

SITUATION REVIEW – AUGUST 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ **High incident totals in Aileu, Baukau and Ermera; serious incidents between PNTL and F-FDTL**
- ▶ **Disputes over access to clean water reach new high**
- ▶ **After quiet July, 23 land incidents in August**

High incident totals in Aileu, Baukau and Ermera; serious incidents between PNTL and F-FDTL

Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 134 violent incidents in August, including unusually high totals in Aileu, Baukau and Ermera. Over the past three months, Belun's monitors in Baukau have recorded 42 total incidents, including 18 fights between youth, which is a high total for a three-month period in the municipality. Ermera has likewise witnessed an increase in the number of incidents recorded over the past three months (36 total), including 16 youth fights. Nine incidents were also recorded in Aileu in August; a significant increase compared to an average of only 3.9 incidents per month over the past year.

Two serious incidents involving the PNTL and F-FDTL were also recorded in August. On 20 August in Maliana Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality, an intoxicated member of the F-FDTL fought a member of the PNTL's Public Order Battalion (BOP). In another incident on 26 August in Ainaru Villa Administrative Post, Ainaru Municipality, an intoxicated PNTL commander in Mulo Suku (not a Community Police Officer, which was mistakenly reported in Belun's Alert on 29 August) shot an F-FDTL soldier in civilian clothing, injuring him seriously in the stomach.

Disputes over access to clean water reach new high

The EWER system recorded nine incidents related to water access – the highest monthly total since Belun started monitoring violence in 2009. Three such incidents were recorded in Dili, including two in Atauro, after community members cut a water pipe to prevent a different community from accessing scarce water. In the other Dili incident, in Lahane

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in August 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	9
Ainaru	9
Baukau	14
Bobonaru	6
Covalima	4
Dili	35
Ermera	14
Lautein	6
Likisá	9
Manatutu	9
Manufahi	4
Oekusi	9
Vikeké	6
Totál	134

Occidental, Vera Cruz Administrative Post, an unknown person destroyed a water pipe, which prevented residents in one area from accessing sufficient water. Suku Maina II in Lautein Municipality was the scene of two water-related disputes, which resulted from community members ignoring agreed upon rules for the distribution of scarce water resources.

Two incidents were also recorded at water sources in Laclo Administrative Post and Manatuto Administrative Post in Manatuto Municipality, in which people quarreled after waiting a long time for water. Also, in Estada Suku, Ermera Municipality, two youth fought over access to water for cleaning coffee beans. Finally, in Hatukesi Suku, Likisa Municipality, community members assaulted a person who destroyed a water pipe.

After quiet July, 23 land incidents in August

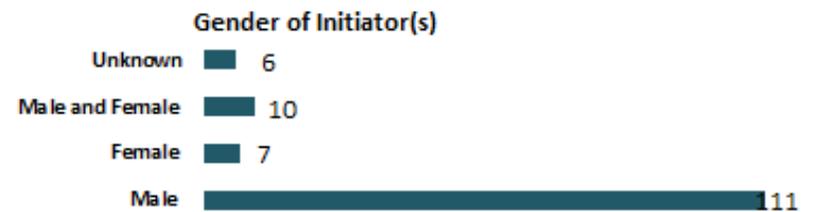
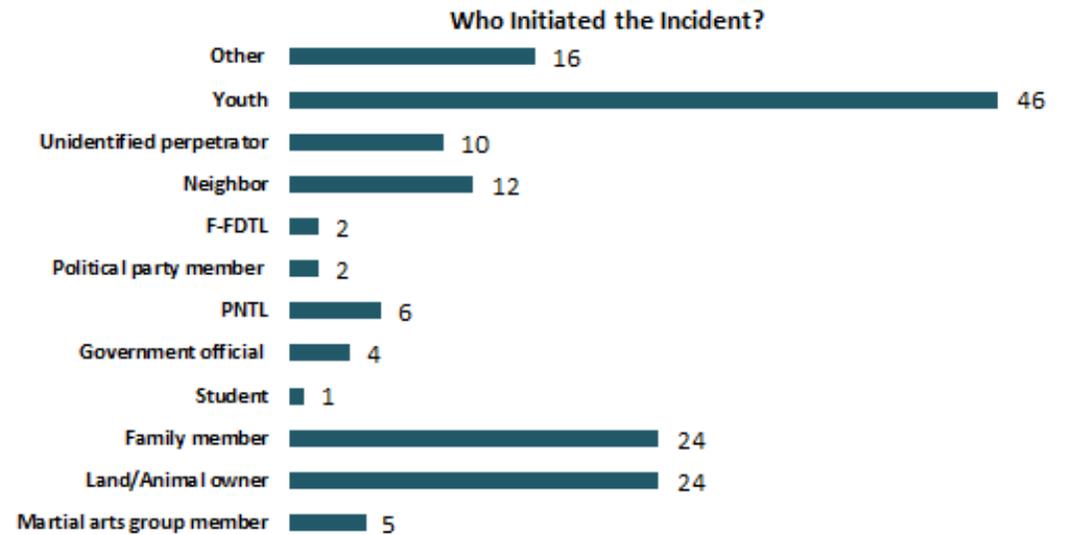
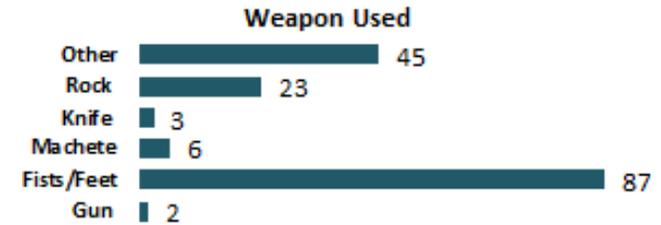
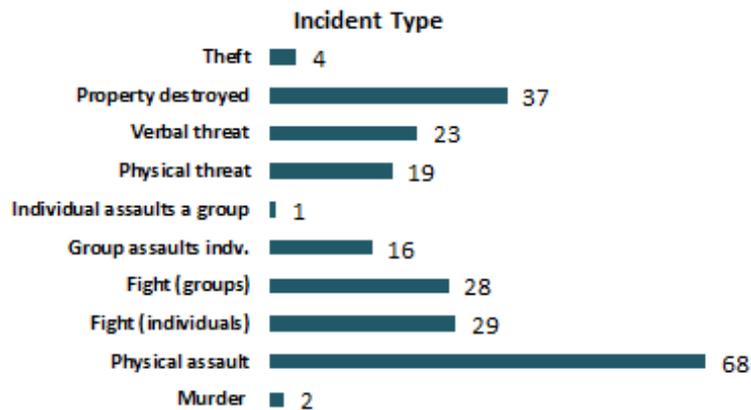
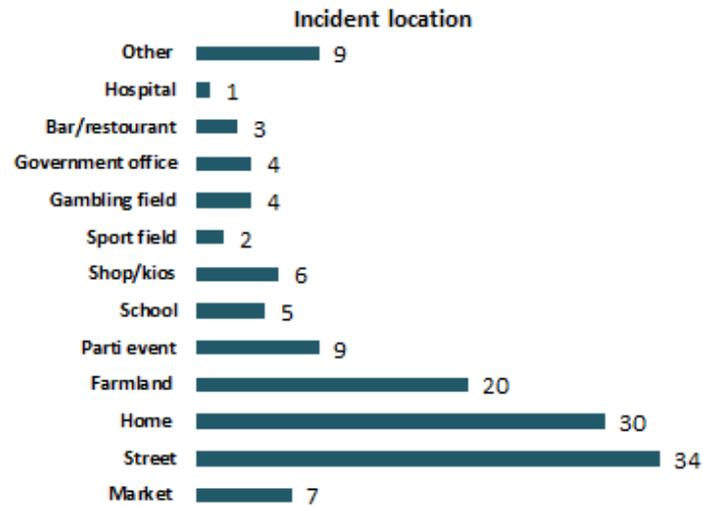
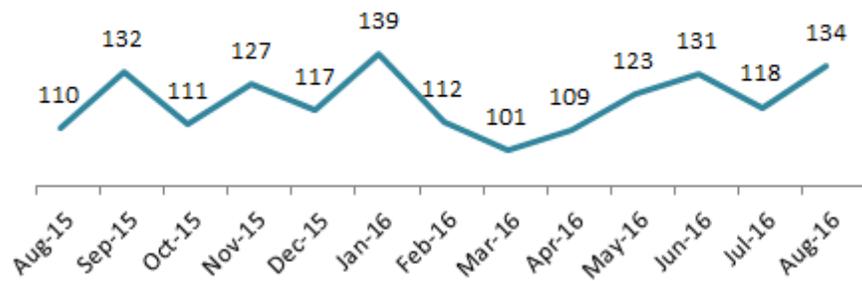
In July, the EWER system only recorded seven land-related incidents – a low total that could be linked to the fact that people typically do not spend much time in their fields during the dry season. In August however, despite also being a dry month, 23 land-related incidents were recorded.

Three main types of land-related incidents were prevalent in August: disputes about tree cutting for construction purposes (a dry season activity), disputes about land for coffee-picking in Ainaru and Ermera, and disputes resulting from the land surveying activities of the Ministry of Justice's *Sistema Nasionál Cadastral* (SNC) in Oekusi and Manatuto. In sum, there were:

- 5 incidents in Likisa: 3 related to disputes about ancestral land and 2 related to wood cutting for house construction;
- 5 incidents in Oekusi: 3 related to SNC activities and 2 related to disputes about construction of houses on agricultural land;
- 3 incidents in Ainaru: 2 linked to coffee plantation border disagreements and 1 about wood cutting;
- 3 incidents in Manatutu: 2 about wood cutting and 1 related to SNC activities;
- 2 incidents in Dili: 1 related to government road construction and 1 about land that was to be used for commercial purposes;
- 1 incident in Aileu related to borders of agricultural land, 1 in Baukau related to animal trespassing, 1 in Ermera related to coffee plantation borders, and 1 in Vikeké related to wood cutting.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Monthly incident totals: August 2015-August 2016



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- On 2 August, the Community Policing Council in Duyung, Dili Municipality mediated a dispute about an accusation of witchcraft. As a result, the disputants reconciled and, based on an existing traditional law, signed a peace agreement. The activity was supported by Belun, The Asia Foundation and the Embassy of New Zealand.

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

- On 23 August, the team published an Alert and held a press conference about the 19 slingshot arrow incidents that were recorded in Dili from January to July 2016, in which 2 people died and 15 people were seriously injured. There were no such incidents in August.
- On 25 August, the team met with the PNTL General Commander to reinforce collaboration and seek a cooperation letter that will allow PNTL members in the field to share information with Belun's field staff and monitors.
- On 29 August, the team released an Alert about a PNTL member who shot an F-FDTL member in Ainaru on 26 August. The Alert made several recommendations: 1. Punish the perpetrator transparently to serve as a deterrent, 2. Reassure the public by regularly and clearly communicating actions taken to prosecute the case, and 3. Develop good relations between the two institutions through collaborative humanitarian service activities.

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

- On 23 August, the team cooperated with the Bobonaro Municipality Department of Land, Property and Cadastral Services to mediate a land dispute in Holsa Suku, Maliana Administrative Post. The two disputants were unable to come to an agreement, so the mediation will continue at future sessions.

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 August 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:

Marilia O. da Costa, EWER Program Manager: bylah.belun@gmail.com

Laurensius Lein, Conflict Prevention and Policy Specialist: laurensius.belun@gmail.com

