

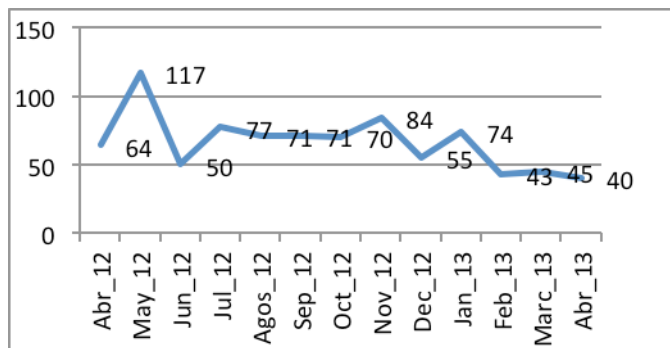
SITUATION REVIEW: APRIL 2013

THIS MONTH:

- ▶ Illegal collection of money
- ▶ Unknown people throw stones on houses during the night
- ▶ Movements of CPD-RDTL through some districts
- ▶ Violent acts by unknown people

CONFLICT TRENDS

Total Reported Incidents



Full incident reports can be found at:
www.belun.crowdmap.com

ILLEGAL GROUP ACTIVITY

Illegal Groups in Ermera

Belun's monitoring has revealed that, in the subdistrict of Hatolia (Ermera), a group has been running a scam to recruit people to become members of a group with the name: "**FALINTIL, FTL RDT (Timor-Leste Defense Force, Democratic Republic of Timor)**" which they claim will replace the current F-FDTL. Part of the scam is requiring US \$13 from members to gain an identity card (as pictured). Claims of the existence of an additional military group would violate Article 146 of the RDTL constitution which presents F-FDTL as the only defence force of Timor-Leste.



Identity Card of a FALINTIL- FTL-RDT Group Member

The police have an important role to play and need to actively investigate and identify the movements of the referred to group in the community. The controversy generated by the presence of this group is evidenced by the statement of one Veterans' leader in Ermera, Sr. Ernesto Dudu, who suggested that any identified members of this group receiving old age or veterans' pensions should lose their entitlements.

Unknown people stone houses in Ermera

Another trend in Hatolia Sub-district (Ermera) this April, was the incidence of stones being thrown at a number of homes by unknown persons during the night, raising community concerns. One person

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unsuccessfully attempted to identify the assailants, but they were hidden in the dark and others ran away. This incident has caused the relocation of some families to other residences during the night.

In addition, Belun's monitor has reported that rumors have spread around the community that some police members and some public servants have been designated as targets of this unnamed group, for murder or assault. This has served to intimidate a number of public officials in the area.

Despite the rumours, police have continued their night-time patrols, but with the company of the F-FDTL. These patrols have yet to identify the people behind the attacks and threats. Group members have managed to evade capture, raising suspicions that the group is either closely monitoring police patrols or receiving inside information. This has also raised doubts as to the integrity of local police. There is consensus that better communication between the local police and the community is the best way to deal with the situation.

MOVEMENTS OF CPD-RDTL

Threats from CPD-RDTL group in Covalima

This month, in the District of Covalima, there was increasing community concern over the movements of a CPD-RDTL group members located in Suku Beco, Sub-district Suai Vila (Covalima) responsible for a rice planting cooperative. Their activities have created tensions as some members of the CPD-RDTL have been threatening community members who are not supporting the cooperative. In response to these reports, Covalima District's Police Commander established new police posts in Suku Beco to improve community confidence. In addition the commander requested those from other districts to return to their districts and develop cooperatives there. A further response was received during the visit of the Prime Minister on April 12 to Covalima, who stated that "CPD-RDTL activity in Suku Beco needs to be stopped, and if they do not agree, I will remove them forcefully".



approached the leadership of the CPD-RDTL,

Police post in Suku Beco

More Members of CPD-RDTL Agree to Cease Activities

In the sub-subdistrict of Hatudo (Ainaro), the Minister for Commerce, Industry and the Environment held positive talks with a CPD-RDTL group conducting cooperative activities in Aldeia Hut-Seo, Suku Leo-Lima. The group agreed to stop their activities with the government agreeing to buy the agricultural products from the cooperative.

In sub-district Ainaro Vila (Ainaro), on the 24/04, Ainaro Police approached a CPD-RDTL group attempting to establish cooperative activities in Aldeia Lebumeta, Suku Soro, asking that they cease

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their activities, but they have signalled their intent to continue without recognition given to the Government's authority or community leaders.

Elderly CPD-RDTL members denied pension

Belun's monitors have reported that in Suku Soro, Sub-district Ainara Vila, elderly women and men are not being permitted to receive their pension, because they do not carry valid identity cards due to their membership of the CPD-RDTL.

ASSAULTS IN BAUCAU

In subdistrict Laga (Baucau) an incident occurred in Aldeia Samawatasi, Suku Samalari at midnight, when a microlet (passenger van) loaded with passengers from Baucau and travelling to Lospalos was stopped by a single person with a covered face, who proceeded to stab a female passenger in the chest then run away. Another passenger called police but the suspect had left the scene by the time of their arrival.

Another violent assault on the streets also occurred in Suku Trilolo, Sub-district Baucau,

where a young man who had loaded his motorbike into a truck for travel to Dili was stabbed. The truck was travelling slowly due to the bad road conditions, when a male jumped in to the truck and stabbed the young man in the stomach, critically wounding him. Police arrived later and arrested four men who were taken to the police station for further investigation.

VIOLENCE INVOLVING POLICE

Police Officer fires weapon and beats youth

Monitoring continued to show police members involved in violence from January – April (3-3-1). The lone incident in April took place in Aileu. Police officers were drinking alcohol at a family party when a confrontation arose with local youth. One of the officers discharged his firearm. This was followed by police officers beating the four young men during the investigation process.

ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

Brawl between youth leads to house fire

Despite a drop in incidents involving youth from 11 (March) down to 9 (April), notable incidents continued to occur. In sub-district Dom Aleixo (Dili), a house of a family was destroyed by fire, lit by a gang of youths.

Of the 9 incidents (April), five resulted in serious injuries, including 2 in the Sub-district of Vera Cruz and 3 in Dom Aleixo. Others included property damage such as the destruction of houses in Baucau (1), Dom Aleixo (3); a motorbike destroyed in Dom Aleixo and a car window smashed in Oecusse (1) and 2 Government cars smashed in Dom Aleixo (Dili). From the 9 incidents (April), police responded to 7 incidents, community leaders (1) and no response (1).

Alcohol-fuelled violence extends to house arson

Figures for alcohol-related violence from January-April are (10 – 4 – 4 – 8). From the 8 incidents in April, one incident in subdistrict Fatuberlihu (Manufahi) included a large alcohol-fuelled brawl that escalated to the burning of a family house. Other incidents occurred in Liquiça (3), Maufahi (1), Bobonaru (1), Dili (1) and Viqueque (1). Responders included police (4), local leaders (1) and no response (1).

Other incidents:

Land disputes occurred in Dili District (2), Liquiça (1) and Lautem (1). All these incidents were exacerbated by the current indecision over the Parliament's legislative agenda.

Fighting between students was reported in the districts of Manatutu (1), Dili (1), and Baucau, where a male student, when walking home, was attacked by other students and stabbed with a knife in his hand. The incident was responded by the police and currently registered with the Public Prosecutor.

Family conflict, occurred in the districts of Manufahi (1) and Oecusse (1).

Allegations of witchcraft occurred in the District of Oecusse (1).

Other incidents, total (8) incidents including in the districts of Liquiça (4); Oecusse (1); Dili (1); Baucau (1) and Covalima (1).

RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

Conflict prevention in the community during the month of April 2013, from Belun's financial support

- The Community Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) from Lautem held a seminar regarding trends of conflict related to security, the judiciary and the environment, featuring presentations from representatives of F-FDTL, Ministry of Justice, PDHJ, DNTPC and NGO Belun. Participants included youth groups, community leaders, local government members, church, political parties, civil society, CPD-RDTL and community members.
- The CPRN from the Sub-district of Vemasse conducted a socialization of the Decree Law No. 33 on public order for community leaders and members.
- The CPRN from the District of Oecusse organized a District-Level Seminar with the theme "Strengthening Peace and Stability on the Border", featuring presentations from: Oecusse *Liu Rai* (Traditional Rulers), the District Administrator of Oecusse and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PDHJ, FONGTIL and Belun.
- The CPRN from Sub-district Ermera conducted a seminar on the establishment of municipal governance structures, featuring a presentation from the Commission for the Establishment of Municipalities to the community leaders, civil society, youth groups and community members.



*CPRN Seminar for Oecusse District –
"Strengthening Peace and Stability on the
Border"*

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- Belun's land dispute mediation program facilitated 22 land disputes.

RESPONSES TO CONFLICT



CPRN Seminar in Lautem Sub-district

RECOMMENDATIONS

Timor-Leste National Police (PNTL)

Leadership in Dili should support the sub-district police of Hatolia (Ermera) to patrol during the night and investigate the activities of illegal groups.

Investigate all police misusing firearms and abusing their position of authority.

Civil society

Continue to cooperate with local government and police to facilitate civic education at the grass roots level to dispel rumours and false information in communities

Sub-district CPRNs

Continue to proactively cooperate with local authorities, religious leaders, civil society and local government to identify sources of conflict and to organize preventive action in order to avoid escalation of conflict.

ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This document reports on key issues related to violent incidents and trends emerging from data collected through Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system during April 2013. Belun strives to provide up-to-date information. We acknowledge that situations may change quickly and welcome any information that clarifies or updates our data. Please email EWER Program Manager Bylah Da Costa: bylah.belun@gmail.com. Image ©Documentation of Police Post in Railete (Hatolia), Simon Fallo, Bylah Da Costa, April 2013.

The EWER system is generously supported by the European Union through the Instrument for Stability, UNDP and the GIZ Peace Fund on behalf of BMZ (the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) through the German-Timorese Development Cooperation together with the State Secretariat of Youth and Sport:

<http://www.belun.tl>