

### ISSUE TO WATCH – MARCH 2014

#### Implementation of the Parliamentary Resolution on “illegal groups”

The resolution of the National Parliament number 5/2014, issued on 3 March 2014, declared certain veterans groups such as the Maubere Revolutionary Council (KRM) and the Popular Committee for Defense of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (CPD-RDTL) “illegal”, and issued a mandate to the national police to close down the groups.

Subsequently, on 10 March, two members of Timor-Leste’s National Police Force (PNTL) were injured when a Molotov cocktail and rocks were thrown at them during a raid on the KRM’s cantonment in Lalulai Aldeia (hamlet), Sagadate Suku (village), Laga Sub-District, Baucau District. The Police are continuing to search for a number of KRM members who fled the cantonment into the surrounding jungle and mountains.

On 13 March, in Fatuhada, Dili, Mr. Paulino Gama (alias Mr. Mauk Moruk), leader of KRM, surrendered himself to the PNTL. On the same day, Commander “Labarik”, leader of the Bua Malus group, was arrested. The following day, the leader of CPD-RDTL, Mr. Antonio Aitahan Matak surrendered himself to the police. On the 14 and 15 of March, the Dili District Court held the committal hearing for the leaders of the so-called “illegal groups”. Mr. Mauk Moruk and Commander Labarik were refused bail and placed on remand in Becora prison. Mr. Antonio Aitahan Matak, Mr. Cornelio Gama alias ‘L-7’ (a former FALANTIL Commander and former Member of Parliament), and twelve others were granted conditional bail. The date of the trial hearing for the leaders of the “illegal groups” has not yet been set.

Total number of incidents by district in March 2014	
District	Incidents
Aileu	1
Ainaro	3
Baucau	4
Bobonaro	1
Covalima	3
Dili	9
Ermera	4
Lautem	2
Likisá	7
Manatuto	3
Manufahi	2
Oekusi	4
Vikeké	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

Two weeks later, on 1 April, the Secretary of State for Security gave an ultimatum to the members of the “illegal groups”, including those who fled to the Matebian mountain area, to surrender and submit their arms.

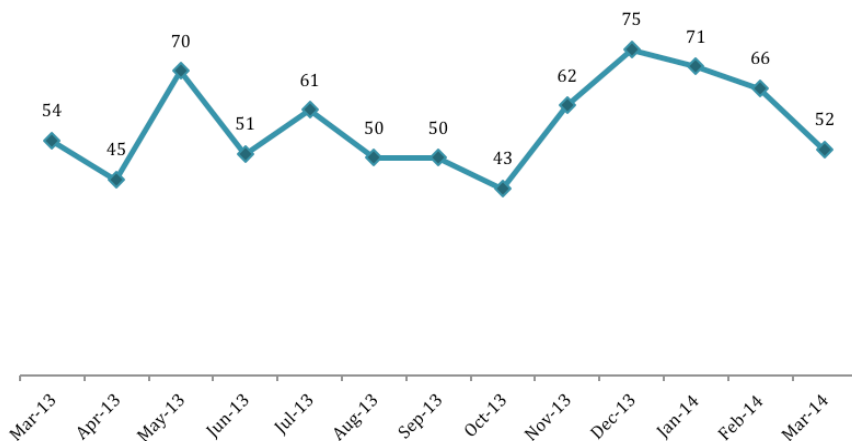
On 3 April, Suara Timor Lorosae newspaper reported that the General Commander of the PNTL, Commissioner Longinhos Monteiro, referred to an ultimatum declared through Parliamentary Resolution number 8/2014, which gives instructions to the PNTL and the Timor-Leste Defense Forces (F-FDTL) to conduct a special operation against the “illegal groups”. The President also counseled the PNTL and F-FDTL joint operation to avoid using violence (Diario 27/03/2014).

There has been civil society debate about the most appropriate approach to respond to political divisions and community concerns within Timor-Leste. Belun considers that non-violent means of conflict transformation, such as dialogue, negotiation and mediation, would be far preferable to the securitized approach exhibited in recent months. These alternative tools for dispute resolution could provide avenues for discussing and reconciling political divisions, which could better contribute to fostering state legitimacy and strengthening government policies.

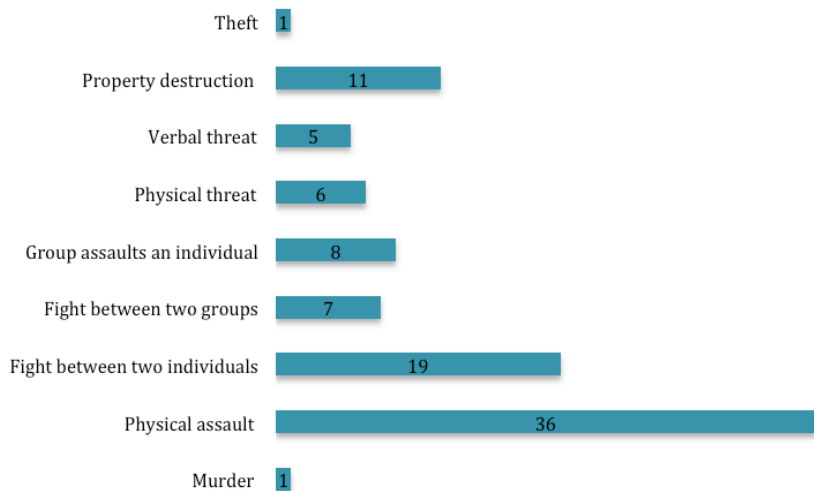
Indeed, according to Belun’s monitoring, community members themselves desire more consensual, sustainable and constructive approaches to such issues. By using the security forces to respond to political issues, the Government risks normalizing and role-modeling reactive and forceful policing behaviors to citizens, which could jeopardize both the sustainability of peace and stability within communities and the principles of democracy in Timor-Leste.

## INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

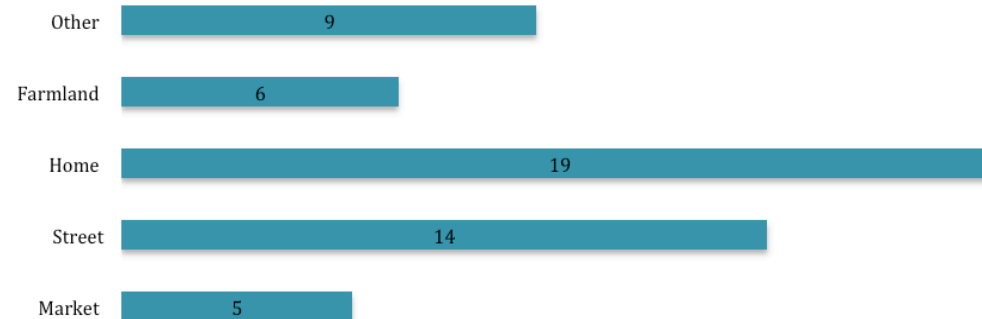
Total Incidents Reported: Mar '13 - Mar '14



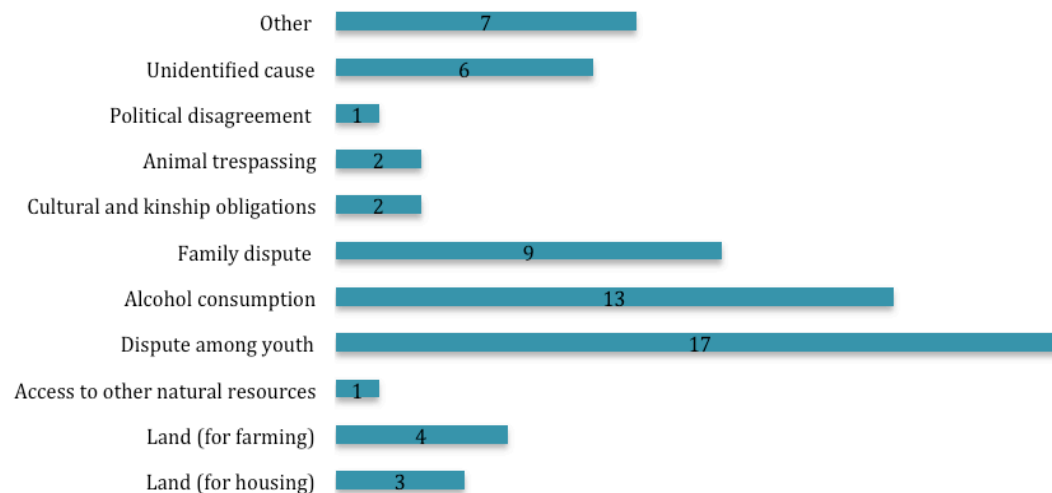
### Incident Type



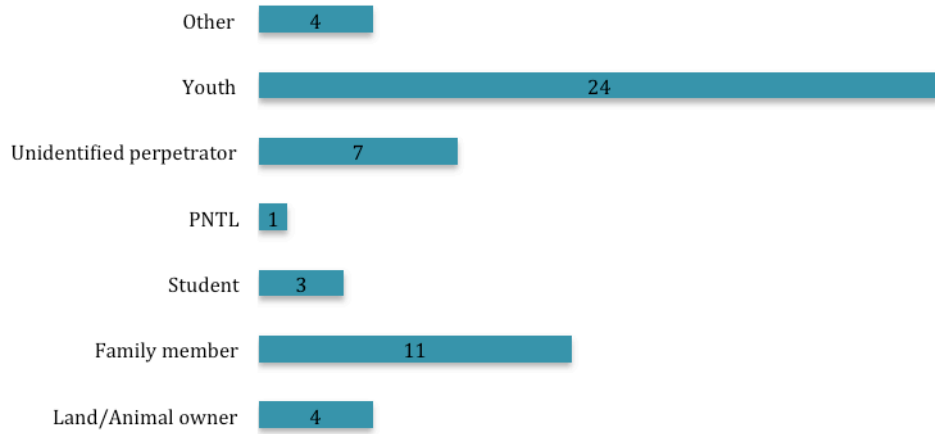
### Incident Location



### Underlying Cause of Incident



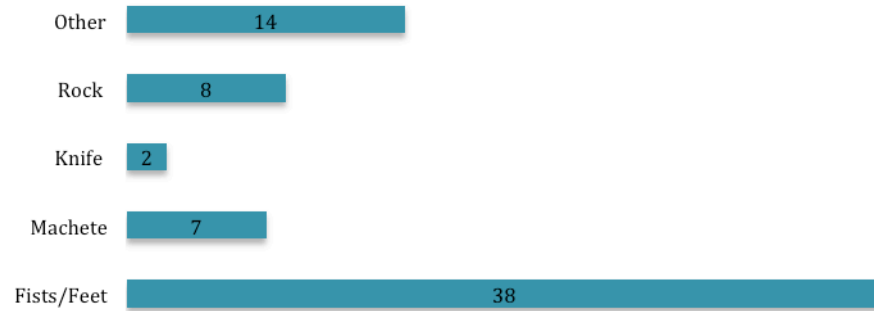
### Who Initiated the Incident?



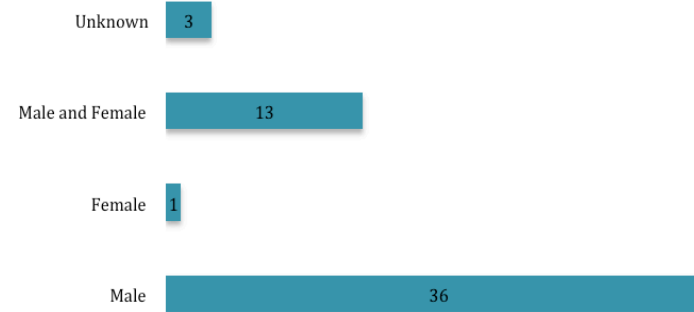
### Gender of Initiator



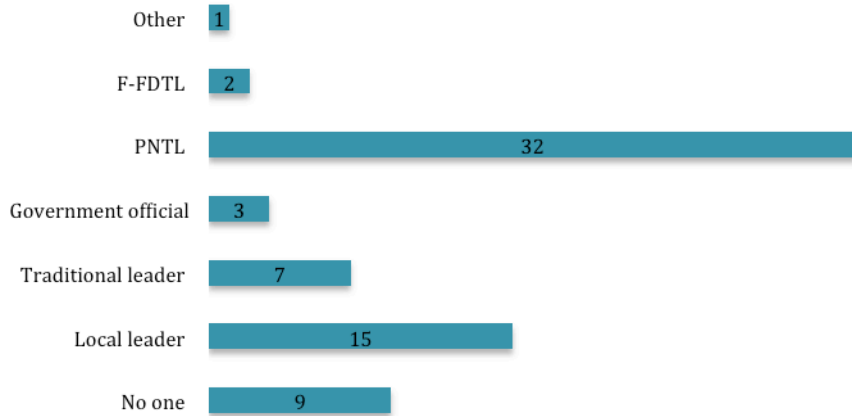
### Weapon Used



### Gender of Victim



**Incident Respondent**



**Incidents Impact**



**By the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) team**

- ▶ From 4 to 6 March 2014, Belun and the Asia Foundation provided training to monitors from 43 sub-districts and 13 district coordinators who will conduct data collection for the 3rd Public Opinion Poll (POP III) in 103 aldeias, with 824 respondents in 13 districts;
- ▶ From 25 to 27 March, the EWER Program Manager attended a training of trainers (ToT) delivered by UN Women on Women, Peace and Security based on UN Resolution 1325, at JL Villa, Aimutin-Comoro. Participants came from civil society organizations, and government institutions working on conflict prevention, women’s protection and participation, and peace-building.

**By the Democracy and Development in Action through the Media and Empowerment (DAME) team**

- ▶ Training on Mediation, Leadership and Proposal Writing for Conflict Prevention and Response Networks (CPRNs)
  - 18-25 March: Sub-districts of Letefoho, Ermera, and Hatolia;
  - 27-28 March: Sub-districts of Vera Cruz and Dom Aleixo.

**By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution (LMRD) team**

- ▶ On 6 March, the LMRD team facilitated mediation in two disputes at the Dili Directorate of Land and Property (DNTP). As a solution was not reached, the LMRD team will continue mediation;
- ▶ On 7 March, the LMRD team held mediation with two disputants at the Dili DNTP. As a solution was not reached, the LMRD team will continue mediation during April;
- ▶ On 18 March, the LMRD team held a community meeting on mediation and land dispute resolution with the community of Beloi Suku , Atauro Sub-District;
- ▶ On 26 March, the LMRD team facilitated mediation with six disputants at Obrato Aldeia, Sau Suku, Manatuto Sub-District. As a solution was not reached, the LMRD team will continue mediation during April.

**Activities implemented by Balibo Community Learning Center (CLC)**

- ▶ On 25 March, Balibo CLC Program Manager accompanied the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste on a visit to Balibo Sub-District. The objective of this visit was to observe the progress of Balibo Fort, which is being renovated by a Portuguese company, ENSUL, as well as to visit Balibo House and observe the results of activities implemented in partnership with Belun.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### His Excellency President of the Republic

- ▶ Continuously call upon joint PNTL and F-FDTL operations to peacefully approach the “illegal groups” and promote the use of dialogue to respond to current tensions;
- ▶ Support civil society working on conflict prevention, human rights, democracy, law and justice, and peace-building to conduct a joint-analysis of the use and impacts of parliamentary resolutions 5/2014 and 8/2014 on “illegal groups”.

### National Parliament Committee B

- ▶ Call urgent attention to the importance of using peaceful and comprehensive community-policing approaches to internal security and avoid military involvement in issues of internal security;
- ▶ Monitor the implementation of Parliamentary Resolutions 5 & 8/2014 in the field, and ensure that the approaches of the PNTL and F-FDTL forces are professional and non-violent and result in the maintenance of law and order whilst respecting human rights and considering community needs.

### PNTL

- ▶ Use non-violent approaches, uphold professionalism and maintain respect for law and order whilst conducting ongoing operations against “illegal groups”.

### Local Leaders

- ▶ Maintain open and constructive communication with the members of “illegal groups”, cooperate with authorities and facilitate the peaceful reintegration of individuals involved into their communities.

### Conflict Prevention and Response Networks in 43 Sub-districts

- ▶ Create action plans to facilitate dialogue in order to identify and address unresolved community questions and concerns relating to illegal groups, and to promote the peaceful reintegration of former ‘illegal group’ members into their communities.

## 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 March 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.

**Marilia O. da Costa**, EWER Program Manager, [bylah.belun@gmail.com](mailto:bylah.belun@gmail.com) (+670 7727 6671)

**Pedro de Araujo dos Santos**, Public Policy Officer, [pedroa.belun@gmail.com](mailto:pedroa.belun@gmail.com) (+670 7700 1421)