

ISSUES TO WATCH – APRIL 2014

- ▶ PNTL – F-FDTL joint operation against “illegal groups”
- ▶ Violent incidents among youth
- ▶ Young cattle owner beheaded during attempted theft

PNTL – F-FDTL joint operation against “illegal groups”

In April, the Government continued its raids against “illegal groups” such as the Maubere Revolutionary Council (KRM) and the Democratic Popular Council–RDTL (CPD-RDTL) in accordance with the National Parliament Resolution No. 5/2014 and the Council of Minister’s Resolution No. 8/2014.

The Council of Minister’s Resolution No. 8/2014 established a PNTL–F-FDTL (police–military) joint operation against “illegal groups.” Raids were conducted mainly in the districts of Baucau and Vikeké, where some of the groups’ members were hiding in the area around Mount Matebian, while others remained hidden in their families’ homes. Many members of “illegal groups” surrendered voluntarily during the joint operation, handing in their uniforms, organizational documents and identification cards to the PNTL and F-FDTL, and returning to their respective aldeias (hamlets) and suku (villages).

Based on Belun’s monitoring, there were complaints from communities in Suku Sagadate, Laga Sub-district, Baucau District, that human rights violations were committed during the joint operation. Belun collaborated with other civil society organizations that were monitoring the joint operation for human rights violations and recommended in a press conference that the PNTL and F-FDTL professionalize their approach in order to increase the credibility of both institutions and better earn the trust of communities.

Total number of incidents by district in April 2014	
District	Incidents
Aileu	4
Ainaro	4
Baucau	7
Bobonaro	1
Covalima	0
Dili	10
Ermera	4
Lautein	7
Likisá	4
Manatuto	3
Manufahi	1
Oekusi	7
Vikeké	6
Total	58

Inter-youth violent incidents increased in April

April monitoring shows that inter-youth violence increased, representing 48% of the total incidents recorded (22 incidents out of 58). Fistfights, provocation, verbal assaults, rock throwing, and altercations while under the influence of alcohol continue to be the main kinds of violence initiated by young people. Violent incidents among youth mostly occurred in Lautein, accounting for all 7 incidents occurring in the district.

The monitoring results show that alcohol has been the cause of many incidents across the country. Sometimes incidents involving youth groups and students occur around public roads. For example, in Suku Becora, Cristo Rei Sub-district, Dili District, a group of young men got drunk and beat people passing in front of them. The police were alerted by the community and went to the location. The young men reacted against the police by throwing rocks at the PNTL Patrol Unit car, which heavily damaged the vehicle. The PNTL arrested the young men and investigated the incident, and the case remains in process.

Violence committed by youth instils fear in communities. Thus, Belun recommends that local leaders, in collaboration with the PNTL and the Conflict Prevention and Response Networks (CPRNs) across the country, take measures to ensure the stability of suku through dialogue and conflict transformation, with a specific focus on youth, so as to prevent violent incidents in the future.

Cattle owner beheaded during attempted theft

In Lautein District, a thief armed with a machete chased down and beheaded a young cattle owner after he was caught in the act of trying to steal the young man’s cow. The police captured the murderer and the case has been submitted to the Attorney General for further proceedings.

Such incidents of extreme violence create a general sense of insecurity, especially among persons and communities that rely on animal ownership as a source of income. Belun recommends that to prevent such incidents, the community police, Suku Council, and local communities should work together to jointly secure their communities to prevent these and other crimes committed at the aldeia, suku, or sub-district levels.



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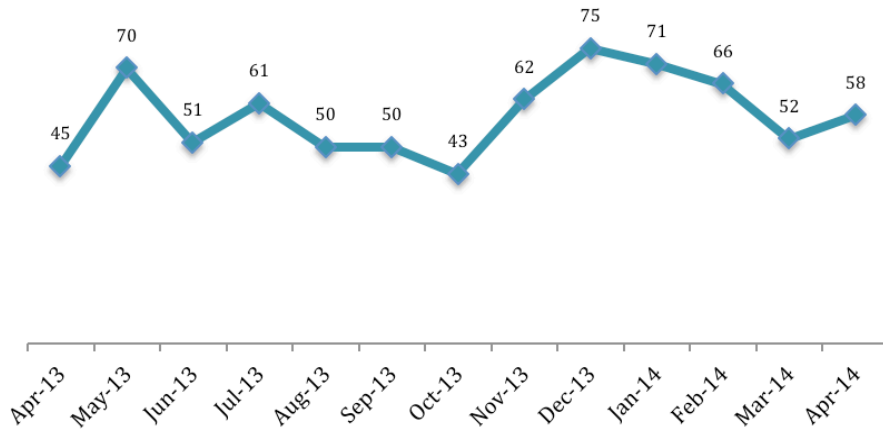


Belun
Hamutuk Hakbi’it Komunitade

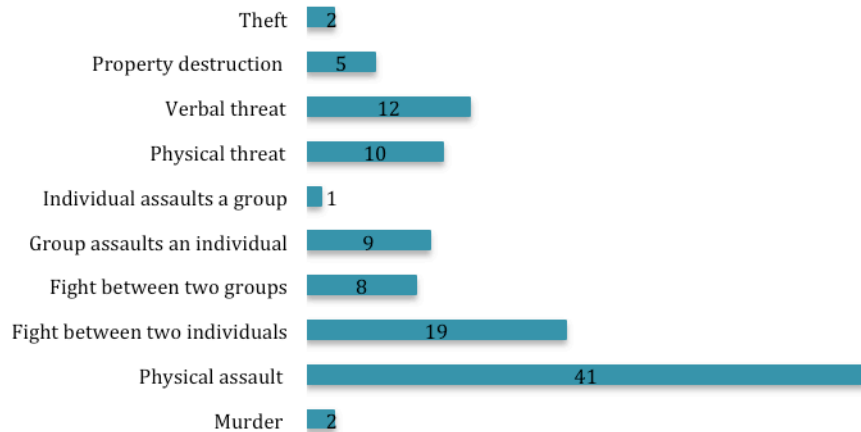


INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

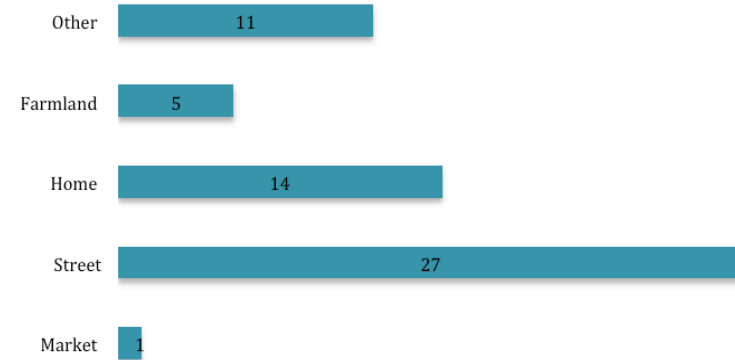
Total Incidents Reported: Apr '13 - Mar '14



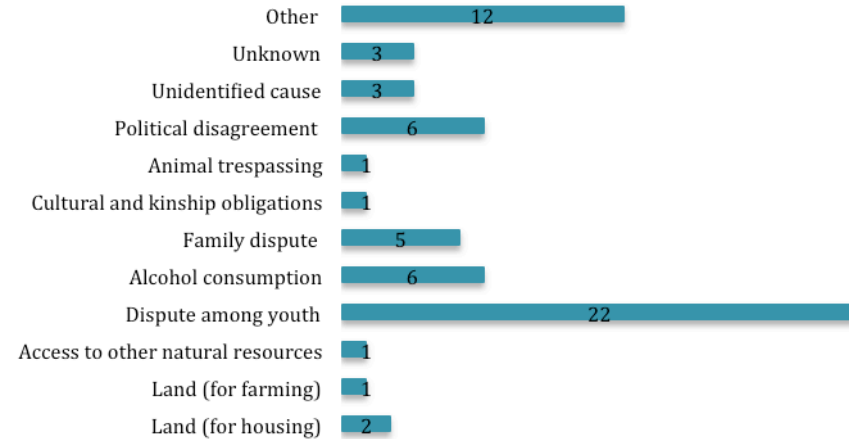
Incident Type



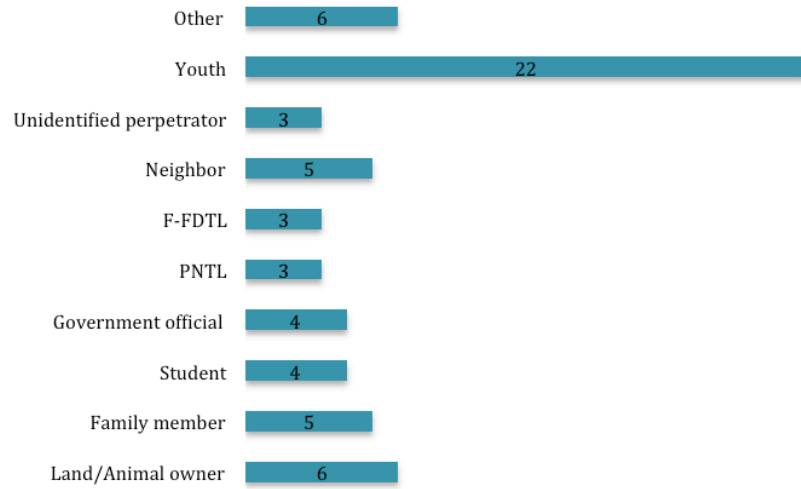
Incident Location



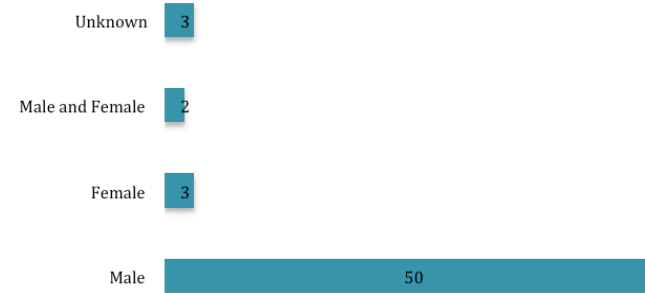
Underlying Cause of Incident



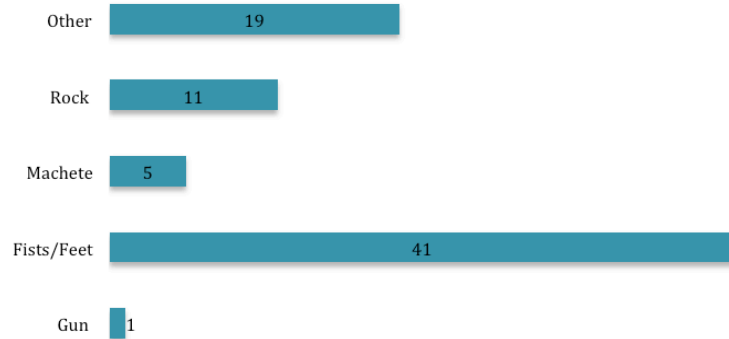
Who Initiated the incident?



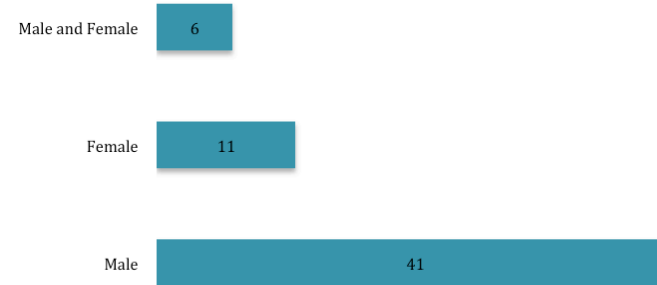
Gender of Initiator



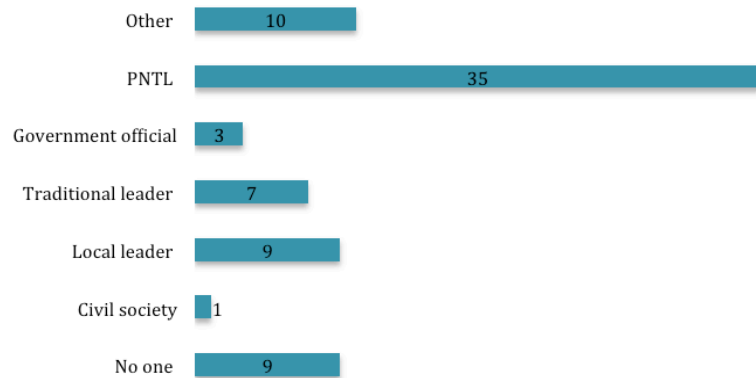
Weapon Used



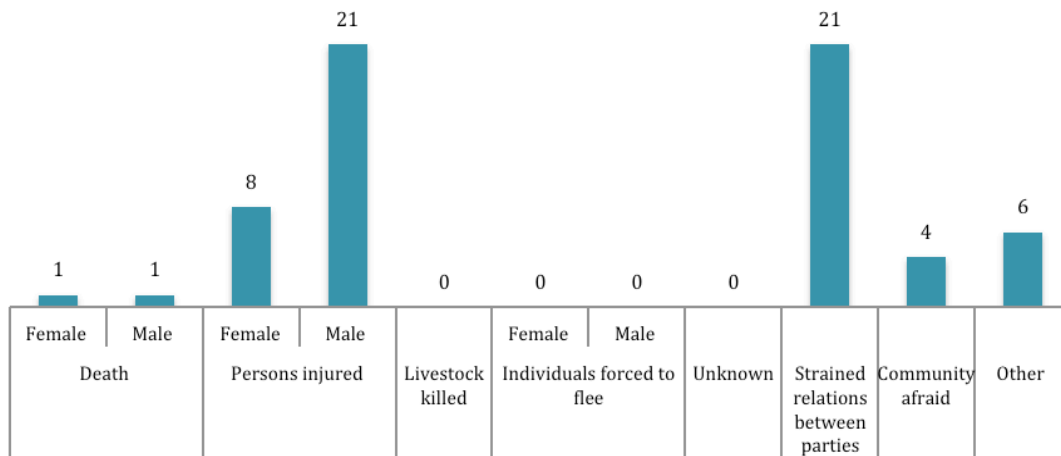
Gender of Victim



Incident Respondent



Impact of Incidents



By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution (LMDR) team

- ▶ On 7 April, the LMDR team had a meeting with local authorities in Suku Vila-Verde, Vera Cruz Sub-district, Dili District, to share information on methods for the mediation and resolution of land disputes.
- ▶ On 8 April, the LMDR team together with officials of the National Directorate of Land, Property, and Cadastral Services (DNTPSC) of Dili District met with suku authorities and community members from Hera, Cristo Rei Sub-district to share information on methods for the mediation and resolution of land disputes.
- ▶ On 8 April, the LMDR team facilitated mediation and cooperated with the DNTPSC of Manatuto District to resolve a dispute over private lands in Aldeia Malarahún, Suku Ailili, Manatuto Sub-district. The mediation was successful and one party agreed to cede the land to the other party.
- ▶ On 9 April, the LMDR team facilitated mediation and cooperated with the DNTPSC of Manatuto District, to resolve a dispute over private lands in Aldeia Obrato, Suku Sau, Manatuto Sub-District. The mediation was successful – one party agreed to cede land to the other party and both agreed to divide the plot.

By the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) team

- ▶ On 24 April, the EWER team, through the Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) of Maubara Sub-district, local authorities and community representatives, carried out an information-sharing seminar to consolidate community members’ understanding of the deconcentration process and the creation of a municipal authority in Likisá District. Speakers included the Director of the Commission to establish the Municipality of Likisá, the Police Commander of Likisá District, the Chief of the DNPTSC of Likisá District, and the Director of Belun.
- ▶ On 25 April, the EWER team conducted an information campaign through social media channels on the topic of conflict prevention. The team presented the monitoring results of the June-September 2013 trimester to students of UNPAZ and CPRN in Maubara Sub-District, Likisá District.

RECOMMENDATIONS

His Excellency President of the Republic of Timor-Leste

- ▶ Conduct an extensive investigation on the claims of human rights violation during the PNTL/F-FDTL joint operation against the “illegal groups” at the community level. This will increase the institutional strength of the security forces and improve its credibility with the population

PNTL & F-FDTL

- ▶ Identify and investigate the members of the PNTL and F-FDTL that committed abuses during the joint operation against “illegal groups”.
- ▶ Strengthen the police force’s professionalism and increase its capacity to undertake large-scale operations without human rights violations and other abuses.

Timor-Leste Youth National Council (CNJTL)

- ▶ Disseminate information on conflict transformation to areas where inter-youth violence is occurring, so as to raise awareness about the subject and reduce incidents.

Local Leaders

- ▶ Cooperate with the Community Police and village communities, especially in areas such as Vemasse sub-district, Baucau District, in order to prevent the theft of cattle and other property, and reduce the violent incidents associated with such thefts

ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This situation review reports on key issues relevant to incidents and trends identified by monitoring through the Early Warning Early Response (EWER) system in Timor-Leste during April 2014. Belun strives to share information which is up-to-date and verified. Considering that situations change rapidly, we appreciate receiving information to clarify or update our EWER monitoring data.

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