



SITUATION REVIEW – DECEMBER 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ Fewer, but more serious, incidents in December compared to past months
- ▶ Alcohol-related incidents increase during holiday season
- ▶ Ten incidents linked to Martial Arts or Ritual Arts Groups

Fewer, but more serious, incidents in December compared to past months

Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 105 violent incidents in December, the lowest total since March. The reduction may be due to increased police patrolling during the holiday season and a joint police-Catholic Church ban on nativity scenes in some areas. In 2015, nativity scenes became focal points for drinking and fighting around Christmas day.

Despite a reduction in incidents overall in December compared to past months, 18 serious incidents were recorded, which represents an increase from the norm of between 4-7 such incidents per month over the past year.

In Dili there were 8 serious incidents: in Becora Village a group of youths with sharp weapons killed another youth. In Bairru-Pite Village an unknown person stabbed a youth to death as he returned from a party. In Comoro Village, unknown perpetrators on a motorbike slashed a youth who was walking in the street with a machete as they drove by. A similar incident occurred in Pantai Kelapa, Fatuhada Village. In a different part of Comoro Village, a man beat his wife and was then severely beaten by her family. In Becora Prison, a guard beat a prisoner until he had to be admitted to the national hospital. In Vila Verde Village, a woman sleeping in her house was struck in the arm by a bullet. Again in Bairru-Pite Village, three motorbikes were set alight by unknown actors.

In Manufahi 3 serious incidents were recorded: in Babula Village, Same Administrative Post a police officer beat a youth badly after the youth swore at him. In Holarua Village, Same Administrative Post, a group of youth attacked another youth with sharp weapons in his home, injuring him badly. In Clacuk Village, Fatuberliu Administrative Post a woman beat her younger sister in the head with rock after her younger sister swore at her.

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in December 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	2
Ainaru	4
Baukau	6
Bobonaru	3
Covalima	4
Dili	47
Ermera	7
Lautein	2
Likisá	8
Manatutu	2
Manufahi	12
Oekusi	2
Vikéké	6
Totál	105

Two serious incidents were recorded in Baukau: in Buibau Village, Baukau Administrative Post, two students stabbed each other in their school as they received exam results. In Ossoala Village, Vemasse Administrative Post, two intoxicated youths stabbed each other.

Two serious incidents perpetrated by police personnel occurred in Likisá: in Fahilebu Village, Bazartete Administrative Post, a police officer beat a youth badly over a private problem. Also in Bazartete, In Maumeta Village, two police officers fought each other at a party for the newly-elected village chief.

In Vikeké two serious incidents were recorded: in Caraubalo Village, Vikeké Administrative Post a man killed his younger brother with a machete while intoxicated. In Ossu Desima Village, Ossu Administrative Post one woman was partially buried alive in a large hole by another woman as revenge for a similar incident in November 2016. She was later rescued.

There was one serious incident in Balibo Village, Balibo Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality, in which a buffalo owner slashed a farmer with a machete after the farmer speared a buffalo that was trespassing in his field.

Alcohol-related incidents increase during holiday season

In December, EWER volunteer monitors recorded 42 incidents in which alcohol was a factor – an increase from an average of only 25.1 such incidents per month over the past year. Fifteen such incidents were recorded in Dili, 7 in Manufahi, 4 in Baukau, Ermera no Likisá, 2 in Bobonaro and Covalima, and 1 in each of Aileu, Lautein, Manatutu and Vikéké.

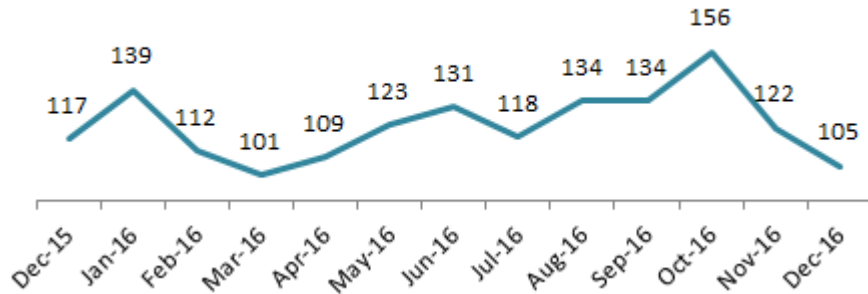
Ten incidents linked to Martial Arts or Ritual Arts Groups

The EWER system recorded at least 10 violent incidents that could be linked to Martial Arts Groups (MAGs) or Ritual Arts Groups (RAGs). This is a lower total than October and November, but Belun believes (though cannot confirm) that many more of the 105 incidents recorded in December were perpetrated by members of MAGs or RAGs.

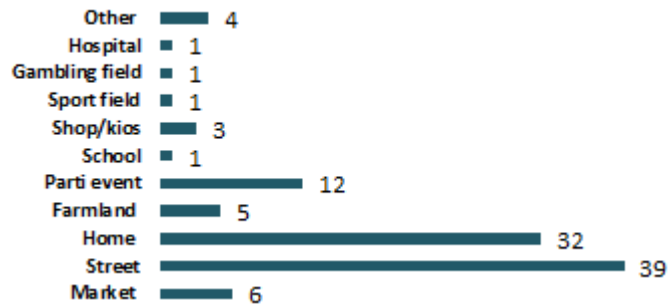
Seven of the ten incidents were recorded in Dili: in Bairru-Pite Village a RAG member threatened to kill a family and burn down their house, which led to rock throwing. In a different part of the same village two separate incidents were recorded in which GAM Members fought, threw rocks at and threatened each other with machetes. In Becora Village, a RAG member beat up a youth who was teasing him. In Fatuhada and Mascarinhas Village MAG members attacked and threw rocks at each other, frightening community members. Two incidents were recorded in Baukau: in Buibau Village, MAG members stabbed each other, as described above and in Tirilolo Village MAG members fought and destroyed a nativity scene. In Lauhata Village, Bazartete, Likisá, MAG members fought each other resulting in one injury.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

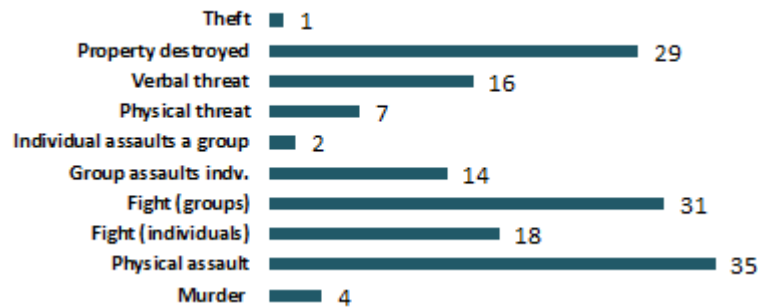
Monthly incident totals: December 2015-December 2016



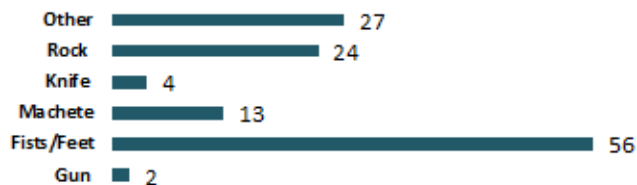
Incident location



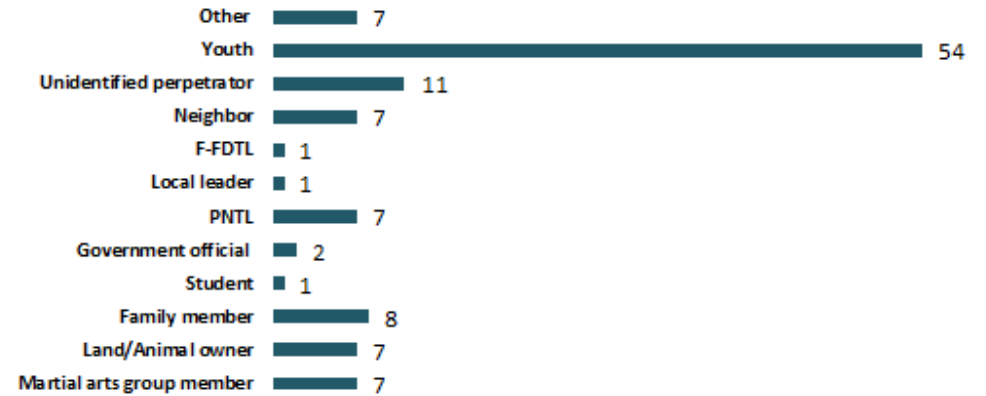
Incident Type



Weapon Used



Who Initiated the Incident?



Gender of Initiator(s)

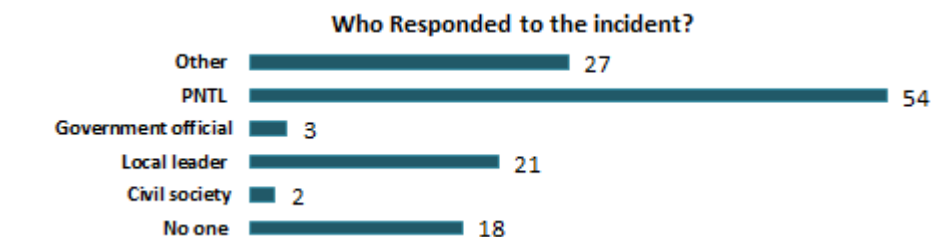
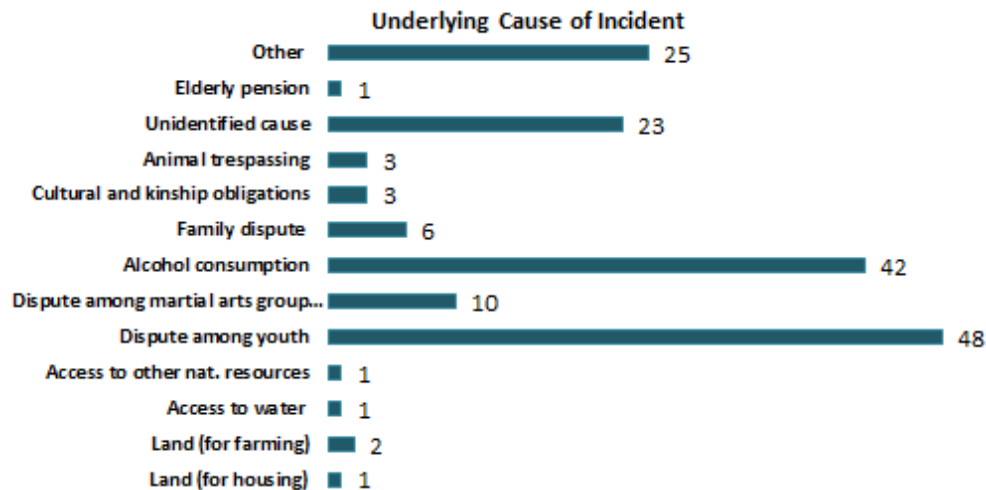


Gender of Victim(s)



Incident Impact





CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ The team and the PNTL co-organized Trimestral Meetings of the Woman Community Policing Councils in Covalima, Likisá and Manufahi and the Municipality Security Council in Manufahi. The team facilitated regular Community Policing Council meetings in Covalima (2 villages), Dili (3 villages), Likisá (2 villages), Manufahi (5 villages) and Vikeké (4 villages).

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

- ▶ On 5 and 6 December, the team received training from the National Election Commission and the Human Rights Ombudsman on monitoring for incidents of electoral violence during the 2017 elections.
- ▶ From 12-14 December, the team trained 86 EWER volunteer monitors on electoral violence monitoring.
- ▶ On 28 December, the team participated in a meeting organized by the Prime Minister's Office to debate the proposed law to criminalize the use of slingshot arrows and other sharp weapons used by Martial Arts and Ritual Arts Groups.

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

- ▶ On 13 December, Belun signed an agreement with UNDP to provide mediation services at Access to Justice Clinics in the Baukau and Covalima. Belun's Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution Team will work closely with the Public Defender's Office to implement the agreement.

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 December 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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