



SITUATION REVIEW – MAY 2017

ISSUES TO WATCH

- ▶ 134 violent incidents occurred in May, higher than the average of 127 per month
- ▶ Unemployed persons were recorded as the perpetrators of 36 incidents
- ▶ 29 violent incidents were fuelled by alcohol
- ▶ Martial Arts Group and Ritual Arts Group members were recorded as the perpetrators of 14 incidents, all involving conflict between the groups
- ▶ 5 serious violent incidents were recorded involving PNTL members, and 1 involving an F-FDTL member
- ▶ Families, neighbours and friends were largely recorded as responders to conflict in addition to the PNTL
- ▶ While the majority of violent incidents in May were perpetrated by men and targeted towards men, women were the victims of 13.43% of incidents.

134 VIOLENT INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN MAY, HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE OF 127 PER MONTH

In May, the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) System recorded a total of 134 incidents, with 31.1 % occurring in Dili. The data also showed that violent incidents increased significantly in the Special Economic Administrative Region of Oekusi-Ambeno (RAEOA) with a total of 14 incidents, compared to the average number of 7.1 in this region. EWER data suggests incidents increased in May for the following reasons.

- Unemployed persons were recorded as the perpetrators of 36 incidents, or 18.85%. 14 of these incidents occurred in Dili, 9 in Baukau, 6 in Vikeké, 4 in Bobonaru, 1 in Covalima, 1 in Manatutu and 1 in Manufahi. While the number this month is lower than the 53 incidents recorded in the previous month, the number of incidents perpetrated by unemployed persons is still consistently high, with an average of 38 incidents per month.
- Violent incidents with an underlying factor of alcohol totalled 29 (14.5%), with 9 incidents in Dili, 4 in Baukau, 4 in Ermera, 3 in Aileu, 3 in Vikeké, 2 in Manatutu, 1 in Bobonaru, 1 in Covalima, 1 in Lautein, and 1 in Oekusi.

Total Number of Violent Incidents in May 2017	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	5
Ainaru	4
Baukau	10
Bobonaru	7
Covalima	5
Dili	42
Ermera	9
Lautein	5
Likisá	10
Manatutu	5
Manufahi	7
Oekusi	14
Vikeké	11
Totál	134

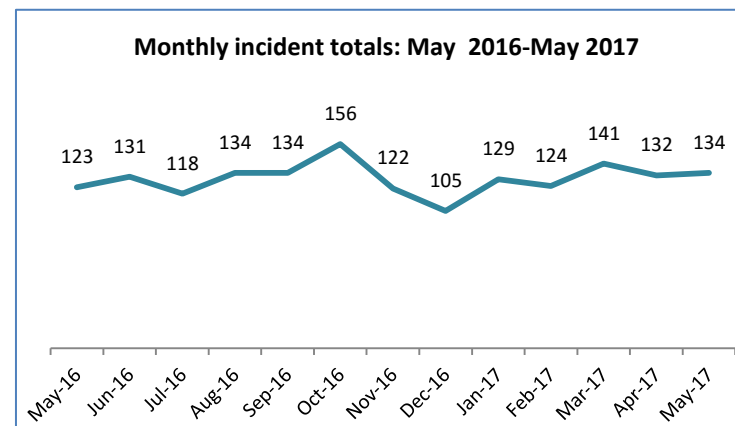
- A high number of violent incidents were concerned with Martial Arts Groups and Ritual Arts Groups in April and May, with 13 incidents in April and 14 incidents in May. This included 7 in Dili, 4 in Baukau, 1 in Aileu, 1 in Bobonaru and 1 in Likisá.
- 5 violent incidents involved PNTL members and 1 involved F-FDTL (military) members. 3 of the PNTL incidents involved guns, occurring in Dili. 1 incident occurred in Letefoho, Ermera, where a gun was used to threaten, and 1 incident occurred in Sanane, Oekusi where a PNTL member beat a National Election Commission (CNE) official in the CNE office because of a past problem. In the incident involving F-FDTL members, a group of non-uniformed, drunk F-FDTL members beat food vendors and destroyed their shop.

The data also recorded the important point that while the PNTL regularly intervenes in violent incidents, families, neighbours, *suku* council members and friends also play a significant role. The PNTL responded to 61 incidents (45.5%) of the total 134, while family intervened in 16.47% of incidents, neighbours 15.25%, *suku* council members 14.86% and friends 10.84%.

Consistent with previous data, men were overwhelmingly the perpetrators of violent incidents (totalling 107 in May), and the victims of 91 incidents. Women were victims of 18 incidents in May.

ANNUAL DATA

According to the data, there was only a slight increase in May from the previous month, consistent with the average. This number shows no significant change in the security situation.



PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO CONFLICTS

Ten conflict prevention activities conducted as part of the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) program

Belun's monitoring data during the 2017 presidential election showed that an underlying cause of conflict was a lack of understanding of the election process and irregularities when voting. Therefore, prior to the Parliamentary Election in July, the Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) conducted a socialisation of the electoral process in *sukus* in 10 Administrative Posts: Aileu, Bazartete, Lospalos, Baukai, Oesilo, Zumalai, Atabae, Cristo Rei, Dom Aleixo and Nain Feto. The CPRN worked together with the National Electoral Commission, Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral (STAE) and PNTL for these activities to reduce violence during campaigns, the election and post-election.

Conflict prevention activities conducted as part of the Community Policing Support Program

- ▶ In May 2017, Belun's Community Policing Support Program facilitated 14 meetings at the *suku* and municipality level for the Community Police Council (KPK) and Municipal Security Council (KSM). The objective of the meeting was to identify issues in the community and design preventive actions to avoid escalation of conflict in the *suku* and municipality.
- ▶ Peace activities conducted in May include implementation of traffic law; socialization of the role of Village Official Police (OPS) and KPK in the community; and socialization of election law and the parliamentary election process in 2017.

Conflict prevention activities conducted by the Access to Justice Clinic Team

- ▶ To respond to land disputes in the Municipality of Covalima, Belun conducted 6 mediation activities between private landholders and the government, and 2 mediation activities between private landholders
- ▶ In Baukai Municipality, Belun conducted one mediation activity between private landholders, and another related to compensation for a victim of a car accident
- ▶ From 23-24 May, Belun offered capacity training on responding to land-related conflict for *suku* council members from 4 *suku* in the Administrative Post of Maucatar, Municipality of Covalima.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Four advocacy and policy development activities

- ▶ On 8 May, EWER conducted a workshop to speak about the results of monitoring during the presidential election in March 2017, and to present recommendations to improve the parliamentary election in July 2017. Participants in the meeting included government organisations, STAE, CNE, and partners working in election monitoring in Timor-Leste, including some observers from the European Union.
- ▶ Belun presented data from monitoring during the March Presidential Election at the May meeting of the Security Working Group, a partnership between 7 NGOs and government organisations.
- ▶ On 10 May, Belun participated in the socialization of the Law on Weapons (Law No.5/2017) to reduce crimes with weapons such as slingshots, which are often related to Martial Arts Groups. The law is consistent with data collected by EWER monitoring, which shows the use of such weapons in the field and particularly in Dili.
- ▶ On May 31, Belun's EWER team invited partners to a workshop to discuss the results of Belun's Early Warning, Early Response program over the last 10 years, including 131 peace activities, 13 policy briefs, 61 Situation Reviews and 20 alerts. In the workshop, Belun also discussed future partnerships to continue to monitor violence and security in Timor-Leste.

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 2017. 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 >> www.atres.belun.tl

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