

## SITUATION REVIEW – SEPTEMBER 2016

### Issues to watch

- ▶ **Surge in Martial Arts-related incidents in Dili**
- ▶ **Political disputes increase in run-up to Village Elections**
- ▶ **Water disputes remain prevalent**

#### Surge in Martial Arts-related incidents in Dili

In September, Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 134 violent incidents, including 13 that were perpetrated by members of Martial Arts Groups (MAGs), an increase from the average over the past year of 4.5 such incidents per month.

Eleven of the thirteen incidents occurred in Dili. Four occurred over four nights in early September in Zerotres Hamlet, Mascarinhas Village, Vera Cruz Administrative Post, in which young men threw rocks and fought each other, resulting in homes being damaged and the community feeling panicked. Two similar incidents were recorded in Mate-la-hotu Hamlet, Comoro Village which also led to homes and cars being damaged. Two incidents in Lauloran Hamlet, Bairru-Pite Village originated as water disputes and resulted in two MAG members suffering serious injuries and two suffering minor injuries. Two homes and three motorbikes were also set alight in the incident. Finally, three related incidents between rival MAGS over three days in Golgata Hamlet, Comoro Village resulted in one serious injury as a result of slingshot arrow, one police officer being hit in the head by a rock, two less serious injuries, and property damage.

One incident in Laga, Baukau Municipality originated as a land dispute but involved members of martial arts groups fighting on either side of the dispute. The final incident was recorded in Letefoho, Ermera Municipality, in which a physical altercation between two men from different Martial Arts Group then escalated into a larger group fight that pitted community members from one village against another village.

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in September 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	8
Ainaru	9
Baukau	13
Bobonaru	8
Covalima	3
Dili	49
Ermera	10
Lautein	1
Likisá	13
Manatutu	3
Manufahi	3
Oekusi	7
Vikéké	7
<b>Totál</b>	<b>134</b>

### Political disputes increase in run-up to Village Elections

In September, two incidents were recorded that could be connected to the upcoming Village Chief Elections. In Uatulari Administrative Post, Vikéké, a group of youths who disagreed with the committee selected to administer the election in their Village – as no members were included from their own political party – threw rocks at the Village Office and Health Centre, causing damage. A similar incident occurred in Horaiik Village, Maubisse Administrative Post, Ainaro, when community members who disagreed that the current Village Chief should be permitted to run for re-election quarreled with the members of the Village Council.

Six other incidents were the result of political disputes unrelated to the Village Elections. In Likisá, three incidents were recorded (2 in Bazartete and 1 in Maubara) in which groups of men who were consuming alcohol together argued about the political parties that they supported and then physically assaulted each other. In Atauro, a woman fled from her brother after he saw her attending a political party event. She feared he would attack her, because he supported a different party. In Maina II Village, Lautein, community members argued about the process being used by a political party to select its leaders. In Laga Administrative Post, Baukau Municipality at a political party consolidation event, two youths wearing t-shirts from a different political party were physically assaulted.

#### Water disputes remain prevalent

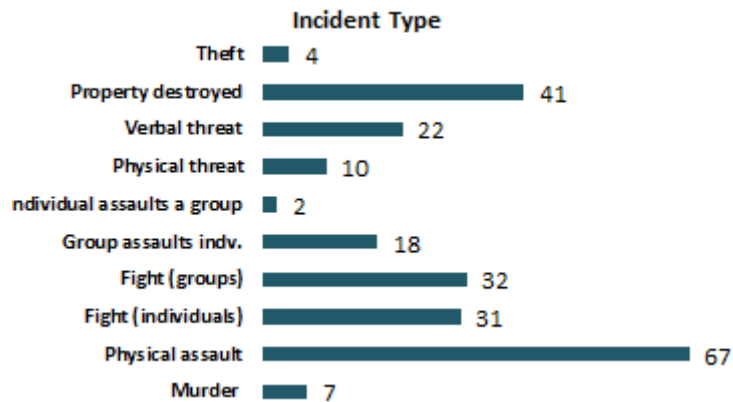
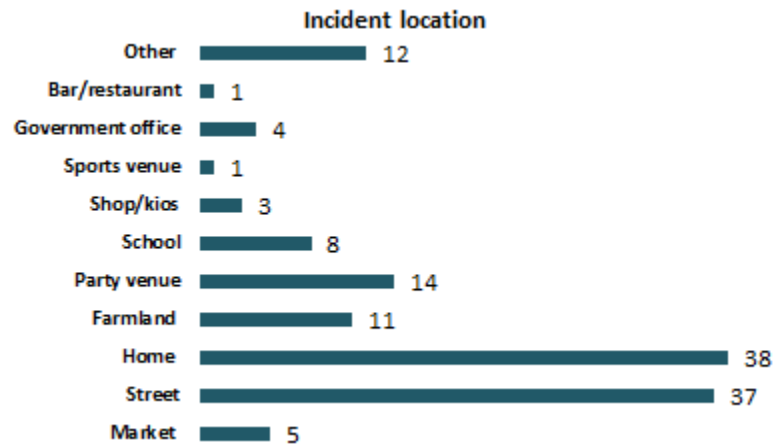
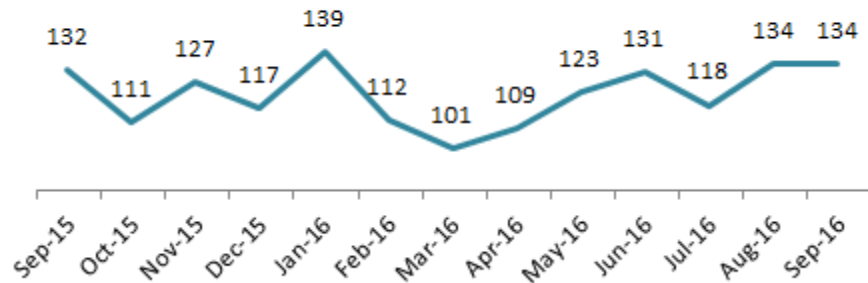
As in August, the EWER system recorded 9 incidents related to disputes about access to fresh water in September, an exceptional increase from an average of only 2.9 incidents per month over the past year.

Four water-related incidents were recorded in Dili, including one in Lahane Occidental in which a group of women attacked another woman after she took too long at a communal water pump. In Benunuk Hamlet, Metinaro Administrative Post, community members destroyed a water canal to monopolize water access in the area. The two Martial Arts disputes in Lauloran Hamlet, Bairru-Pite Village, Dili (mentioned in a previous section) also originated as water disputes before escalating.

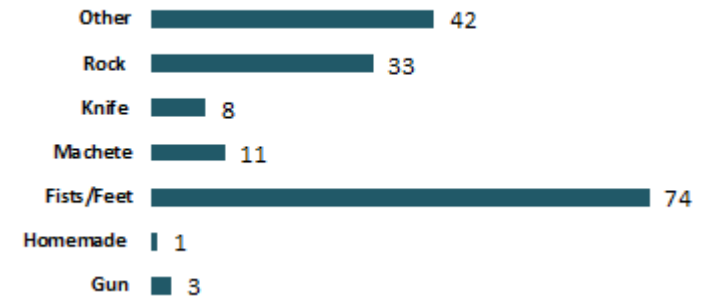
Two incidents in Vemassee Administrative Post, Baucau, were initiated after a man wasted scarce water on cleaning his feet, which caused a different man to attack him. The incident escalated the next day when the men and their families continued to fight each other. In Oesilo, Oekusi, two incidents were recorded in which groups of women argued and fought over scarce water. A similar incident was also recorded in Saulidung Village, Manatutu.

## INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

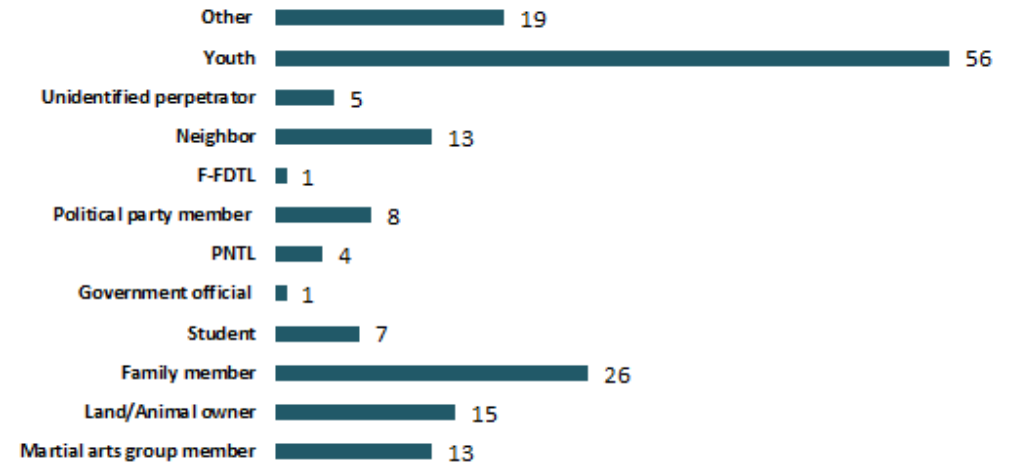
Monthly incident totals: Setember 2015-Setember 2016



Weapon Used



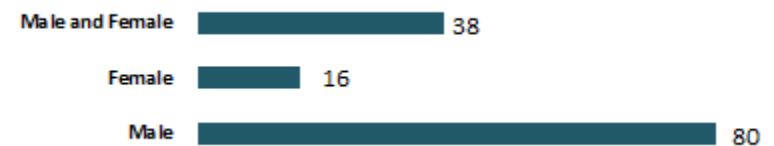
Who Initiated the Incident?



Gender of Initiator(s)



Gender of Victim(s)



## CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

### By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- On 15 September and 20 September, Women's Community Policing Councils in Manufahe and Covalima Municipalities held trimestral meetings to share information about security issues that affect women and discuss potential responses.

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

- On 23 September, the team met with the Vice Minister of Education to share information about violence recorded in schools and among school-aged children, and establish an information-sharing mechanism between Belun and the Ministry of Education about such incidents.
- On 27 September, the team met with the National Commander of Community Policing at PNTL Headquarters to reinforce cooperation between EWER monitors and the Village Police Officers and to ensure that community police have permission to share information about incidents with Belun staff.
- On 28 September, the team met with the National Directorate for Community Conflict Prevention (DNCCP) at the Ministry of the Interior to reinforce cooperation between Belun monitors and DNPCC focal points in the field and discuss measures to support the 43 EWER Conflict Prevention and Response Networks across the country.
- On 29 September, the team met with the Minister of Justice to share information about land disputes.

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

- On 15 and 16 September, the team facilitated a land mediation and dispute resolution training session for 10 young people (6 females and 4 males) in Manatutu Vila.
- The team conducted two mediations in Tirilolo Village, Baukau Municipality and Maliana, Bobonaro Municipality, in which disputants requested to put the mediation on hold until they were able to, respectively, consult with their families and improve relations between disputants before mediation continued.

## 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 September 2016. Descriptions of all incidents recorded by the EWER system can be found at: [www.belun.crowdmap.com](http://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](mailto:bylah.belun@gmail.com)

**Laurensius Lein**, Conflict Prevention and Policy Specialist: [laurensius.belun@gmail.com](mailto:laurensius.belun@gmail.com)

