

SITUATION REVIEW – APRIL 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ **Martial Arts Group violence, arrow attacks continue in Dili**
- ▶ **Government land surveying activities lead to 8 incidents**
- ▶ **Three incidents in April linked to political party events**

Martial Arts Group violence, arrow attacks continue in Dili

Belun's Early Warning, Early Response system recorded 109 violent incidents in April, eleven of which could be linked to members of banned Martial Arts Groups (MAGs). All 11 incidents occurred in Dili, with 7 in Bairo Pite Suku (village), 3 in Mascarinhas Suku, and one in Fatuhada Suku. These incidents mostly occurred at night, and involved MAG members calling other group members for support to violently settle personal disputes.

The EWER system also recorded 10 attacks initiated by unknown perpetrators, some of which involved rock-throwing and Rama Ambon (slingshot arrows). Belun's volunteer monitors suspect that the authors of some of these incidents are MAG members, as the victims or their family members are known to be involved with MAGs. Five of these attacks occurred in Dili and one, on 16 April in Fatuhada Suku, involved the use of a slingshot arrow and resulted in the death of a teenage boy. Another Rama Ambon incident in Fatuhada was prevented when neighbors witnessed a man leaving his house with his Rama Ambon and quickly informed the police, who arrested him.

Government land surveying activities lead to 8 incidents

The EWER system recorded 8 incidents in April that could be connected to the work of the Sistema Nacional Cadastral (SNC), a land surveying program run by the Department of Land, Property and Cadastral Services at the Ministry of Justice. One year ago, in April 2015, the SNC was also linked to 10 incidents, which shows that despite past problems the program is still causing confusion and conflict. The incidents this past month were concentrated in

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in April 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	3
Ainaru	6
Baukau	9
Bobonaru	3
Covalima	5
Dili	40
Ermera	6
Lautein	6
Likisá	3
Manatutu	10
Manufahi	1
Oekusi	6
Vikeké	11
Totál	109

three areas – 4 in Ossu Administrative Post in Vikeké Municipality, 3 in Laleia Administrative Post in Manatuto Municipality and 1 in Baukau Vila.

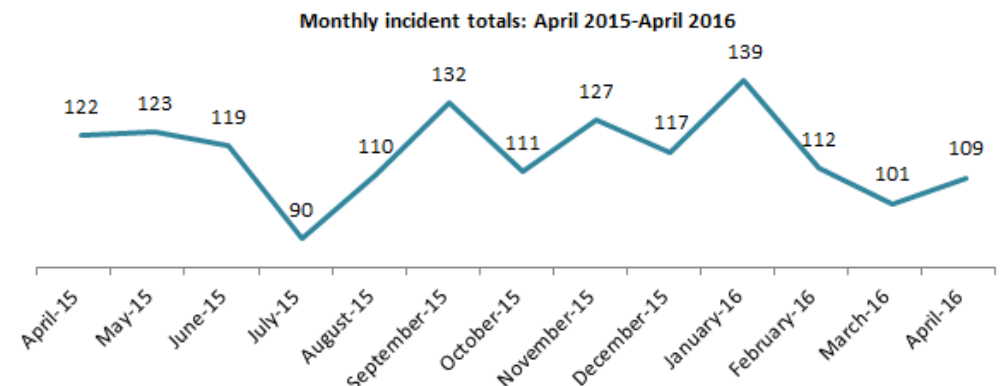
Most incidents occurred on ancestral property that was divided between family members. When the SNC team would arrive to survey the land, family members would intervene to stop the surveyors and dispute land ownership and boundaries. The disputes would then result in heated verbal arguments, physical altercations and/or damage to family relationships.

Three incidents in April linked to political party events

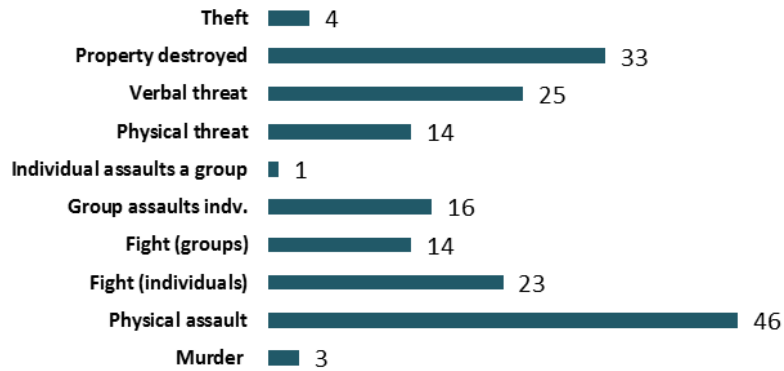
In April, three violent incidents took place at or around events held by political parties to consolidate their support at the village level. Two similar incidents also occurred in February.

On 16 April, in Remexio Administrative Post, Aileu Municipality, a group of unknown people threw rocks at a group of political party supporters who were returning from Dili with party paraphernalia to prepare for a political event, causing some injuries. Another rock throwing incident occurred in Ossu Administrative Post, Vikeké Municipality on 10 April, in which a group of young people threw rocks at a celebration held after a political party's consolidation event. The third incident occurred in Lautem Administrative Post, Lautem Municipality on 30 April, when a group of youth used rocks to threaten a group of political party supporters who had just returned from a party event. The group alleged that the party supporters were crudely insulting other parties. The situation was defused when a local leader and a Belun volunteer monitor arrived on the scene to calm both groups.

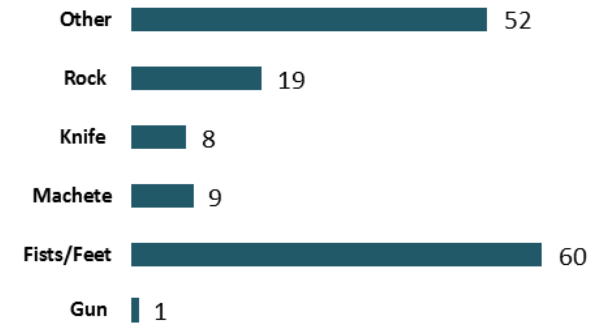
INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS



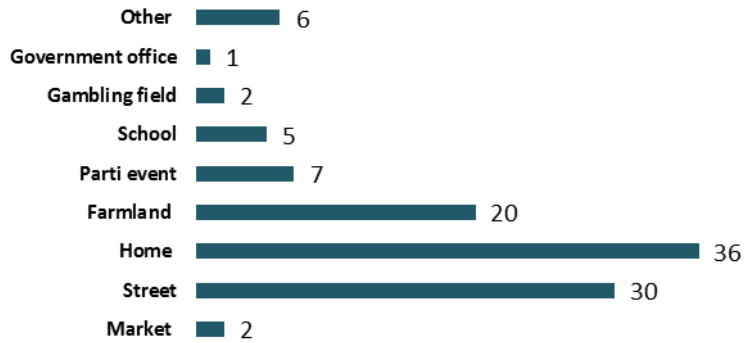
Incident Type



Weapon Used



Incident Location



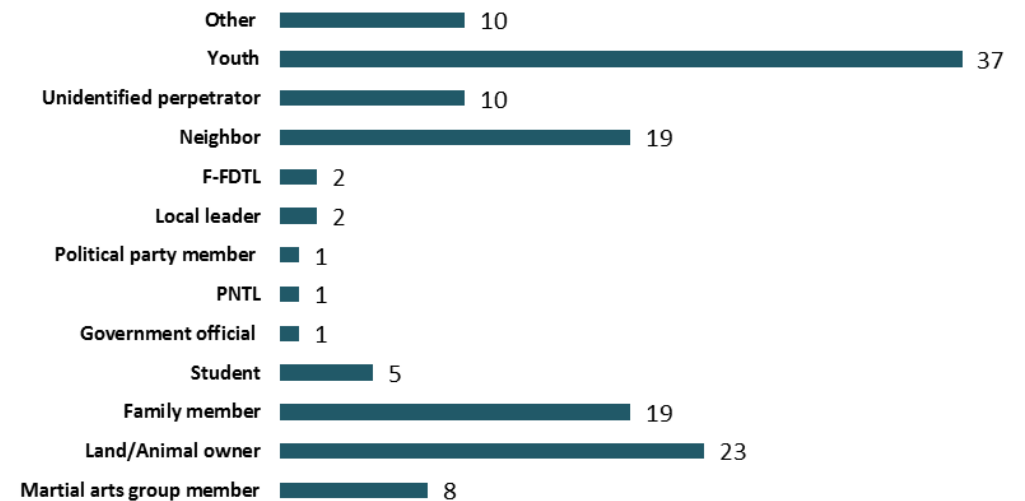
Incident Impact



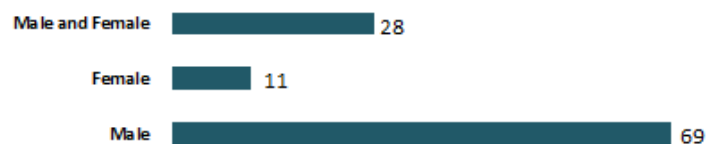
Gender of Initiator(s)



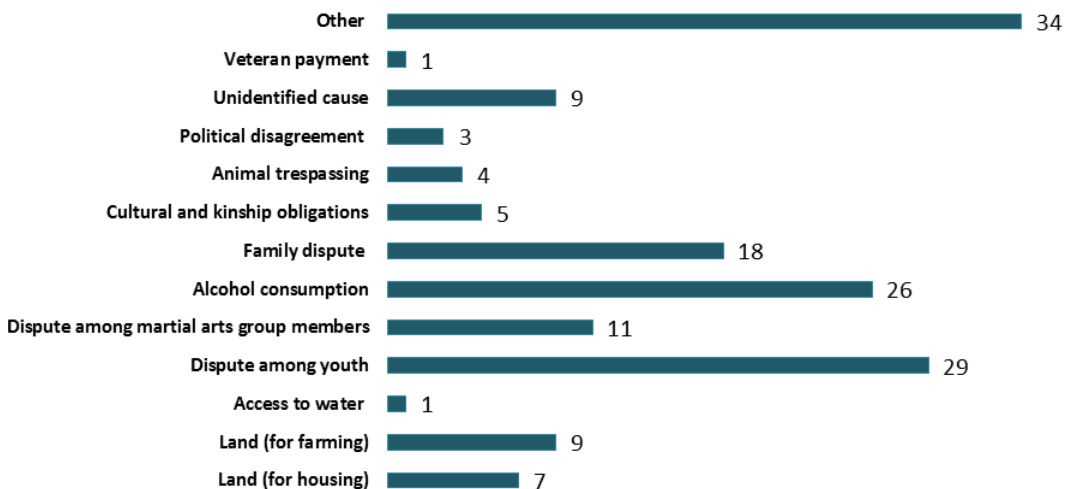
Who Initiated the Incident?



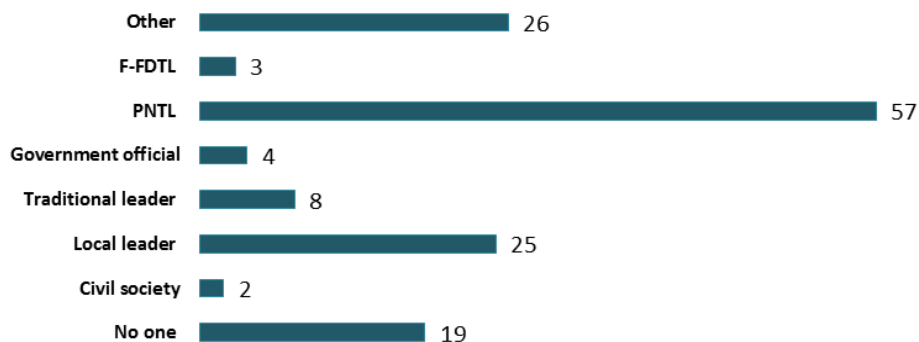
Gender of Victim(s)



Underlying Cause of Incident



Who Responded to the incident?



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) team:

- On 1 April, with Belun support, the Conflict Prevention and Response Network in Pante Makassar, Oekusi held a Tara Bandu event to prevent violence between students and youth, after many such incidents were recorded there during the previous trimester. Participants included representatives of the Regional Government, Ministry of Education, PNTL, F-FDTL, the Commission for the Regulation of Martial Arts (CRAM), local leaders, students and other young people.

- From 6-8 April, Belun's volunteer monitors participated in a training on the roles of the different PNTL and F-FDTL units, electoral violence prevention, and how to conduct their violence monitoring more effectively. The training was supported by the European Commission and UNDP Timor-Leste.
- From 11-12 April, the International Organisation for Migration delivered a Training of Trainers on human trafficking case identification and referral to the EWER management team, Municipal Coordinators and volunteer monitors. The objective of the training was to prepare the EWER team to start collecting information about cases of human trafficking across the country.
- From 26-29 April, a UNDP External Consultant delivered a training on data analysis to the EWER management team and 13 EWER Municipal Coordinators. The purpose of the training was to increase the quality of the team's publications by improving data analysis capacity. The training was supported by the European Commission and UNDP Timor-Leste.

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- On 26 April, in Uatucarabau Administrative Post, Vikeke Municipality, the team socialized the draft land law to increase awareness about the proposed law and reduce conflict related to land.

By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution team:

- During April, the team cooperated with the Department of Land and Property in Baucau to mediate a dispute between three disputants over two parcels of land. The mediation went well, but the dispute was not resolved as one of the parties decided to halt the mediation and consult with family members before proceeding to the next phase of the mediation.

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 April 2016. Descriptions of all incidents recorded by the EWER system can be found at: www.belun.crowdmap.com. 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 or to report an incident, please contact:

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