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## ALERT

### Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) System

#### 28 INCIDENTS RECORDED DURING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS POLITICAL PARTY CAMPAIGNING

(Dili, 21 July 2017)

While the majority of parliamentary election political party campaign between June-July 2107 proceeded without serious issues, Belun's Early Warning, Early Response system<sup>1</sup> recorded 28 incidents of electoral violence during the campaign and political parties' consolidation activities. Thirteen incidents involved physical violence, including physical fighting, rock throwing (resulting in 2 seriously wounded after knife attacks, and 11 others wounded), 6 incidents involving destruction of political parties' attributes, 6 incidents involving property destroyed including houses, motorbikes and vehicles, and the remainder involving verbal violence, including arguing and shouting.

Seven incidents were recorded in Baucau, 6 in Lautem, 5 in Viqueque, 4 in Dili, 2 in Aileu and Manufahi and 1 in Ainaro and Likisá.

The majority of incidents occurred due to:

- Political party militants provoking each other during the campaign and consolidation periods, with a total of 23 violence incidents recorded (for example, shouting, arguing, stone throwing, group physical assaults and knife attacks);
- Violation of campaign regulation: in the majority of incidents, violence occurred in public (9) such as yelling and shouting while travelling to the campaign center. At night time, some militants provoked others to react with violence. In another incident, a political party begin campaigning 1 day in advance, resulting in the PNTL and F-FDTL attempting to stop the campaigners; one armed PNTL personnel came inside a campaign center without reason, while another one, PNTL member destroyed the political party's attributes.

#### Recommendations and immediate action before voting day, tomorrow:

With 21 political parties participating in the parliamentary election, there is some potential for conflict during voting periods for which Belun makes the following recommendations:

1. Police (PNTL) and military (F-FDTL) to maintain security during voting periods, announcement of results and formation of new government, particularly in risk areas of conflict violence to prevent provocation and violence;
2. Police (PNTL) and military (F-FDTL) to maintain security in public areas such as public roads and all security posts;
3. Political leaders to maintain militants during demarcation process on election system with patience and with respect to election laws;
4. Political parties to respect each other, and ensure verification information before distributing to militants to prevent provocation during voting and counting periods;
5. Police and government (STAE and CNE) to maintain cooperation and collaboration in each voting center to ensure voters are comfortable, free and without intimidation;

<sup>1</sup> The EWER system monitors 43 Administrative Posts (out of 65 total) in all 12 Municipalities and the Oekusi Autonomous Special Region.



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6. National Commission for Election (CNE) and all development partners conducting observation during the election to ensure impartiality, full participation on voting and counting and coverage of all remote areas where voting centers are established;
7. Voters and political parties to respect demarcation process on election system according to RDTL constitutions, ready to accept the result of the election and building trust for the winning party on formation of new government.

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