



SITUATION REVIEW – JANUARY 2017

Issues to watch

- ▶ **Twenty-seven incidents recorded on January 1st**
- ▶ **Martial Arts Group-related incidents in Baukau, Dili and Likisá**
- ▶ **Five deaths, including two suicides related to cultural rites**
- ▶ **Four incidents at Chinese-owned shops**

Twenty-seven incidents recorded on January 1st

Belun’s Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 129 violent incidents in January, an increase from only 105 violent incidents in December. Up to 27 incidents were recorded on January 1st alone. Many of these incidents involved intoxicated neighbors quarrelling over already existing disputes. Perpetrators in 43 incidents throughout the month were intoxicated, up from a monthly average of only 25.4 such incidents over the past year, while 20 incidents were perpetrated by neighbors, which is nearly double the monthly average.

Martial and Ritual Arts Group-related incidents in Baukau, Dili and Likisá

The EWER system recorded 9 incidents related to Martial Arts Groups (MAGs) and Ritual Arts Groups (RAGs) in January – a lower total compared to past months. Dili, which is usually the site of most MAG-related violence, was relatively quiet, with only one such incident in January, while Baukau and Likisá continued to experience normal levels of MAG and RAG violence, with six and two such incidents respectively.

Five of Baukau’s MAG incidents occurred in Buibau Village, when opposing groups met each other in the street, at school, on their way to a funeral or at the beach and fought over past problems. In Seical Village, a group of MAG members assaulted and badly injured a police officer who was traveling from Lospalos to Dili. In Likisá, a MAG member slashed another with a machete in Vatu-Vou Village and a RAG member beat up a MAG member badly during a sparring match. In Dili, students fought each other at school in Mascarenhas Village because of a MAG rivalry, which resulted in broken windows.

Total number of violent incidents by municipality in January 2017	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	4
Ainaru	9
Baukau	11
Bobonaru	2
Covalima	4
Dili	51
Ermera	6
Lautein	3
Likisá	11
Manatutu	6
Manufahi	8
Oekusi	4
Vikéké	10
Totál	129

Five deaths, including two suicides related to cultural ceremonies and payments

The EWER system recorded five deaths in January, including two suicides that were related to payments for cultural rites. In Dato Village, Likisá Municipality, a pregnant woman hanged herself, when her marriage was called off because her fiancé was unable to pay the \$5,000 dowry that her family was asking. In Meti-aut, an older man hanged himself because he could not afford to hold a cultural ceremony to reconcile what he perceived to be an ancestral burden after two of his children died in a short period of time. In Bairro-Pite Village, Dili, a police officer was found shot in the head in an apparent suicide, though the circumstances were suspicious as his gun was reportedly holstered when he was found.

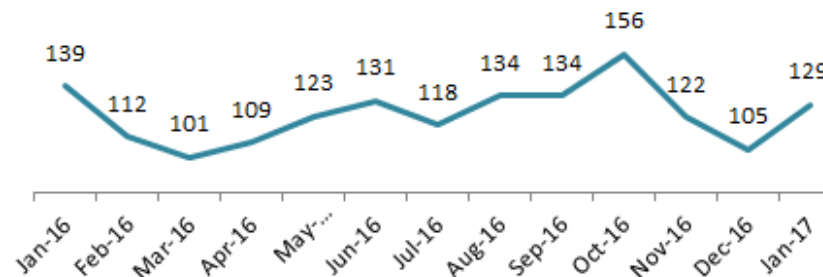
There were also two deaths as a result of large fights in Dili and Manatuto. In Comoro Village, Dili Municipality, a group of intoxicated young men tried to prevent a young woman from leaving a party with her family, which resulted in a fight and one young man being killed. In Ailili Village, Manatuto, two groups met in a public marketplace and fought with sharp weapons over a past problem, which resulted in one death, six serious injuries and one house being torched.

Four incidents at Chinese-owned shops

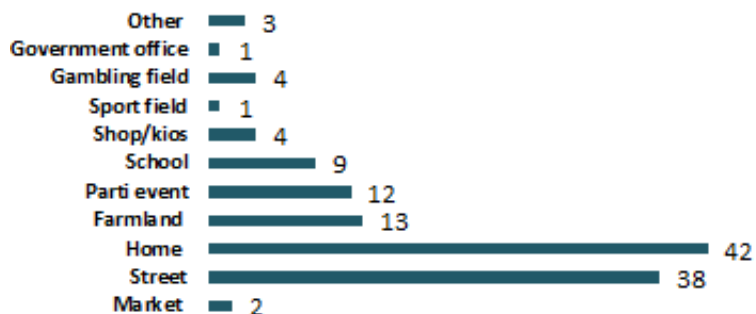
The EWER system recorded four incidents at shops owned by Chinese migrants, which is the first time so many such incidents have been recorded in a single month. Two incidents happened in Talimoro Village, **Ermera** Municipality: in one, an intoxicated youth assaulted a shop-owner and in the other a man threw a plate of food at a shop owner when she refused to accept the return of a broken phone that had been purchased one month before. One incident was recorded in Dato Village, **Likisa** Municipality, in which a young man who stole from a shop was beaten by the shop owner, but then returned with a large group and beat the shop owner badly until he was gravely injured. In Audian, Santa Cruz Village, **Dili**, a young man tried to steal a large amount of phone credit from a shop but was immediately caught and beaten badly.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

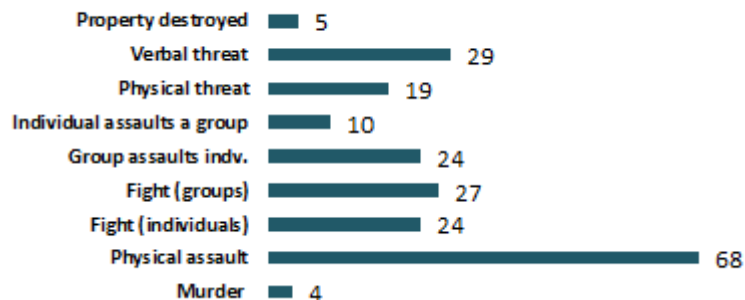
Monthly incident totals: January 2016-January 2017



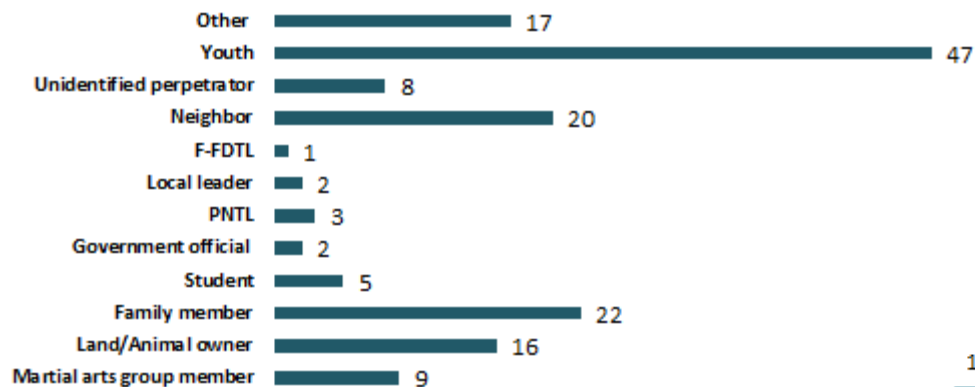
Incident location



Incident Type



Who Initiated the Incident?



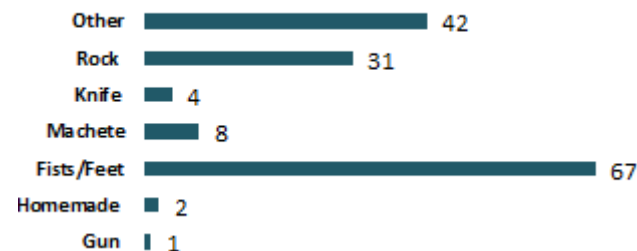
Gender of Initiator(s)



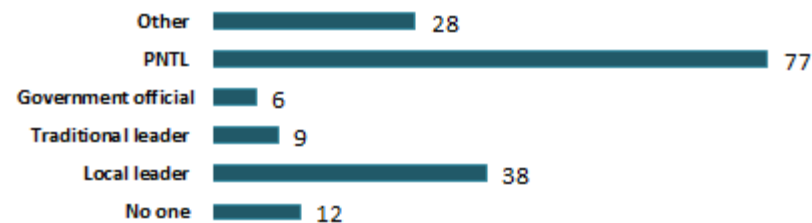
Gender of Victim(s)



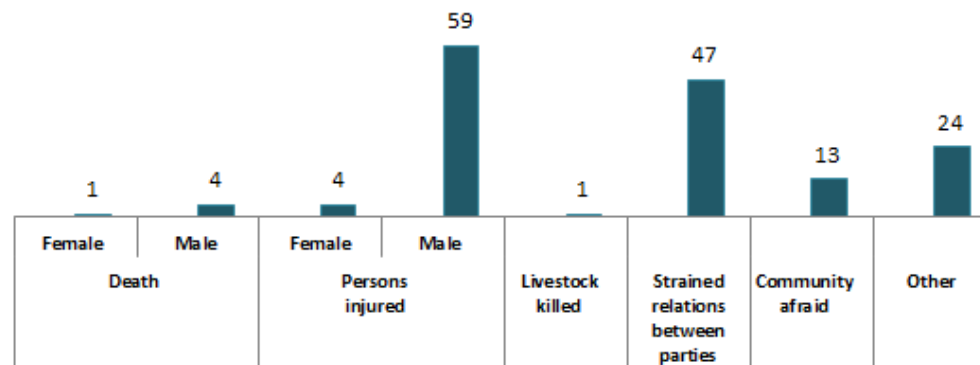
Weapon Used



Who Responded to the incident?



Incident Impact



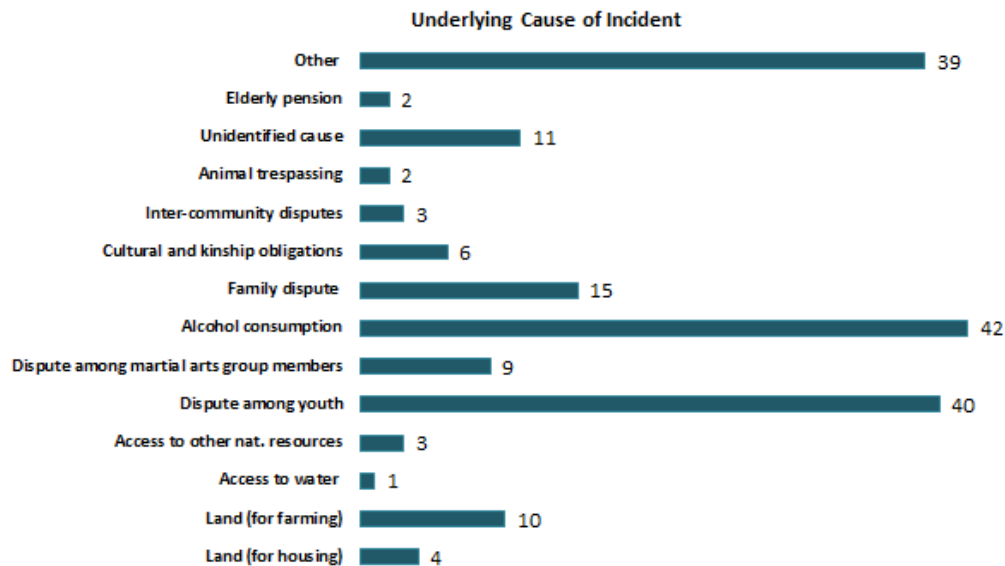
ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

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 January 2017. 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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CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ On 16 January, the team and the PNTL held a trimester Women Community Security Council meeting in Vikeke Municipality. The objective was to review issues that affected women's security in the municipality during the preceding three months and to prevent and combat crime.
- ▶ On 17 January, the team and the PNTL held a trimester Security Council Meeting in Vikéké Municipality to share information about security issues in the municipality during the previous three months.
- ▶ The team also supported and facilitated 27 regular Community Policing Council meetings at the village level in Dili, Likisá, Covalima, Manufahi and Vikeké.

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

- ▶ On 20 January, the team facilitated a trimester meeting of the Metinaro Conflict Prevention and Response Network with 120 participants to discuss security during the 2017 elections. Speakers included the Administrator of Metinaro and commanders from the police and military.

By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution (LMDR) team:

- ▶ On 24 and 25 January, the team held a training for male and female youths from across Dili about how to become mediators in land disputes. The training was supported by the GIZ Peace Fund.