



SITUATION REVIEW – NOVEMBER 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ **24 incidents related to the second round of local elections**
- ▶ **15 Martial Arts Group-related incidents, including 4 slingshot arrow attacks in Dili**
- ▶ **Eight incidents perpetrated by state security actors**

24 incidents related to the second round of the local elections

In November, Belun’s Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 122 violent incidents, including 24 that were related to the second round of the local elections. These incidents were recorded in Dili (7), Covalima (5), Likisá (4), Ermera (2), Aileu (1), Baukau (1), Bobonaro (1), Lautein (1), Oekusi (1) and Vikéké (1).

Nine violent incidents involved groups of opposing supporters provoking each other before and during voting, five occurred as a result of suspected irregularities and ten were related to supporters of losing candidates not accepting or being upset with the results of the elections.

Of these incidents, 14 involved physical violence – including group fighting, rock-throwing at voting centers and candidates’ homes, machete attacks, and attacks on vehicles. The 10 other incidents were verbally violent, and involved arguments, insults and threats.

14 Martial Arts Group-related incidents, including 4 slingshot arrow attacks in Dili

Fourteen incidents linked to members of Martial Arts Groups (MAGs) were recorded in November. Though this figure was lower than in October, when 20 such incidents were recorded, it is nearly double the monthly average over the past year. Ten of the November incidents occurred in Dili, including:

- Three incidents in Bebonuk, which resulted in one young man being killed by a slingshot arrow, one young man being stabbed in the hand, and a number of cars and homes being severely damaged by rock throwing and fighting between rival groups;

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in November 2016

Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	3
Ainaru	7
Baukau	11
Bobonaru	11
Covalima	7
Dili	42
Ermera	7
Lautein	6
Likisá	9
Manatutu	5
Manufahi	7
Oekusi	3
Vikéké	4
Totál	122

- Three incidents in Lahane Oriental, which resulted in 7 houses being damaged by rock throwing and one young man being seriously injured in the hand by a machete.
- Three incidents in Hera, which resulted in three serious injuries, five homes being razed and three motorbikes being damaged.
- One incident in Fatuhada in which a MAG member was physically assaulted and his motorbike was destroyed when he entered another MAG’s territory;

Four of the above incidents included the use of slingshot arrows including the one described above that resulted in one young man being killed. The other three incidents were as follows:

- In Sao Miguel hamlet, in front of the Aimutin Church, an unknown person on a white Mio Beat motorbike shot a young man, injuring him badly in the leg;
- In the same hamlet, an unknown person on a red Mio Beat motorbike shot a young man in the leg;
- In Fomentu II hamlet, a young man was shot in the backside by an unknown person as he was returning from work.

In Baukau Vila, three MAG-related incidents resulted in two houses being damaged. In Likisá, one incident in Tibar village resulted in a person being struck and injured by a machete.

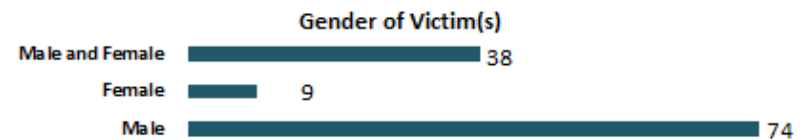
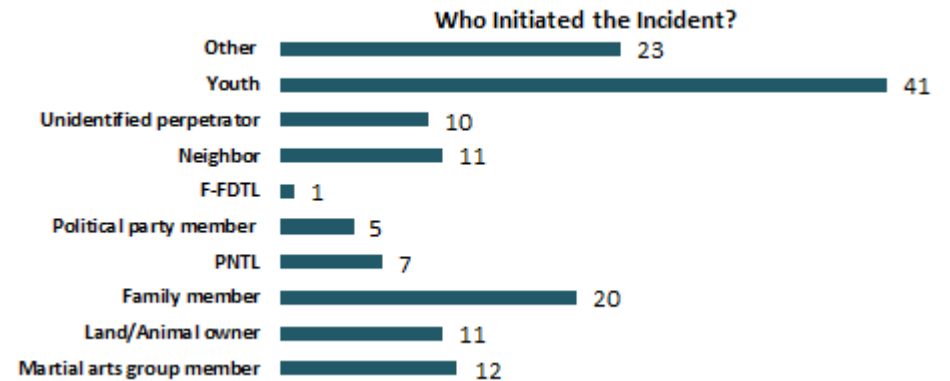
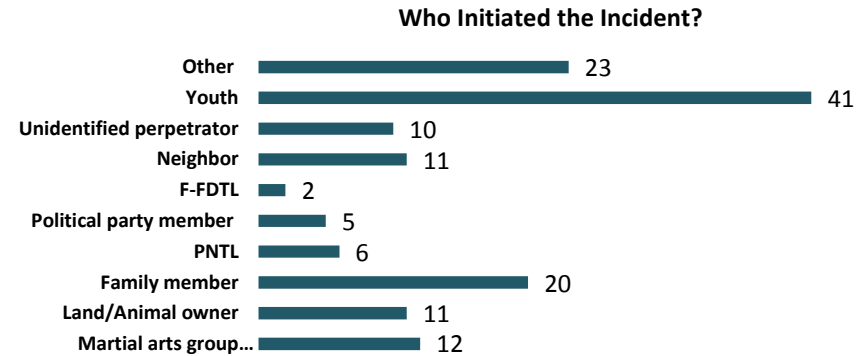
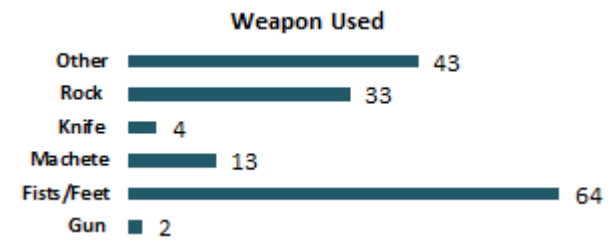
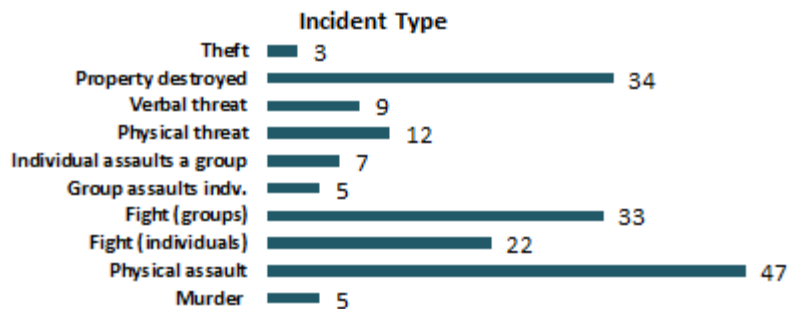
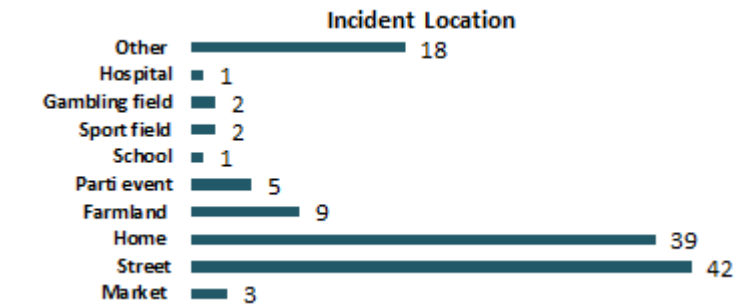
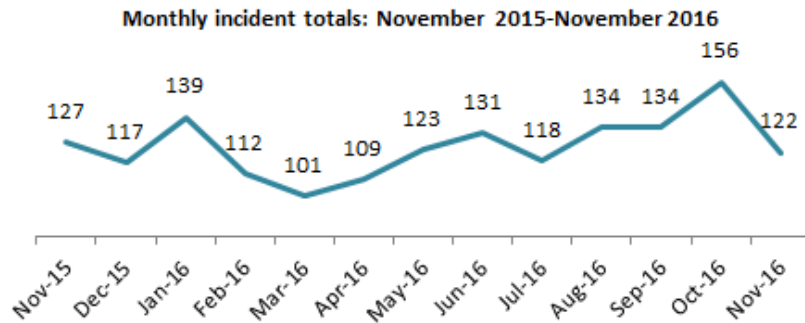
Eight incidents perpetrated by state security actors

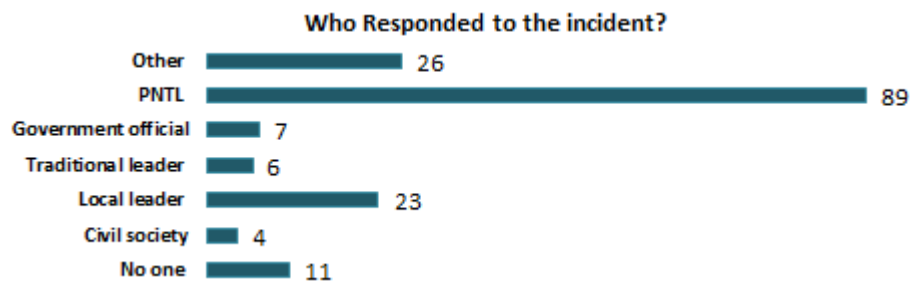
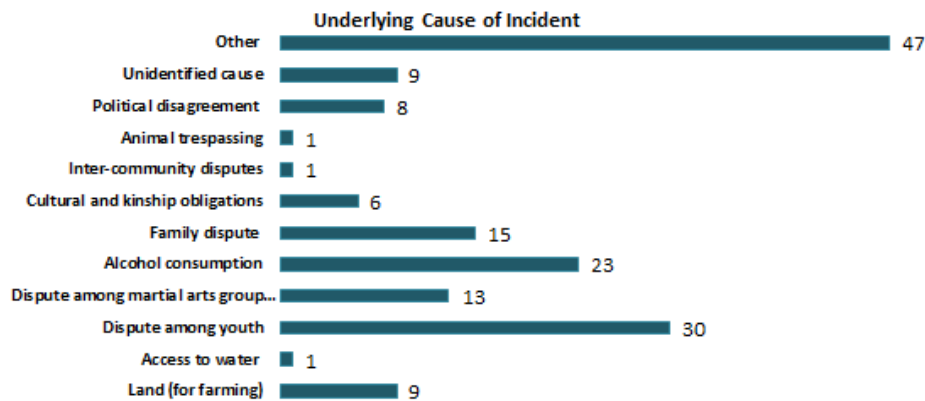
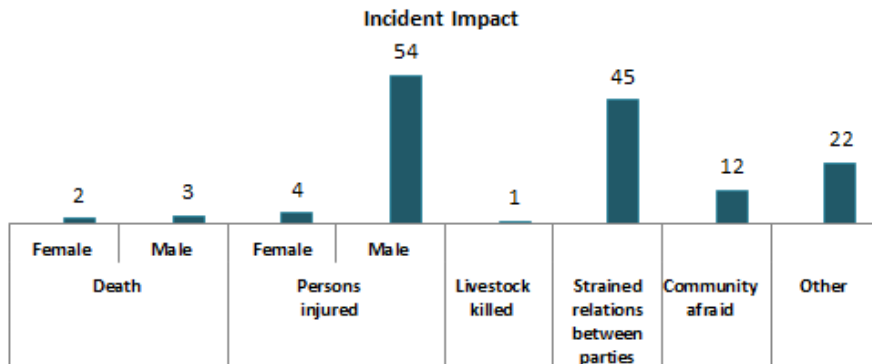
In November, the PNTL responded to 89 out of 122 incidents, or 73% of all incidents, which is an increase from an average of 57% of incidents responded to by PNTL over the past year. However, police (6) and military (2) personnel were also perpetrators of incidents in November.

Two incidents were perpetrated by PNTL personnel in Bobonaru: in one, a police officer shot in the air outside a hospital to try to coax a suspect out and in the other a police officer dragged a suspect out of a car and beat him badly. In Maubara, Likisá, a police officer allegedly mobilized community members to protest and take action against a newly-elected Village Chief. In Remexio, Aileu a police officer beat an intoxicated young man at a voting center. In Lahane Oriental, Dili, the police responded to one of the above-described MAG-related incidents, but a police officer was suspected by community members of being a perpetrator in the incident as well. In Debos, Suai, a police officer beat a youth until he was unconscious because he was driving a motorbike without a helmet.

There were also 2 incidents perpetrated by soldiers in Ataúro, Dili. In the first incident, an intoxicated youth on a motorbike hit an F-FDTL barricade, and a soldier then assaulted him with punches and kicks. Later, when F-FDTL personnel heard that the youth was telling his friends about what happened, they went to find him, brought him back to the F-FDTL post, and assaulted him again.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS





CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ The team facilitated regular Community Policing Council meetings in order to discuss the security situation and identify priority issues. Meetings were facilitated in Covalima (meetings in three villages), Dili (in three villages), Manufahi (in eight villages) and Vikéké (in two villages).

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

- ▶ On 25 November, Belun signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Election Commission to work together in monitoring for electoral violence during the 2017 national elections.

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

- ▶ The team facilitated a mediation in Balibo, Bobonaro Municipality, which was unsuccessful because the land occupants had been living on the property since 1984 and did not want to vacate the land to the landowner.

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 November 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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