

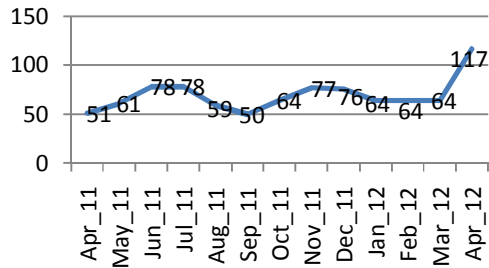
SITUATION REVIEW APRIL 2012

THIS MONTH:

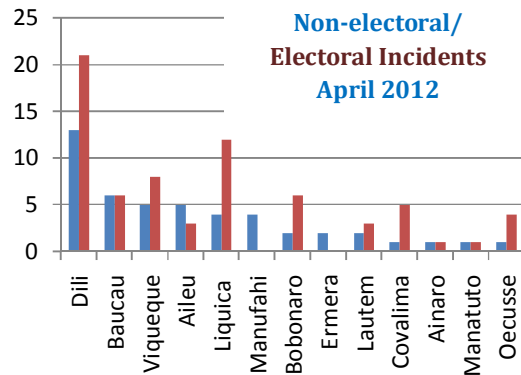
- ▶ Election-related Violence
- ▶ Security Sector Incident Involvement
- ▶ Conflict Between Youth

INCIDENT TRENDS

Total Reported Incidents:



Reported incidents of conflict in April (117) were almost double that of the months prior (64). The spike is largely attributable to electoral-related incidents (47). Full incident reports are available at: www.belun.crowdmap.com



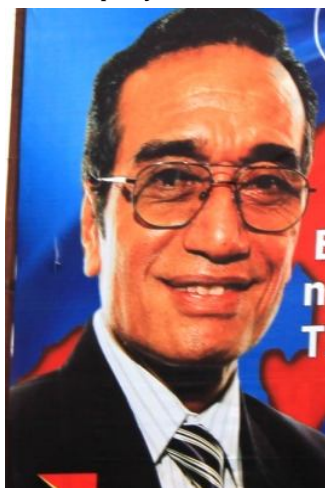
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION- SECOND ROUND

The second round Presidential Election held on April 16 was conducted under relatively peaceful circumstances.

CNE Round 2 results recorded a clear victory for Taur Matan Ruak with 275,471 votes (61%) whilst Francisco "Lú-Olo" Guterres received 174,408 votes (39 %). The Court of Appeal subsequently approved the results officiating the President-Elect as José Maria de Vasconcelos (Taur Matan Ruak) to be sworn in at midnight on May 19.



Result Response:



in reference to the election results, Branco declared that the president-elect came from the votes of the people and Fretilin would accept their sentiment. But Fretilin still considered the second round election to have been run under threats of intimidation and money politics (Timor Post, 25 April, 2012).

Belun's monitoring recorded 47 electoral-related incidents, but positively most of these situations were addressed prior to significant escalation. Monitoring also indicated that rumors of further prevalence of intimidation were spread amongst the community during the campaign period tending to provoke public emotion and conflict, as well as invoke memories of trauma and instability. Testimonies to substantiate such rumors were not reported, but in time further clarification will be sought.



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PRE-SECOND ROUND

Leading up to the second round election, both political groups focused on strengthening their structures from aldeia to national level. Support was also rallied through door-to-door activity. However, some observed incidents indicate that not all party supporters were practicing political tolerance.

| INCIDENT TYPE PRE-SECOND ROUND | | |
|--|--|-------|
| Violence Type | Sub-district | Total |
| Inflammatory language leading to tension | Iloamar, Gleno | 2 |
| Physical assault | Lautem, Nain Feto, Baucau Vila, Manatuto Vila | 4 |
| Fighting between groups | Lautem, Quelicai, Dom Aliexo | 3 |
| Fighting between two people | Dom Aleixo | 1 |
| Verbal threats | Maliana, Aileu Vila | 2 |
| Stone throwing | Nain Feto, Ermera, Manufahi, Aileu Vila, Vemasse | 5 |
| Poster damage | Manatuto Vila | 1 |
| Cut flag | Baucau Vila | 1 |
| Ballot paper dispute | Suai, Same Vila | 2 |

Two incidents related to pre-marked ballot papers occurred in Manufahi sub-district. In Covalima district 520 ballot papers had marks on the face of candidate images. Other incident types included physical assault, stone throwing and verbal threats in the districts of Dili, Ermera, Baucau and Manufahi. Provocation between supporters resulted in four incidents in the districts of Manufahi, Bobonaro and Aileu. In Gleno sub-district, a message to the community instructed voters to avoid choosing a president who would have an 'empty head'. Whilst considered a provocative statement, the avoidance of otherwise inflammatory language was indicative of progress in the objectives of politics through democracy and liberty of speech.

| INCIDENT IMPACT PRE-SECOND ROUND | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------|
| Incident Impact | Sub-District | Total |
| Injured person | Lautem Vila (3), Quelicai (2), Dom Aleixo (2) | 7 |
| House destroyed | Uatulari (4) | 4 |
| Car destroyed | Baucau Vila | 1 |

SECOND ROUND ELECTION DAY & VOTE COUNT

On Election Day and during the subsequent vote count broadcast on TVTL, a number of incidents were reported across the country. These included physical assault, stone throwing and arson. A number of victims retreated to the safety of the forested areas during these incidents.



In Dili district (Cristo Rei sub-district, Hera suco), unknown people burnt the house of a member of Taur Matan Ruak's campaign team. Whilst in Liquiça Vila sub-district a man tried to influence another voter by instructing him whom to select while waiting in line to vote.

After STAE announced the provisional results of the second round on TVTL, supporters from both parties took to the streets to express their feelings. Many occurrences were reported of men riding motorbikes shouting "viva", whilst others taunted and threatened each other, as well as instances of physical assault and provocation.

NON-ELECTORAL INCIDENTS

Youth-related Violence: Despite the increased number of overall reported incidents, youth-related conflict slightly decreased, reporting only 9 incidents compared to 11 the month prior. Observations suggest this is partly attributable to many youth focusing on carrying out campaign activities.

Alcohol-related Incidents: Data comparison from the period January to April indicated a return to high numbers of alcohol-fuelled violence (13-9-2-13). Incidents were reported from Viqueque Vila (Viqueque), Maliana Vila and Atabae (Bobonaro). The 13 reported incidents occurred in homes (11), in travel transit (1) and also in a local training center. The incidents were motivated by difference of opinion (6); money issues (1); defamation (1); and courtship (1). Respondents to these incidents included three community leaders, a youth representative, family members and PNTL (4). Two incidents were registered in the Public Ministry whilst four were able to be reconciled on the spot.

Martial Arts: The comparison of data shows that since the suspension of martial arts groups by the Council of Ministers in December 2011, there has been a positive social improvement, with only one incident reported in April. The incident, in Liquiça district, occurred when a fight broke out between PSHT martial arts group and Kolimau 2000. A uniformed member of PSHT challenged a man from Kolimau 2000 whilst he was fixing a cowshed for new livestock, provoking confrontation between members. Police detained two men to assist with their investigations.

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NON-ELECTORAL INCIDENTS

Land Dispute: The absence of binding land law has continued to cause friction and violence between landowners. Four incidents were reported in April from Aileu, Liquiça, and Ainaro districts. A man and a woman both sustained injuries as a result.

Draft amendments to the land law were rejected earlier this year by then President, José Ramos-Horta who asked the National Parliament to reconsider the proposed changes. Debates of the land law in the National Parliament were boycotted by opposition parties, in demonstration against a number of problematic terms. These included the expropriation law which affords Government the right to take possession of land prior to compensation negotiations.

Members of the community have called on Parliament not to merely fill the quorum of 33 present members in order to pass the law, but to consider the various sources of feedback on the proposed changes that have been offered by political actors, civil society actors as well as the public, prior to approval.

Government Pensions: In Liquiça and Covalima districts two incidents related to the payment of government pension saw no transparency between family members when the compensation was received. This caused tension and conflict between family members.

Border Conflict: Oe-cusse (Passabe) – a verbal fight broke out between a cattle farmer from Timor-Leste and another from Indonesia after the Indonesian farmer's cattle stripped all food from the roadside nearby to the Timorese farmer's property. The Timorese farmer attempted to herd the cattle back toward Indonesia, when the Indonesian farmer yelled abuse at him. The incident was reported to both local and Indonesian police who responded to the matter and determined the Timorese farmer be compensated with one cow from the Indonesian farmer.

Religious Activity: Concerns have arisen around the Government mandate to debate the law that regulate religious activity and the lack of priority placed on this by National Parliament. Members of the community have indicated the lack of focus on this regulation is detrimental to their communities and needs to be addressed promptly.

Security Actor Involvement: It has again arisen that members of the security sector must remember that their role is to protect the population and enforce the law without resorting to violence. In Lautem district one male police member beat an employee of the electricity company who was erecting power lines as he

had not yet connected electricity to the police officers' residence. In Covalima district one F-FDTL member beat a man until his teeth were broken. In Oe-cusse district another member of F-FDTL verbally assaulted the district coordinator of the Youth Council.

OTHER CRIMES

Police continue their investigations into arson incidents in both Viqueque (2) and Covalima (1). Stone throwing was also reported in Viqueque, Dili and Liquiça districts.

People with masked faces entered traditional houses in both Baucau and Liquiça districts with assault and robbery reported.

CONFLICT PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Peace Building Action: Belun organized meetings with campaign teams of presidential candidates Taur Matan Ruak and Francisco "Lú-Olo" Guterres to present the results of monitoring that indicated the involvement of supporters from both candidates in violence, and discuss channels for promoting peaceful political behaviours.

CONFLICT PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Civic Education: Joint teams from F-FDTL, Police Squadron Command, Ossu Sub-District Administrator, Xefe Suco Ossurua and Belun's EWER district coordinator in Viqueque facilitated community dialogue in Ossu sub-district. The joint team also organized civic education to

communities of Uatulari sub-district with a focus on violence prevention in the community and encouraging of stability, security and unity during the elections and beyond.



In Manatuto, the EWER Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) organized a civic education session with speakers including the Commissioner of CNE Manatuto, Facilitator of STAE, Sub-District Administrator and the Parish Priest of Manatuto. In Same sub-district, the CPRN promoted the right to access information through an electoral seminar. Speakers included the Regional Chief of the Human Rights Ombudsman & Justice (PDHJ), Sub-District Administrator, Coordinator of CPRN, Youth Council Representative of Manufahi District and FONGTIL. During April, Belun also facilitated training on conflict transformation for the CPRN of Letefoho sub-district in Ermera.

Land Rights: A land dispute seminar was held in Atauro with speakers from the Land and Property and National Cadastral Service, the National Cooperative Directorate, Suco Administration - District of Dili, Dili District Administrator and Belun.

ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This document has been produced with the support of the European Union through the Instrument of Stability, GIZ/BMZ and the Government of Ireland, Conflict Resolution Unit. The contents and opinions in this document are the sole responsibility of Belun and CICR and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union, the Irish Government or GIZ/BMZ. This situation review reports on key issues related to violent incidents and trends emerging from data collected through Timor-Leste's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system during April 2012. Belun endeavors to share information that is both up-to-date and accurate. Given situations evolve rapidly, we welcome further information which may clarify or update data acquired through EWER. Please email EWER Program Manager Bylah Da Costa: bylah.belun@gmail.com. Images © Jennifer Hill, Belun