceremonies.

Many incidents occurred during the celebrations themselves, while others were recorded during preparations. The most serious incident occurred in Zulo Suko (village), Zumalai Administrative Post, Covalima Municipality, which resulted in the death of a young man. The young man was struck in the forehead by a rock during fighting at a cultural ceremony between youth from different villages. Another serious incident occurred in Maina II village, in Lautein Administrative Post, when police interrupted a flag-raising ceremony being held by a group called *Uniaun Juventude Maubere (UNIJMA)*, which the police considered to be illegal. The police arrested 12 members of the UNIJMA group and kicked and hit a woman with a stick when she refused to stop filming the police action.

PNTL personnel assault F-FDTL soldier

On 13 May in Balibar Suku in Dili, a serious incident occurred between members of the PNTL's Special Unit (UEP) and an F-FDTL soldier. The motorbike of the soldier was parked

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in May 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	5
Ainaro	10
Baukau	8
Bobonaro	2
Covalima	6
Dili	42
Ermera	6
Lautein	11
Likisa	2
Manatuto	4
Manufahi	7
Oekusi	3
Vikéké	17
Totál	123

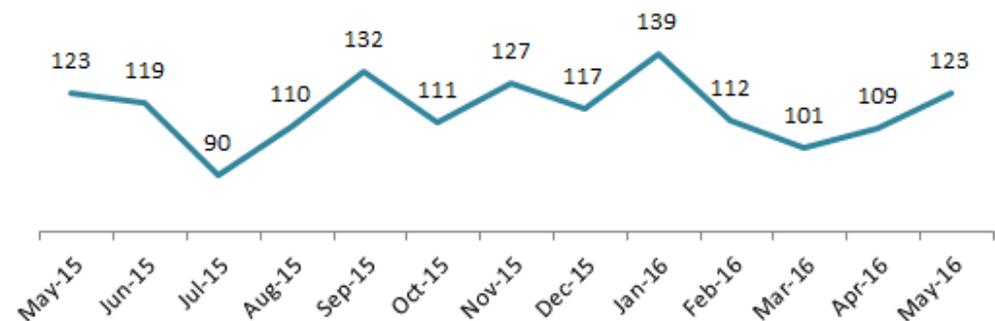
on the side of the road in Balibar Suku, Dili Municipality, and was blocking a UEP truck from making a turn. A misunderstanding about whether the soldier would move the motorbike led to UEP members exiting their vehicle and punching him. The soldier, who was in civilian clothing, then declared himself to be a member of the F-FDTL, which allegedly intensified the attack. As a result, the soldier was badly injured and needed to be taken to hospital. The attack garnered a strong reaction from Brigadier General Filomeno Paixão on television on 16 May, during which he accused the UEP members of trying to sour relations between the PNTL and F-FDTL. The PNTL and F-FDTL have since established an ongoing joint investigation into the incident.

Unusually high incident totals in Lautein and Vikéké Municipalities

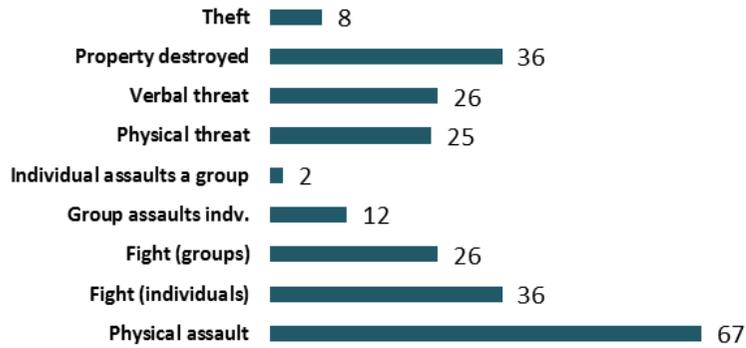
The EWER system recorded an unusually high number of incidents in Lautein and Vikéké municipalities in May. In Vikéké, 17 incidents were recorded – the most incidents that the EWER system has ever recorded in Vikéké in a single month – including land disputes, alcohol-triggered violence, rock-throwing and theft and destruction of property. In Lautein, 11 incidents were recorded (more than double the monthly average over the past year), which included youth violence and one incident between supporters of rival political parties.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

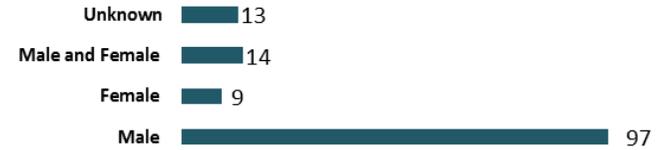
Monthly incident totals: May 2015-May 2016



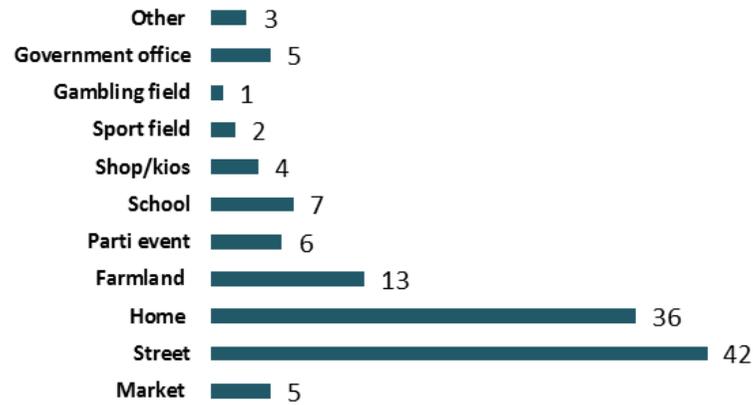
Incident Type



Gender of Initiator(s)



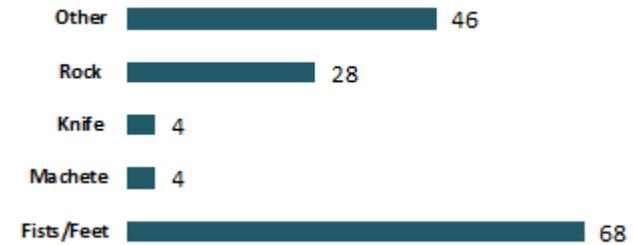
Incident location



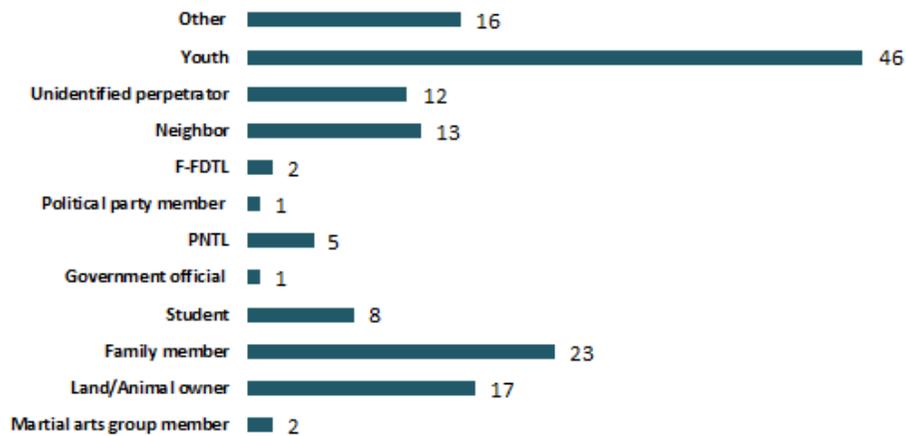
Gender of Victim(s)



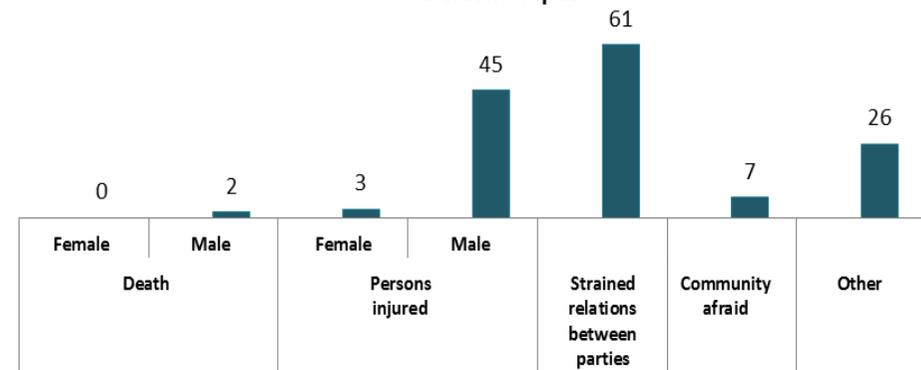
Weapon Used



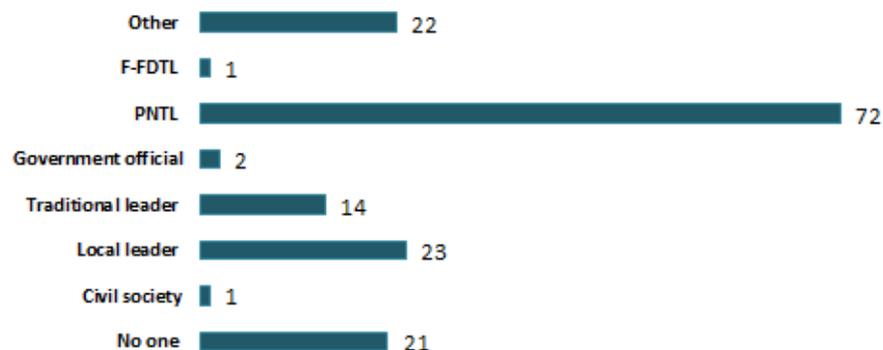
Who Initiated the Incident?



Incident Impact



Who Responded to the incident?



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

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

- ▶ On 24 May, with the support of the EWER team, the Conflict Prevention and Response Network in Hatolia Administrative Post (Zone B) held a socialization of the land ownership law in Urahou Village, Ermera Municipality for 300 community members. The purpose of the socialization was to prevent future land dispute-related violence, which is common in the area.

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ On 23 May, with the support of the CPSP team, the Fatucahi Village Community Policing Council in Manufahi Municipality socialized the land ownership law to increase community members' knowledge about the correct process for the determination of land ownership in order to reduce land disputes in the village.
- ▶ On 25 May, with the support of the CPSP team, the Leotela Village Community Policing Council in Likisa Municipality held a peace activity to reduce tension and increase social cohesion between two families after Martial Arts Group violence in February left one person dead.

By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution (LMDR) team:

- ▶ On 17 May, the Belun team met with the Director of the National Department for Land, Property and Cadastral Services at the Ministry of Justice to follow-up a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would formalize and improve coordination between the two institutions when conducting land dispute mediations. The proposed MoU is now being studied by the National Directorate.

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 May 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.

For more information or to report an incident, please contact:

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