

SITUATION REVIEW – AUGUST 2017

ISSUES TO WATCH

- ▶ Belun data recorded only 70 violent incidents in August, reduced significantly compared to the monthly average;
- ▶ Demonstration outside Parliament results in 7 injured, 12 cars destroyed and 13 arrested
- ▶ 3 violent incidents related to Martial Arts Groups (MAG) and 1 involved a government officer.

70 VIOLENT INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN AUGUST, MOST REDUCE COMPARE TO MONTHLY AVERAGE

In August, the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) System recorded 70 violent incidents, with 27 occurring in Dili. The data showed that the total number of violent incidents was much lower than the average of 132.3 per month. Key observations included the following:

- maximum patrol of police (PNTL) and military (F-FDTL) during the periods of new government formation;
- socialization and implementation of government Law No. 05/2017 regarding Martial Arts Practice, Ritual Arts, Arms and Rama Ambon in Dili and municipals level;

DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT RESULTS IN 7 INJURED, 12 CARS DESTROYED AND 13 ARRESTED

Total violent incidents reduced significantly in Dili in August, compared to the monthly average of 47.8 per month. According to EWER observations this was also contributed to by maximum patrol of police and military in Dili related to the formation of a new government, and also socialization and implementation of law no 5/2017. Even though incident numbers were low, one serious incident occurred in Dili in August 21 when Timor Leste National University students organized a demonstration against parliament administration rule on allowing cheap re-sale of parliament cars to former parliament members. While the protest began peacefully, the demonstration resulted in violence. Rocks were thrown at cars and police responded by using tear gas. 4 students were injured, 3 police officers injured, 13 students arrested and 12 government cars destroyed.

Total Number of Violent Incidents in August 2017	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	2
Ainaru	4
Baukau	4
Bobonaru	2
Covalima	4
Dili	27
Ermera	3
Lautein	3
Likisá	3
Manatutu	3
Manufahi	6
Oekusi	6
Vikeké	3
Totál	70

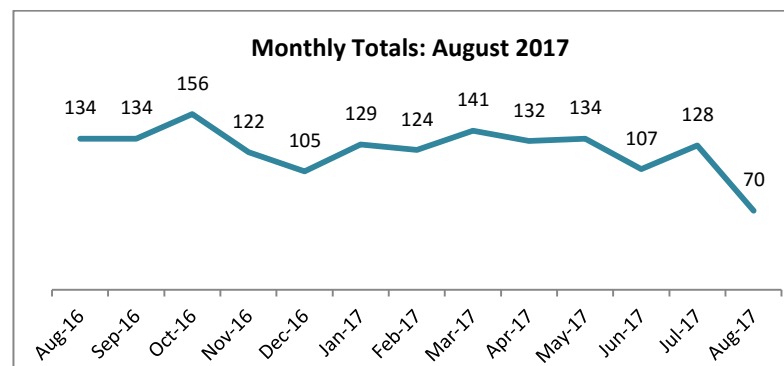
3 VIOLENT INCIDENTS RELATED TO MARTIAL ARTS GROUPS (MAG) WHERE 1 INVOLVED A GOVERNMENT OFFICER

In August, only 3 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 increased slightly in months of June (3) and July (7) and now reduce again to 3. In August 5, two incidents were recorded in Caicua Village, Vemasse Administrative Post, Baucau Municipality: 1 occurred in the party event where two different illegal MAGs met each other and provoked each other, fighting and stone throwing. One more occurred in the same village where one MAG left Caicua village on a bus, and another MAG also left and stopped at a checkpoint looked for suspected MAG inside the bus.

One more occurred in Solugolo Sub-Village, Holsa Village, Maliana Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality on August 27, at 07.40 pm where a government official used a government vehicle to drop MAGs members from Lourba to Maliana for an examination to increase their martial arts belt level. Police and military coordinated and suspended and arrested them, including the government officer Confrontation among MAG and police-military resulted in a minor injury to 1 MAG member (government officer or MAG member).

ANNUAL DATA

According to the data, August was the greatest reduction from the previous month, with 70 incidents compared to 128 the previous month and the average of 132.3 per month. This number shows a significant change in the security situation, and significant change in the period of new government formation in Timor-Leste compared to numbers of incidents during the national elections in 2007 and 2012.



PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO CONFLICTS

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

- ▶ In order to guarantee stability, community members and PNTL have to understand PNTL standard operating procedures (SOP) in the field. By this reason, Community Police Council (KPK) on August 22, in Municipality PNTL Office of Vikeké held one day workshop on PNTL standard operation procedures (NOP) for Municipality Security Council (KSM), Community Police Council (KPK) and Village Police Officer (OPS);
- ▶ Inauguration of some new Community Police Council (KPK) members such as in Administrative Post of Fatumean and Fatululik in Covalima Municipality, Administrative Posts of Same and Fatuberliu in Manufahi Municipality;
- ▶ Facilitated formation on Community Police Council for some villages such as Villages of Taroman and Foholulik in Covalima Municipality and Villages of Dotic and Umaberloic in Manufahi Municipality.

Conflict prevention activities conducted by the Access to Justice Clinic Team

- ▶ In respond to land disputes in the Municipality of Covalima, between 2 private landholders (land located in Sadahur Sub-Village, Maudemu Village, Tilomar Administrative Post) dispute mediation resolution was held on August 17, in Public Defender Office in Covalima Municipality but did not find an agreement;
- ▶ One more mediation was held in the Municipality of Covalima, where Belun conducted mediation activities between private landholders. Land was located in Dais Sub-Village, Belekasak Village, Maucatar Administrative Post. Dispute resolution was held on August 18, in Public Defender Office in Covalima Municipality and found an agreement on the same day.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ On August 3, Belun's EWER team met the President's Adviser on Civil Society Issues and security issue in President Office Ai-tarak Laran, Dili. Reason for this meeting was to instruct what Belun-EWER works on to new staffs of president office on civil society and security officer and how to build better cooperation in the future;
- ▶ In August 23-25, EWER Program Manager was invited to participate on regional Workshop with topic "The Role of Development Cooperation in the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Responsibility to Protect (R2P)" in Cambodia. This workshop was participated also by participants from Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Laos and Nepal. This activity was funded by the Australian Government, USAID, Denmark and Cambodia Government;

- ▶ Belun through the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) System launched its report on monitoring electoral violence on parliamentary election 2017. Monitoring was done "before", "during" and "after" parliamentary election. Belun conducted data identification, collection and analysis, and produced recommendation submitted to government electoral related institutions such as National Commission for Election (CNE) and National Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE).

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 August 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

Marilia Oliveira da Costa, Program Manager: bylah.belun@gmail.com

Laurensius Lein, Conflict Prevention and Policy Specialist: laurensius.belun@gmail.com