

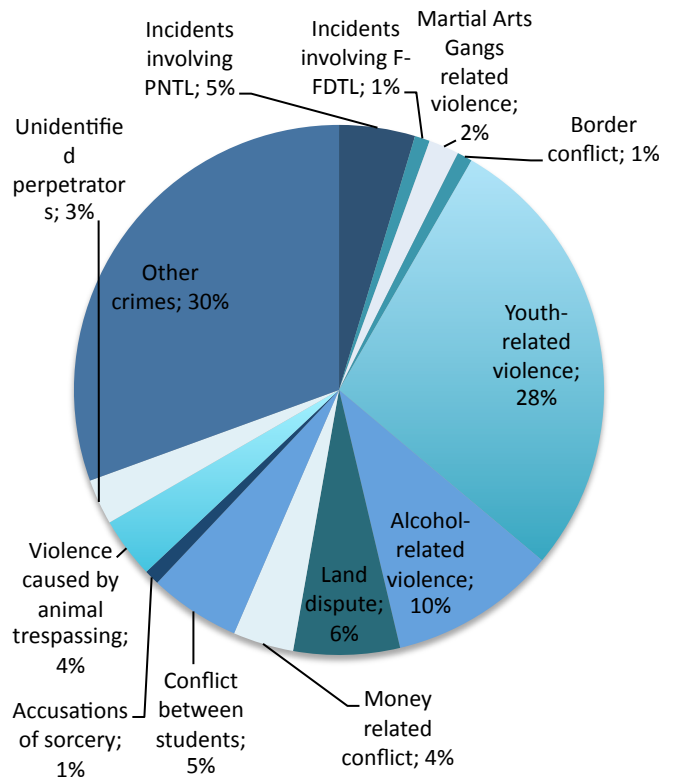
## ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

- ▶ Youth related violence (30)
- ▶ Impacts of alcohol consumption on violence (15)
- ▶ Land disputes (8)
- ▶ Violence related to animal trespassing (4)

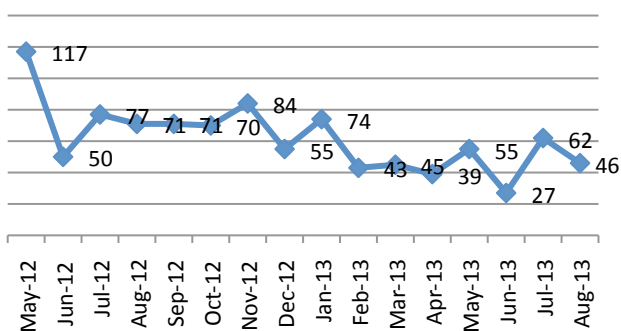
## TOTAL REPORTED INCIDENTS

District	Incidents
Lautem	15
Covalima	6
Díli	25
Viqueque	9
Aileu	6
Ainaro	8
Ermera	4
Baucau	4
Manatuto	4
Manufahi	6
Oecusse	14
Liquiça	3
Bobonaro	4
Total	108

## INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS



## TOTAL REPORTED INCIDENTS MAY 2012 – AUGUST 2013



For a full summary of incidents, see [www.belun.crowdmap.com](http://www.belun.crowdmap.com)

## YOUTH RELATED VIOLENCE

Monitoring for the period of July – August 2013 showed that violent incidents involving or initiated by youth constituted 28 % of the total number of reported incidents (30 out of 108). The district of Díli was the most prevalent location for youth-related violence, with a total of (13) incidents. Other districts where youth-related violence occurred are as follows: Manufahi (3); Viqueque (3); Lautem (2); Covalima (2); Bobonaro (2); Baucau (2); Ermera (1); Oecusse (1); Manatuto (1). In one particular incident in July, at a kiosk in Fatuhada (sub-district Dom Aleixo, Díli), a group of male youth violently attacked the owner because he refused to give them alcohol and cigarettes without the exchange of money. The verbal threats made by the group of youth escalated into one of them stabbing the kiosk owner in the stomach. The PNTL and Suco Chief were involved in facilitating the resolution of this incident, using traditional forms of dispute resolution. Data from July and August also shows that stone throwing (3) and the use of knives (2) were the most common forms of violence for youth.

Another demonstrated pattern was the relative ease at which verbal provocation could quickly escalate into physical violence. Furthermore, (4) of the recorded incidents were allegedly initiated by past grievances.

#### ALCOHOL RELATED VIOLENCE

There were (11) recorded incidents relating to the consumption of alcohol from July – August 2013: Dili (3); Oecusse (2); Lautem (3); Manufahi (2); Covalima (1). In sub-district Oesili (Oecusse), a physical altercation between the ex-Chefe Aldeia and a member of the Suco Council at a funeral was triggered by their consumption of alcohol. Research from Belun's 2010 Policy Brief '*Alcohol and its links to conflict*' showed that the consumption of alcohol is a common precursor to violence. It can often cause social occasions to turn violent, and has the capacity to escalate or exacerbate existing tensions and unresolved issues. While Section 10 of Timor-Leste's Taxes and Duties Act (Decree No.8/2008) specifies the imposition of excise tax on alcohol as well as a sales tax on imported alcohol (2.5%), alcohol produced locally is not subjected to the same legal requirements.

#### VIOLENCE RELATING TO LAND DISPUTES

A total of (8) land disputes were reported for the following districts: Dili (1); Covalima (2); Liquiça (1); Bobonaro (1); Aileu (1); Lautem (1); Ainaro (1). These mostly occurred between family members, neighbours, or between communities and construction companies. This was the case in July in the sub-district of Maliana, (Bobonaro) where the company did not inform the community that they were constructing a STAE office. The community forced the construction to stop and requested mediation and dialogue to occur before construction could resume. The conflict potential of land disputes remains high as information regarding the status of land ownership and the associated legal processes are not well known. In July, the aldeias of Maubok and Faularan (sub-district of Lulara, Aileu) disputed over the boundaries of their communities. Physical and verbal threats were made by both sides, however no actual physical confrontation eventuated. Currently, the leaders from the community are still unable to find a resolution. Depending on the community's approval, Belun's Land Dispute Mediation and Resolution (LDMR) Program will seek to facilitate mediation to resolve this conflict.

#### VIOLENCE RELATED TO ANIMAL TRESPASSING

Monitoring from July – August reported a total of (4) incidents caused by the trespassing of animals onto farming

land. These occurred in Lautem (2); Viqueque (1); Oecusse (1). These incidents occurred because livestock such as buffalo, horse, goats and pigs are not tied up properly or enclosed within a fenced off space. Or, if farmers do not fence off their land, it can be easy for livestock to enter. The entry of livestock onto farmland continues to be a precursor for conflict as it often results in the destruction of property and crops, leading to a confrontation between the animal owner and farmland owner. Forms of violence including physical fights, verbal and physical threats and stabbings. For example in July in Cailaque (sub-district Afaloicai, Viqueque), a farmer sliced a man's hand with a machete after his buffalos entered onto his farmland and ate his crops.

#### OTHER INCIDENTS IN JULY AND AUGUST

**Incidents between students:** In July and August there were (6) reported incidents between students: Viqueque (3); Lautem (1); Aileu (1). The cause of these incidents revolved around membership within martial arts groups, identity-driven aggression based on suco origin, or fighting over girls.

**Incidents involving martial arts groups:** On 1 July in the sub-district Baucau there was a fight between members of the community in Gariuai and *Kera Sakti* (a Martial Arts group). The group were transporting the body of a deceased member, who had been killed in an inter-group attack in Malang, Indonesia. While driving through Gariuai some of the members in the convoy threw stones at houses and a car. Some of the people in the community retaliated by shooting at them with *Rama Hana's* (traditional arrow guns), injuring one of the members of *Kera Sakti*. The car of the Chefe Suco was also damaged in the course of the fight. The cause of this incident is allegedly based upon a Martial Arts Gang rivalry between *Kera Sakti* and PSHT. The police did not arrest anyone involved in the incident, and there remains the possibility that future related attacks could occur based on unresolved grievances and tensions between the two groups from this incident. This incident contributed to the government's decision to place a permanent ban on the activities of three martial arts groups (PSHT, *Kera Sakti* and KORKA) which were identified as continuing to provoke violent incidents based on inter-group rivalries, contravening Government Resolution no.16/2013 on the Termination of Martial Arts Groups. The ban came into effect on 10 July 2013. There was also (1) other incident involving Martial Arts Groups in Dili.

#### Crimes committed by unidentified perpetrators:

Monitoring for July – August 2013 reported (3) crimes committed by unidentified perpetrators. In July in Fatuhada (sub-district Dom Aleixo, Dili), a man broke into a store, stabbing an Indonesian man to death and injuring 2

**CONFLICT PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSE**

Chinese men. The PNTL were unable to make any arrests as they could not identify the perpetrator. This incident has caused panic throughout the community. Other districts where police were unable to identify the perpetrators of crimes committed were: Liquiça (1); Oecusse (1).

**Incidents relating to black magic:** In August in Fahilacor (sub-district Lacro, Manatuto), a man accused his work colleague of practicing black magic and putting a curse on his son, causing his son to die. The issue was taken to the Police, however they directed it to the *Lia nain* who was able to resolve it through *Adat*.

**Incidents relating to money lending:** In July and August, the borrowing of money caused (4) conflicts: Lautem (1); Ainaro (2); Covalima (1). In Leogol (sub-district Zumulai, Covalima) a kiosk owner was following up a male who had borrowed money from him. The kiosk owner became angry when the male denied having borrowed money from him, and verbally assaulted him. In response, later that evening the male went to the home of the kiosk owner, verbally assaulted him and stabbed him in the head with a machete. The kiosk owner reported this to the Police, who arrested the perpetrator. The case is being processed at the courts.

**Excessive use of force by PNTL:** In July in Atres (sub-district Ermera, Ermera), a PNTL officer arrested and beat a male youth for disobeying the Government resolution on the banning of martial arts activity. The officer suspected him of being responsible for PSHT martial arts practice in Fatubolu (sub-district Hatolia, Ermera). Similarly in Lautem, a PNTL officer physically assaulted a young male he suspected of stealing an animal; and in Dili a PNTL officer beat a young male after he stopped him for not wearing a helmet whilst riding a motorcycle.

**Excessive use of force by F-FDTL:** In Raifun Vila (sub-district Maliana, Bobonaro), a member of F-FDTL got into a fight with a PNTL District commander. The confrontation occurred when the District Commander stopped the F-FDTL officer for not wearing a helmet and being parked on the wrong side of the road. However the member of F-FDTL became agitated, responding by saying that nobody could give a member of the armed forces an order, and physically assaulted the PNTL commander. The F-FDTL member ran away after a group of youth nearby attempted to beat him. Members from the F-FDTL post in Nunura came to meet with the PNTL commanders, and the issue was resolved after the F-FDTL member apologized. In another incident at Gleno Market in Atres (sub-district Ermera) a member of F-FDTL hit a young male. The motive has not been identified.

**Sub-district level:** In July, Belun’s peacebuilding program ‘DAME’, conducted in partnership with Search for Common Ground (SFCG,) ran focus group discussions to conduct a capacity and needs assessment of the Conflict Prevention and Response Networks (CPRNs). From these findings, DAME will offer training and capacity assistance.

In August, DAME disseminated information and called for applications to the small grants funds called ‘Conflict Sensitive Development Initiatives’ to the CPRNs.

**Open Space: ‘Contribution of Youth to build peace and unity for local development’**

On the 27 – 28 August, an Open Space forum was held at the Kanosa in Becora. Youth from 5 districts participated, as well as CPRNs and sub-district monitors from Ermera, Baucau, Manatuto, Liquiça and Aileu.



*The Secretary of State of Professional Training and Employment, Ilidio Ximenes, speaking at the Open Space Forum for Youth*

Guest speakers included the Secretary of State of Professional Training & Employment (SEFOPE), a representative from the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sport (SEJD) and the President of the National Youth Council of Timor-Leste (CNJTL). The event was officially opened by SEFOPE who encouraged youth to use their initiative, experience and skills to build businesses and be more involved in the development of Timor-Leste.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### The Office of the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport

- ▶ Establish more vocational training centers in the districts in order to increase youth access to skills and knowledge building and gain employment.

### Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment

- ▶ Enforce legislation and regulations pertaining to the importation, taxation and sale of alcohol, as well as the sale of local alcohol and an age limit (18+) on its purchase.
- ▶ Encourage and participate in the facilitation of community-led *Tara Bandu* as an alternative mechanism of resolving violent conflicts triggered by animal trespassing.

### The Office of the Secretary of State for Security

- ▶ Continue to develop the functional capacity of PNTL members to conduct their civic duties in accordance to the rule of Law and without violation of human rights.
- ▶ Consistently enforce fully transparent disciplinary action against PNTL officers who are involved in crimes or other violent behaviour, in order to increase public confidence in PNTL as security actors.
- ▶ Build stronger, more positive relations between PNTL and communities, particularly youth. Activities could include regular friendly sports matches, with teams composed of a mixture of PNTL officers and members of the communities.

### The Office of the Secretary of State for Defense

- ▶ Continue to increase the functional and professional capacity of F-FDTL officers, reinforcing the importance of positive social engagement with other security actors and communities.
- ▶ Consistently enforce fully transparent disciplinary action against F-FDTL officers who are involved in crimes or other violent behaviour, in order to increase public confidence in F-FDTL as security actors.

### Timor-Leste's National Directorate of Land, Property and Cadastral services

- ▶ Socialise information at the community level regarding the status and terms of the proposed new Land Laws on legal processes and land ownership statuses.

### Ministry of Health/ Civil Society

- ▶ Conduct campaigns of health education on the harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption on physical and mental health, such as those previously facilitated by PRADET.

### Local authorities/ Civil Society

- ▶ Provide civic education on non-violent mechanisms to solve conflict at the suco level for communities.

- ▶ Continue to socialise land laws to increase community understanding of these laws and associated legal processes regarding land ownership.
- ▶ Support community-led *Tara Bandu* ceremonies to minimize the occurrence of animals entering into farmland, thereby minimizing the destruction of property and crops.

## ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This document 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 July - August 2013. Belun maximizes its efforts to provide up-to-date information. We recognise that situations may change quickly, and so welcome further information that 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); or Public Policy Officer Pedro de Araujo dos Santos: [pedroa.belun@gmail.com](mailto:pedroa.belun@gmail.com).