



## ALERT

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

#### 107 VIOLENCE INCIDENTS AND ELECTORAL CRIMES RECORDED DURING THE CONSOLIDATION PERIOD AND POLITICAL PARTY CAMPAIGNING FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2018 (Dili, 10 May 2018)

Based on Belun's monitoring through its Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) System showed violent incidents and electoral crimes during the 2018 consolidation and parliamentary election campaign. While the majority of the early parliamentary election political party campaign proceeded without serious issues. The people of Timor-Leste have demonstrated that they now have political maturity. However EWER recorded **107** electoral crimes and violent incidents. **84** electoral crimes or irregularities and **20** violent incidents. From **107** electoral crimes and violent incidents **10** occurred during consolidation period and **97** occurred during the political parties' campaign.

Of the 84 electoral crimes or irregularities the majority were; political party campaigns not following the campaign calendar as determined by National Commission of election (CNE), inflammatory speech from political leaders, buying votes through various gifts to communities, campaigns involving children under aged, obstruction to another political party supporters by threatening and the use of government resources during political campaign.

There were 20 violence incidents. 10 of these incidents included physical fighting, rock throwing, destroying houses and destroying cars. 1 serious incident occurred on May 5, 2018, in Uatu-lari Administrative Post, Vikeké Municipality; unknown persons threw stones at a convoy returning home from a political party campaign, this resulted in 16 wounded and 2 with serious injuries. Symbolic violence occurred 7 times through the destruction and burning of political party flags, destroying political party's campaign materials, cutting off the political party's flagpole, defamation to political leaders by editing photos and posting on social media. Verbal violence in the form of arguing, shouting and insults between political party's supporters was recorded 3 times.

Electoral crimes and violent incidents occurred 27 times in Dili Municipality, 15 times in each municipality of Ainaro and Ermera, Municipality of Vikeké 13 times, Baukau 10 times, Covalima 9 times, Special Administrative Region of Oekusi 7 times, Likisá 6 times and Bobonaru 5 times.

The data showed the majority of irregularities were caused by:

- a) Defamatory speech among political leaders provoking political party supporters to react by violence. This resulted in people being wounded, houses destroyed, cars being destroyed and other property being destroyed
- b) Some political parties offered gifts such as construction materials to the community, this is considered as buying votes and provoked violence
- c) The use of organizational networks such as martial arts organization that has been banned and criminalized by Timor-Leste government law
- d) Some political parties continued to mobilized supporters from one municipality to another. When these groups met each other on the road, the groups provoked each other and this resulted in violence
- e) Forcing community members to vote for another political party under the threat of violence



## Recommendations and immediate actions before voting day, preventative actions after voting day and lessons learned for the future:

There are 8 political parties and party coalitions that voters can choose in the early Parliamentary Election 2018. There is potential for conflict during voting, counting, after counting, announce of election results until the formation of the new government. Belun recommends:

- Political Leaders to support electoral law and regulation, in order to prevent irregularities and electoral crime and encourage the use of thoughtful speech to prevent violence among political party supporters
- Political leaders to encourage supporters to use words of peace, respect the democratic process and election laws during the electoral process
- Political parties to respect each other and ensure that they verify information before distributing it to supporters to prevent provocation during voting and counting periods
- Police and government (STAE and CNE) to maintain cooperation and collaboration in each voting center to ensure voters are comfortable, free and without intimidation
- 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
- Police (PNTL) supported by the military (F-FDTL) to maintain security during the voting period, the announcement of the results and formation of new government, particularly in high risk areas of conflict violence to prevent provocation and further violence
- Police (PNTL) supported by the military (F-FDTL) to maintain security in public areas such as public roads and all security posts including areas of potential conflict
- Voters and political parties to respect the democratic process of the election system according to the RDTL constitution, be ready to accept the result of the election and build trust for the elected party on the formation of new government.

Belun will publish a complete report with data analysis and provide key recommendation regarding the early parliamentary election 2018 implementation based on Belun's area of monitoring coverage.

For more information, please follow our Belun's EWER portal on [www.atres.belun.tl](http://www.atres.belun.tl) or by contact EWER Program Manager Marilia Oliveira da Costa at [bylah.belun@gmail.com](mailto:bylah.belun@gmail.com) ph +670 77276671, or Belun's Director Luis da Costa Ximenes at [luis.belun@gmail.com](mailto:luis.belun@gmail.com) ph +670 77234406