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SITUATION REVIEW – JULY 2017

ISSUES TO WATCH

- ▶ **128 violent incidents occurred in July;**
- ▶ **The total was in the average range of violent incidents each month despite the parliamentary election, indicating a relatively peaceful election month;**
- ▶ **Violent incidents related to Martial Arts Groups remain below average, but have increased slightly each month since May 2017;**

128 VIOLENT INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN JULY

In July, the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) System recorded 128 violent incidents, with 37 occurring in Dili. The data also showed that the total number of violent incidents was slightly lower than the average of 132.6 per month. Key observations included the following:

- More than 50% of violent incidents were perpetrated by aged of 25-34 (youth), and more than 44% members of the same group as victims
- While majority of violence remained perpetrated by and targeted towards men, women were victims in 14 incidents. In addition, women were the perpetrators of 4 violent incidents.

Initiatives to reduce violence in July included:

- maximum patrol of police (PNTL) and military (F-FDTL) during parliament election periods;
- implementation of government Law No. 05/2017 regarding Martial Arts Practice, Ritual Arts, Arms and Rama Ambon;
- signing memorandum of agreement by all political leaders to conduct peace camping and parliament election, facilitated by Ministry of Interior (MOI)-National Directorate for community conflict Prevention (DNPPCC) before begin of campaign periods. Government started to implement Law No. 5/2017

Despite the total number of incidents being slightly below average, there were significant increases in some administrative posts in July; Baukau Vila Administrative Post, Baukau Municipality recorded 14 violence incidents compared to the average of 8.1 per month,

Total Number of Violent Incidents in July 2017	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	5
Ainaru	7
Baukau	23
Bobonaru	5
Covalima	4
Dili	37
Ermera	8
Lautem	10
Likisá	5
Manatutu	5
Manufahi	3
Oekusi	12
Vikeké	4
Totál	128

with 10 out of 14 related to the parliament election; Laga Administrative Post, Baukau Municipality recorded 7, compared to the average of 1.6 per month; Oesilo Administrative Post, Oekusi Special Economic Region recorded 8, compared to the average of 2.1 per month; and Remexio Administrative Post, Aileu Municipality recorded 5, compared to the average of 1.6 per month.

TOTAL WITHIN AVERAGE RANGE OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS EACH MONTH DESPITE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION, INDICATING A RELATIVELY PEACEFUL ELECTION MONTH

In July, the EWER system recorded 128 violent incidents, similar to the average of 132.6 per month. While this indicates a relatively peaceful election month, 48 incidents occurred during the parliamentary election period, including the campaign and voting day. 22 violent incidents occurring on voting day, July 22, compared to 2 incidents the previous day and 3 incidents the following day. 15 violence incidents recorded as caused by lack of understanding or clarity about electoral process, and 23 violence incidents were recorded as caused by disputes about politics. Characteristics of violence incidents included being provoked verbally and psychically by physical attack, stone throwing, houses destroyed, motorbikes destroyed, political party's attributes destroyed and burned, and a knife attack (1 case in Vikeké) resulted in serious injury to 2 political party's militants. Majority of the root causes of these violence incidents was being provoked by each other. 12 violence incidents were recorded in Baukau Municipality, 11 in Dili, 7 in Lautem, 3 in Aileu, Bobonaru, Oekusi and Vikeké, 2 in Likisá, and 1 in Ainaro, Ermera, Manufahi and Manatutu.

VIOLENCE INCIDENTS RELATED TO MARTIAL ARTS GROUP REMAIN BELOW AVERAGE, BUT HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY EACH MONTH SINCE MAY

In July, only 7 Martial Arts Group-related incidents were recorded, which is lower than the monthly average of 8.4 such incidents from October 2016 – June 2017. However, after a large drop from 13 incidents in April to 2 incidents in May, MAG-related incidents have increased slightly each month (3 in June and 7 in July). Six incidents were recorded in Baukau Municipality; in Tequenomata Village, Laga Administrative Post, 4 incidents were caused by land disputes; and in Uato-Lari Village, Vemasse Administrative Post, 1 incident was caused by vengeance. In Parlamentu Village, Lautem Administrative Post, Lautem Municipality, 1 incident was recorded as caused by youth romantic relationships.

ANNUAL DATA

According to the data, there was only a slight increase in July from the previous month, consistent with the average. This number shows no significant change in the security situation, and significant change in national election security in Timor-Leste compared to higher numbers of incidents during national elections in 2007 and 2012.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Belun was invited to a meeting conducted by European Union in Hotel Timor on 23 July 2017. This meeting was part of European Union's consultation to civil society regarding the parliamentary election in Timor Leste. Although the parliamentary election was relatively peaceful, Belun's observations found some key points needed to develop in future elections, to be released in the upcoming election report. This meeting was led directly by EU Parliament members.
- ▶ In 28 July, once more EU election observer and EU election experts requested a meeting with electoral bodies and civil society to discuss key recommendations for future elections in Timor Leste. Organizations involved in this meeting included CNE, STAE, OIPAS, IFES, NDI, IRI, UNDP, PDHJ and women's organisation representatives.
- ▶ Belun participated in the launch of a report by JSMP (Judicial System Monitoring Program) related to specific research on alternative resolution dispute, on 14 July. Key recommendations were submitted to government through the Ministry of Justice in order to support more collaboration between local leaders and courts on alternative resolution disputes. This work was part of Belun's Access to Justice Clinics.

ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

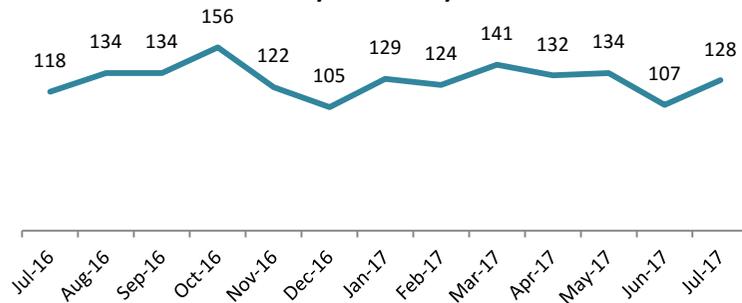
This situation review reports on violent incidents and trends in Timor-Leste that were identified by Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) monitoring system in 43 of Timor-Leste's 65 Administrative Posts in July 2017. Belun strives to share up-to-date and verified information. Considering that 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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Monthly Totals: July 2017



PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO CONFLICTS

Conflict prevention activities conducted as part of the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) program:

- ▶ Based on EWER data collection and analysis, on July 21, Belun published an alert related to violence incidents occurring during the consolidation and campaign periods, for government institutions, the security sector, political leaders and voters to be aware of security issues during the election;
- ▶ In order for better preparation and planning during election observation, European Commission observers met with Belun's Manatutu Municipal Coordinator and all Belun observers in Manatutu Administrative Post.

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

- ▶ In May 2017, Belun's Community Policing Support Program facilitated training and formation in order to establish and manage the Community Police Council (KPK) in Fatuberliu Administrative Post, Manufahi Municipality. The objective of this formation was to prevent crime and to avoid escalation of conflict in the suku and municipality.

Conflict prevention activities conducted by the Access to Justice Clinic Team

- ▶ From 23-24 May, Belun offered capacity training on responding to land-related conflict for villages council members from 5 villages in the Administrative Post of Same, Municipality of Manufahi;
- ▶ To respond to land disputes in the Municipality of Covalima, Belun conducted mediation activities between private landholders and the government related to mega-project construction in Suai.