

# SITUATION REVIEW

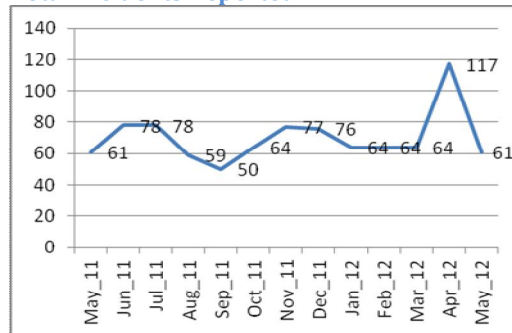
## MAY 2012

### ISSUES TO WATCH THIS MONTH:

- Inflammatory political language
- Youth-related incidents
- Alcohol-fuelled violence

### INCIDENT REPORTS

#### Total Incidents Reported:



Conflict trends decreased during May after the completion of the Presidential Election. Details of all incidents reported for the month can be found at: [www.belun.crowdmap.com](http://www.belun.crowdmap.com)

### ALCOHOL-RELATED INCIDENTS

Whilst decreased from the month prior, alcohol-related conflict continued during May. Reported incidents included physical and verbal assault, stone throwing between groups and property destruction. Two men sustained serious injuries as a result, one in Manatuto sub-district, whilst the other was reported in Same sub-district. Police responded quickly to most incidents, which occurred in private homes, parties and public spaces.

### POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY

Political party activity prior to the official parliamentary election campaign period saw the finalisation of internal party structures from suco to national level. During this period, Belun reports indicated that some parties also took advantage of the opportunity during their delivery of their political declaration to employ inflammatory language which subsequently spurred tensions and led to incidents.

One such example occurred on May 13 in Baucau Vila sub-district (Baucau) where CNRT supporters carried their flag through a suco of Frente Mudansa supporters after leaders of Frente Mudansa claimed CNRT to be 'traitors' during the swearing-in of their political party structure. The Xefe Aldeia intervened, instructing both groups to cease provocation of one another before dispersing the groups.

On May 27, in Bazartete sub-district (Liquiça) unknown people blocked the road and threw stones at a car of the Frente Mudansa party. This occurred during the night after a family recognized as supporters of Frente Mudansa organized a baptism ceremonial party for their children. Police quickly responded to the incident; however the perpetrators had already left the scene.

### YOUTH-RELATED INCIDENTS



During May, despite a significant drop from 31 to 11 incidents involving youth, a number of situations that began as verbal threats between youth escalated to physical violence. From the 11 incidents reported the common types of violence included physical assault (5); destruction of property (3); inter-group fighting (2); and stabbing (1). Most incidents took place in public spaces such as the street and local markets. Five men sustained serious injuries in subdistricts of Dom Aleixo; Uatulari; Liquiça; Maliana; and Baucau. Police and community leaders responded to 9 of 11 occasions, preventing the escalation of further violence.



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**School-related Violence:** one incident was reported which involved a student attempting to stab a teacher after he harassed his female friend whilst checking her pockets during school line-up. Other reported incidents involved stone throwing and physical assault.

### ISSUES TO WATCH

**Security Actor Involvement:** security actor involvement in conflict showed little change from April, with three incidents again reported. In Dom Aleixo sub-district (Dili) a policeman used his baton to hit a young man and then continued to slap him. This occurred after he saw the young man release an RDTL flag in the street. Another of the incidents occurred again in Dom Aleixo, when an off-duty policewoman together with her son threatened two young men as they sat in the street. The son of the policewoman took the men's motorbike to his mother's house before it was returned to them a week later.

**Other crime:** other reported crimes included witchcraft, family disagreements, clean water disputes and buyer/seller disagreements. Police and/or community leaders were quick to respond in most cases.

**Government Pension:** the Government policy to facilitate pension payments via BNCTL Bank commenced in a number of districts in which no incidents were reported. However, an incident

occurred when a woman who did not yet have access to the bank payment argued with staff of the Ministry of Social Solidarity because someone else had already signed for her payment with a fingerprint and stamp. The MSS staff resolved the incident and provided the woman with her payment.

### RESPONSE TO CONFLICT



**Peace Building Events:** Belun facilitated training on conflict transformation to the Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) of Laleia sub-district (Manatutu). Cristo Rei sub-district CPRN also hosted a seminar on Conflict Prevention for the 2012 Parliamentary Election. Speakers included the CNE Dili Commissioner, the Human Rights Director of PDHJ, the Director of JRS, the Cristu Rei sub-district Community Development Officer and the Director of Belun.

The CPRN of Viqueque Vila sub-district held a civic education session for suco Uma Wain Leten, Fatudere, Maluru and Uma Wain Craik. Speakers included the CNE Commissioner of Viqueque, the local STAE representative, the Police Commander of Viqueque District, the Subdistrict Administrator of Viqueque Vila, the CPRN Coordinator of Viqueque Vila, the Xefe Suco and Belun representatives.

### THIS SITUATIONAL REVIEW

This document has been produced with the support of the European Union through the Instrument of Stability, GIZ/BMZ in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Government of Ireland's 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 May 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](mailto:bylah.belun@gmail.com). Images © Jennifer Hill & Filipe de Carvalho, Belun 2012.