

SITUATION REVIEW

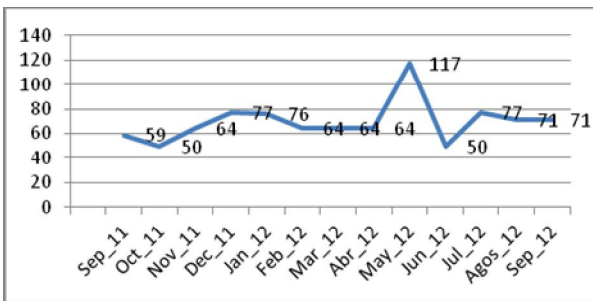
SEPTEMBER 2012

ISSUES OF CONCERN:

- ▶ Conflict & Tensions at the border
- ▶ F-FDTL initiated violence

ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

Total Incidents Reported



The number of reported incidents has decreased since elections. For more information, please see: www.belun.crowdmap.com

CONFLICT & TENSIONS AT THE BORDER

Border-dwelling communities in Oecusse district are increasingly concerned by land disputes which have recently begun to attract the involvement of the Indonesian military (TNI). Despite a decrease from seven incidents in August to just one incident in September, concerns remain that these tensions may escalate to violence.

In one incident, on the 19th of September 2012, in Manan, Bene Ufe village, subdistrict Nitibe (Oecusse), Indonesian border police ordered work to stop on a Timorese irrigation project which was being conducted within the unresolved section of border territory. The Timorese police Border Patrol Unit (UPF) then also issued a verbal order for the project to stop, however this was done without consulting the relevant authorities and outside of the official process. This incident demonstrates the lack of communication between the Timorese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Border Demarcation Unit and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, border security forces and communities regarding border demarcation. During meetings initiated by NGO Belun with the Office of the Secretary of State for Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government affirmed its commitment to hearing border-related concerns from these communities and to finalising border demarcation by the end of 2014.

ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

Violence between F-FDTL and Civilians

The concerning trend of violence initiated by members of the Timorese defence force (F-FDTL) continues, despite a decrease from eight incidents in August to just one incident in September where four male F-FDTL members along with two civilians bashed the security guard of a night club in Vila Verde, Dili. Trends of F-FDTL initiated violence have been diminishing the trust and respect that community members have for the defence forces that are charged with their protection. Communities are further concerned about inefficient and lengthy military police investigation processes for F-FDTL initiated violence.

Violence between Police and Community Members

EWER reporting finds that violent incidents are regularly initiated by Police. In August and September, there were incidents involving border police discharging their pistols at a party, in Oecusse and Bobonaro districts. These incidents have led to continued public concerns about a lack of discipline within the police forces and the inappropriate use of police firearms.

Land Disputes

For the period from January to September there were a significant number of incidents relating to land disputes, some of which resulted in physical injuries and two of which resulted in deaths. There is a pressing need for revision and approval of appropriate land laws by the National Parliament in order to provide clarity on land ownership status among communities.



ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

Land Disputes. January-September 2012		
Impact	District	Total
Woman Killed	Aileu (1)	1
Man Killed	Ermera (1)	1
Man Wounded	Dili (2); Ainaru (2)	4
Woman Wounded	Aileu (1)	1
Project Stopped	Oecusse (2)	2

Alcohol-fuelled violence

68 of 69 alcohol-fuelled incidents were initiated by men in the period of January to September. The majority occurred in the street (5) with one in a home and one at a party.

Alcohol Related Incidents		
Responded to by	Sub district	Total
Police	Malina (1); Aileu (1)	2
Community Leader	Nain Feto (1); Dom Aleixo (1); Viqueque (1); Lospalos (1)	4
No response	Suai (1)	1

Student Involvement in Violence

Student-related violence increased from one incident in August to three incidents in September.

Youth-related violence

Youth-related violence was prevalent throughout the period January to September. This month, 27 incidents primarily involved fist fights, with one stabbing. As a result of these incidents, youth were injured in Baucau (1), Manufahi (1), Ainaru (2), and Ermera (1) districts in September.

Martial Arts

Despite the suspension of Martial Arts groups issued by the Counsel of Ministries in December 2011, martial arts related incidents have continued to occur, with 1 incident each in August and September. A member of the Military Police was implicated in the August incident, involving fighting between Kera Sakti and PSHT groups.

Violence by Unknown Offenders

Communities are concerned about the increasing number of violent incidents where the offender remains unidentified. There was a rise in such incidents from four in August to eight in September, which resulted in the death of one man and the stabbing of two people in Dili.

Other Incidents

Twelve other incidents were reported during September, including: accusations of black magic use (2); domestic violence (5); disputes over wandering livestock (3); conflict between community members and the community leader (1); and conflict between teachers. An incident resulting in death occurred on 15 September in Same, where a group of four Filipino workers at Sentral Oili Pesado Betno beat a colleague to death whilst drinking together on a beach.

Youth-Related Violence - September 2012		
Responded to by	Sub district	Total
Police	Dom Aleixo (1); Maliana (1); Atabae (1); Liquica (1); Baucau (1); Manatutu (1); Same (1).	7
Parents	Dom Aleixo (1); Liquica (1)	2
Community leader	Lautem (1); Hatulia (1)	2
Family members	Lospalos (1); Liquica	2
Party host	Fatuberliu (1)	1
No response	Dom Aleixo (2); Metinaru (1);	3

CONFLICT RESPONSE

Belun Conflict Prevention Activities for the Month of September:

- The Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) in Fatuberlihu subdistrict held a seminar entitled 'How to prevent conflict in the community', which was attended by residents of Bubu Susu and Fahinehan villages in Manufahi District. Various district officials represented security forces, government and civil society at the seminar.
- The CPRN in Alas Subdistrict, Manufahi held a traditional Tara Bandu ceremony to keep wandering livestock within their pens. This ceremony was held in Uma-Berloik village and was attended by government, religious and community leaders.
- Belun delivered Conflict Transformation training the CPRNs in Ossu and Uatalari, Viqueque district.

- Belun worked together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to train Seeds of Life program staff in Bobonaro and Baucau in communication and facilitation skills.
- Through the Dispute Resolution and Mediation program, Belun mediated three land disputes involving six people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should inform the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs about any projects being conducted in the border regions; and
- Provide an update on the progress of the border demarcation project.

Secretary of State for Security

- Police patrols and presence should be increased in Beto area, Comoro Subdistrict, Dili as incidents here tend to occur here suddenly and recent police responses have been inadequate;
- Continue to strengthen Police skills in conflict transformation; and
- Investigate cases of Police using their work firearms outside of official mandates.

Timor-Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL).

- Continue to improve the professionalism and discipline within members of the F-FDTL and the capacity of Military Police to implement disciplinary processes.

National Parliament

- Prioritize debates to review and improve land policy and laws and discuss recommendations made by civil society. Three land laws were vetoed by the Ex. President of the Republic in March 2012. Until land laws exist, communities will remain preoccupied with land ownership issues and disputes will arise regularly.

ABOUT THIS SITUATION 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 September 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. Image © Jon Novakovic, Belun, Setembru 2012.



*Peace Activity "How to Prevent Conflict in the Community"
Fahinehan village, Manufahi.*