

SITUATION REVIEW

OCTOBER 2013

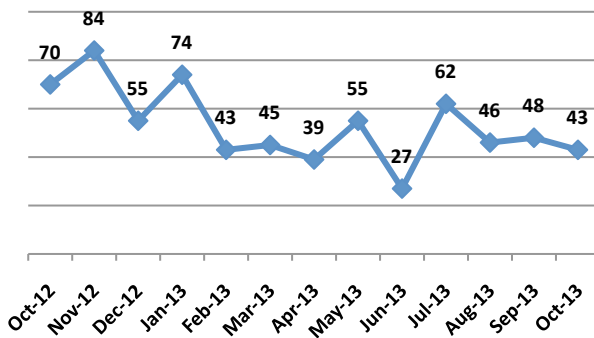
ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

- ▶ Border conflict in Lakufoan, Oecusse (5)
- ▶ Severe violence caused by alcohol consumption (11)
- ▶ Violence involving youth (10)
- ▶ Crimes committed by unidentified perpetrators (4)
- ▶ Land disputes (4)

TOTAL REPORTED INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

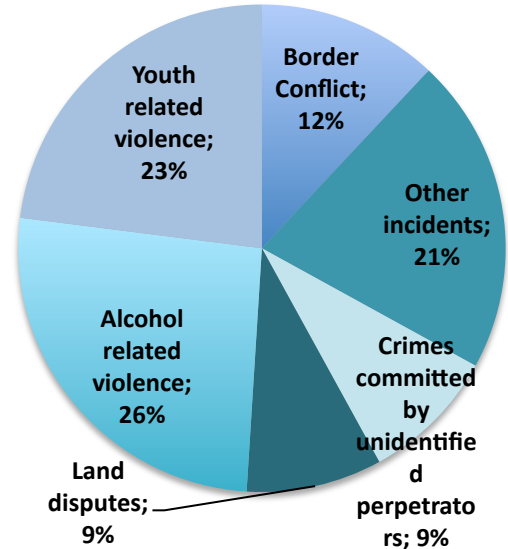
District	Incidents
Lautem	6
Covalima	1
Dili	5
Viqueque	5
Aileu	1
Ainaro	0
Ermera	1
Baucau	5
Manatuto	2
Manufahi	5
Oecusse	8
Liquiça	3
Bobonaro	1
Total	43

TOTAL REPORTED INCIDENTS FROM OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013



Data monitoring shows that the number of incidents reported for October 2013 is almost 50% less than the number recorded in October 2012. Full incident summaries can be accessed from www.belun.crowdmap.com.

CONFLICT TRENDS



BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN LAKUFOAN (OECUSSE) & NAIBENU (KEFAMENANU – INDONESIA)

From the 14 – 28 October 2013, a series of violent incidents were reported along the Timor-Leste & Indonesian border between the communities of Lakufoan (Oecusse) and Naibenu (Kefamenanu –Indonesia). The increasing tension between the communities emerged due to farming in close proximity to the border.

Across the 2-week period, there were a total of (5) incidents. These violent confrontations, instigated by people from the Naibenu communities of Suin Sea, Bakitolas, Benus and Manamas, involved rock throwing, verbal and physical assault, property destruction (Border Patrol Unit (BPU) vehicle, a Junction Point system and water well) and house burning. 10 people were injured and 3 houses burnt as a result, with community members of Lakufoan fleeing to neighbouring villages out of fear.

Immediate responses:

The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) provided emergency humanitarian assistance to the families of the 3 houses burnt. The Ministry of Health also facilitated the treatment of those seriously injured as a result of the confrontations. The Secretary of State for the autonomous region of Oecusse also visited Lakufoan, and more members of BPU were deployed around the immediate region.

The Director for Multi-Sectoral Advocacy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Mr. Arnaldo Suni, consulted with members of the Indonesian army (TNI) and the Sub-district administrator of Naibenu in preparing a letter to the Pante Makassar Sub-District Administrator (Timor-Leste) proposing a dialogue. EWER's Oecusse District Coordinator also worked in conjunction with the Conflict Prevention and Response Networks (CPRNs) of Pante Makassar in inviting people to a meeting in order to identify the root of the violence and develop responses for future incidents. For further details of these incidents, EWER has published a full alert: <http://belun.tl/en/atres-alerta-konflitu-fronteira-lakufoan/>



Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UPF officer, Oecusse District Administrator inspecting the border demarcation. Photo Credit: Simon Fallo.

STABBINGS AND VIOLENCE RELATING TO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

There were (11) incidents relating to alcohol consumption recorded for October: Covalima (1); Lautem (3); Dili (1); Liquiça (1); Baucau (1); Manufahi (3). In comparison to September 2013, where Dili was the key location for alcohol-related incidents, this month the number of alcohol related incidents reported in Dili is significantly lower. Similar to the previous months, youth are highly represented in alcohol-related incidents (9 out of 11; 82%).

Incidents involving stabbings: 2 of the alcohol-related incidents for October 2013 involved stabbings, with one of them resulting in a death (Beilaku, sub-district Zumalai, Covalima; and Lutumutu, sub-district Baucau, Baucau). In the incident reported in Baucau, a male youth under the influence of alcohol got into a fight with his father, stabbing him and causing serious injuries to the stomach. The father was taken to hospital. The family reported the crime to the police who arrested the son. The Baucau district police are currently processing the crime.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING YOUTH

Impacts of drug use: In Metiaut (sub-district Cristo Rei, Dili), a male youth stabbed his friend to death. The incident is allegedly due to the perpetrator suspecting his friend of having a malicious intent toward one of his family members. The victim was stabbed four times – stomach, back, shoulder and elbow. The perpetrator was immediately captured by Becora Police and the crime submitted for investigation. It was later confirmed that the perpetrator was under the influence of drugs (cannabis) when he committed the crime. The perpetrator was arrested and sentenced for murder. Whilst in Becora Prison, the perpetrator hung himself.

Incidents involving youth occurred in the following districts: Baucau (2); Bobonaro (1); Lautem (2); Viqueque (2); Dili (2); Liquica (1).

CRIMES COMMITTED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERPETRATORS

In October 2013, (4) cases of crimes committed by unidentified perpetrators were reported: Liquica (1); Baucau (1); Viqueque (1); Dili (1).

These incidents occurred either in the evening or early morning while it is still dark. Similar to previous months, in 2 of the reported cases this month, the perpetrator has been on a motorcycle. In Lutumutu (sub-district Baucau, Baucau), a female youth was punched to the ground. In Fatuhada (sub-district Dom Aleixo, Dili) an F-FDTL officer was stabbed with a machete by an unidentified perpetrator riding past. He sustained series injuries to his left hand.

LAND DISPUTES

In Dili and Oecusse, there were (2) cases of verbal disputes because of land-grabbing. In Viqueque, a sub-village chief stole land owned by another person. This dispute and the chief's refusal to return the land led to a physical fight, and resulted in both parties sustaining head injuries.

OTHER INCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER

Violence between family members: Incident monitoring for October showed (4) incidents of violence occurring between family members. In Lauraehou (sub-district Hatolio, Ermera) a man raped and then killed his mother-in-law. This violent reaction arose when the woman told the perpetrator that she would inform her husband of his actions. He stabbed her in the neck with her hairpin and then repeatedly hit her cheek with an *ai dona* (a club used for fighting) until she died. When the husband returned home to find his wife dead, he reported the incident to the Village and sub-village chief, as well as the PNTL station in Railete. The police apprehended the perpetrator, and he was sentenced to 24-year imprisonment.

Other incidents between family members involved a man accusing his godson of stealing his horse (Viqueque); 2 sisters fighting over access to water (Manatuto); and 2 brothers verbally insulting each other because of a dispute over barlake (Oecusse). With the exception of the incident between the 2 sisters which resulted in one hitting the other, neither of the other 2 incidents escalated any further than a verbal dispute.

In Aileu, community members from the aldeia of Sarin killed a buffalo owned by person from the aldeia of Riafusu after it destroyed their crops. In response, the community of Riafusu destroyed a water well in Sarin.



Participants at Belun's LDMR Mediation Training in sub-district of Manatuto

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

District level: From October 20 – 27 2013, the EWER program conducted Round Table Discussions discussing “How youth can contribute to local development” in (5) districts: Ermera, Aileu, Baucau, Liquica and Dili.



Round Table Discussion, Dili. Attended by the Secretary of State for Professional Training and Employment (SEFOPE), President of The National Youth Council of Timor-Leste (CNJTL) and the 12 November Commission.

Sub-District level: In the sub-districts of Suai Vila, Tilomar and Zumalai (district of Manufahi), DAME conducted training on project proposal writing & leadership skills for CPRNS. DAME also awarded funding through the Small-Grants Program (funded by Search For Common Ground) in the sub-districts of Ermera (Ermera), Laulara and Remexio (Aileu), Alas (Manufahi), and Nain Feto (Dili).

Between 23 – 25 October 2013, Belun's Land Dispute Mediation and Resolution (LDMR) Program facilitated training in the sub-district of Manatuto about how to conduct mediation for DTPSC staff and the Village Councils of Sau, Aiteas, Ailili, Na'abat, Cribas and Iliheu.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- ▶ Strive to finalize negotiations on border demarcation with the Government of Indonesia.

Secretariat of State for Security and PNTL

- ▶ Increase the deployment of personnel for PNTL's Border Patrol Units (BPU) along the Oecusse – Indonesian border.
- ▶ Maintain regular communication channels between local TNI and BPU leadership.
- ▶ Training for BPU units in conflict mediation, prevention and response.

Civil Society and Churches

- ▶ Establish family counselling services at the community level as an alternative form of conflict resolution.

Secretariat of State for Land and Property

- ▶ Recruit Village level focal points to facilitate mediation of incidents relating to land disputes.

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 October 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 Marilia O. da Costa: bylah.belun@gmail.com (+670 7727 6671) or Public Policy Officer Pedro de Araújo dos Santos: pedroa.belun@gmail.com (+670 7700 1421).

The EWER system is generously supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union Instrument for Stability, 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. www.belun.tl/en

Belun asserts that the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or the United States Government, the Government of Germany, GIZ or the European Union.