

SITUATION REVIEW – JULY 2016

Issues to watch

- ▶ **Land dispute-related incidents decrease in July, but incidents typical of the dry season increase**
- ▶ **Slingshot arrow attacks continue in Dili**

Land dispute-related incidents decrease in July, but incidents typical of the dry season increase

Belun's Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 118 violent incidents in July. Of those incidents, only 7 were linked to land disputes, which is a significant decrease from the 13-month average of 15.5 such incidents per month going back to July 2015. Farmers usually spend less time in their fields as the dry season progresses, which is one possible reason that there are fewer land disputes during these months. The dry season, however, typically results in an increase in other types of incidents:

- **Cultural ceremonies.** Various cultural ceremonies are typically celebrated during the dry season, when there is less agricultural work. There were 9 incidents related to disputes around cultural ceremonies in July.
- **Alcohol consumption.** The dry season usually also results in an increase in alcohol consumption around cultural ceremonies and parties. There were 30 incidents that involved alcohol consumption in July, compared to a 13-month average of 25.6 such incidents per month.
- **Drinking water.** Disputes about access to drinking water usually start increasing in June or July and reach a peak in or around September. This year, after few incidents in the first half of the year, there were two such incidents in each of June and July. One incident in July was recorded in Asulau-Sare Suku (village), Hatolia Administrative Post, Ermera Municipality, during a ceremony to handover a renovated Health Centre. During the ceremony a man loudly accused the Xefe Suku (village chief) of using an excessive amount of water, which had prevented many community members, and especially the Health Centre, from getting any water. A similar incident occurred in Costa Suku, Pante Makassar Administrative Post, in Oekusi, in which two families verbally fought over access to a water pump.

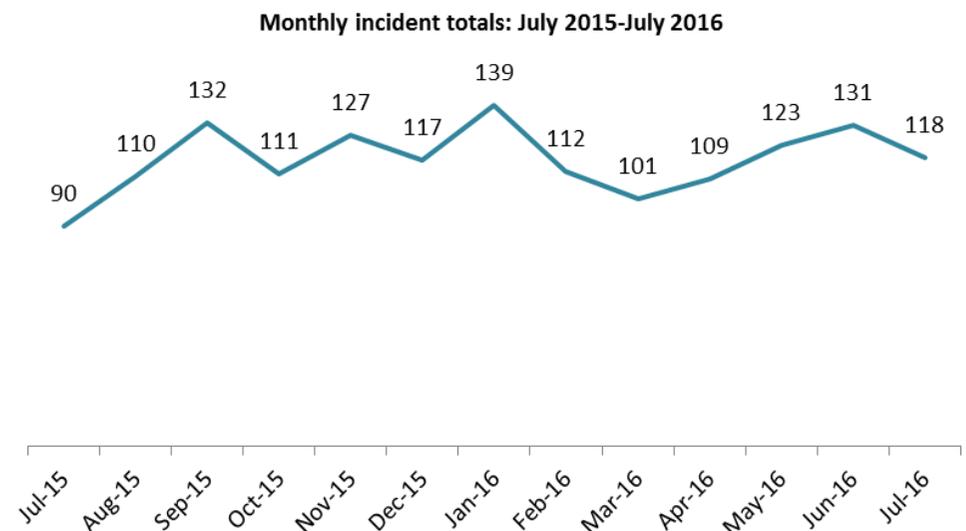
Total number of violent incidents by municipality in July 2016	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	3
Ainaro	8
Baukau	16
Bobonaro	8
Covalima	1
Dili	43
Ermera	10
Lautein	2
Likisa	7
Manatuto	4
Manufahi	3
Oekusi	5
Vikéké	8
Totál	118

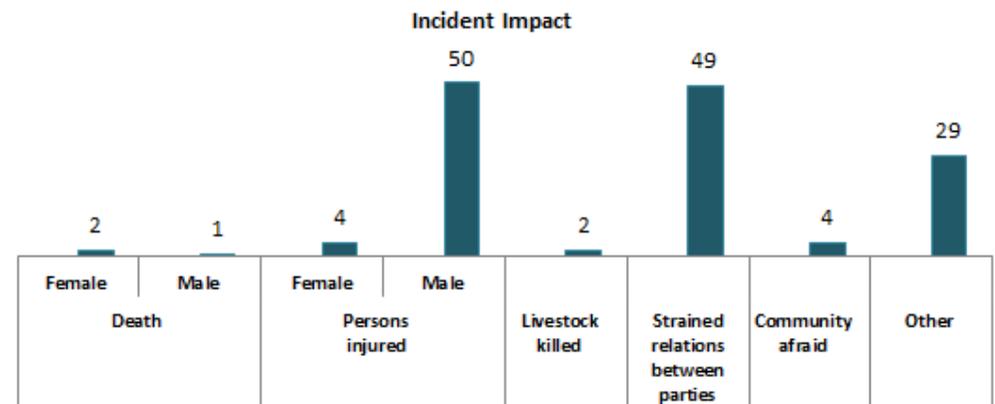
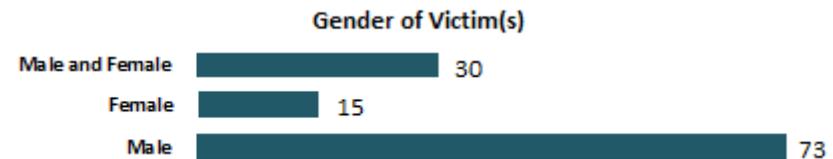
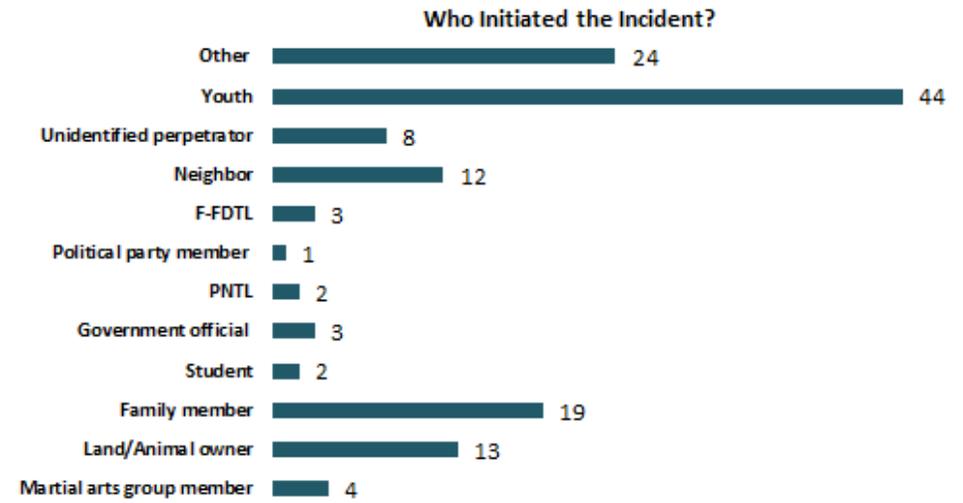
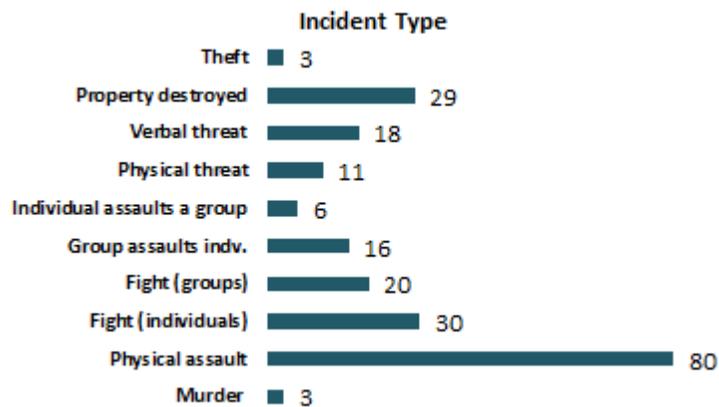
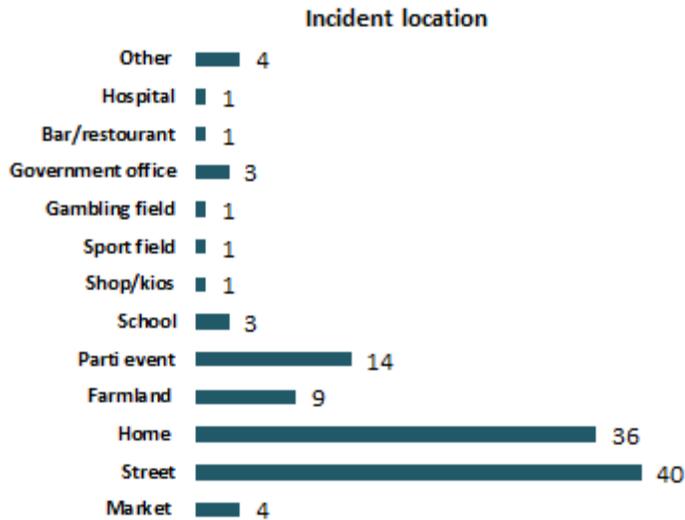
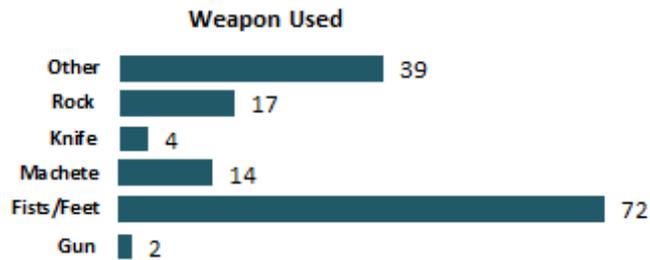
Slingshot arrow attacks continue in Dili

The EWER system recorded 3 incidents in Dili in July that involved Rama Ambon (slingshot arrow) shootings. These types of attacks began increasing in frequency in February of this year. There were 7 such attacks in February, 3 in March, 2 in April, none in May, and 5 in June.

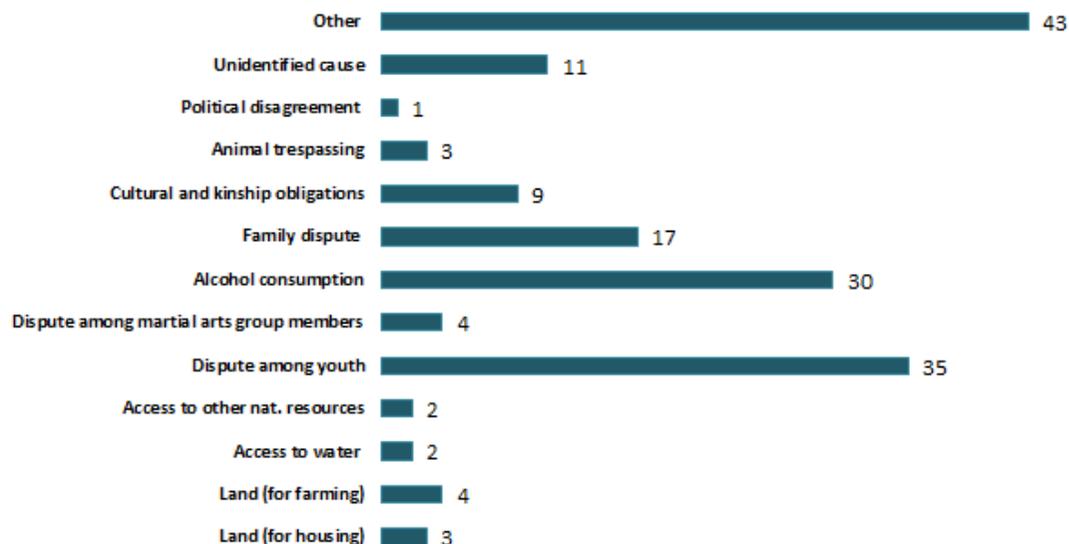
The first attack in July occurred around 9:30pm on 14 July in Delta, Comoro Suku. A young man was returning home on his motorbike when he was shot by an unknown person on a motorbike in the stomach. He was found in grave condition by an F-FDTL soldier and brought immediately to hospital. The next attack occurred in Bairo Pite Suku on 20 July at 8:36pm, in which two unknown people on a motorbike shot a youth in the chest, causing serious injury. Bairo Pite was also the scene of another incident on 22 July at 5:45pm in which a group of children were playing with slingshot arrows, which resulted in one accidentally being shot in the neck and gravely injured. On 8 August, the Polísia Nasionál Timor-Leste General Commander told journalists that 9 people had been arrested and were being held in preventative detention in connection with various Rama Ambon attacks.

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS





Underlying Cause of Incident



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

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

- ▶ On 26 July, with the support of the EWER team, the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, and the GIZ Peace Fund, the Conflict Prevention and Response Network (CPRN) in Baucau Administrative Post held a workshop for youth on the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol. The purpose of the workshop was to reverse the trend of alcohol-fuelled violent incidents occurring in Baucau.
- ▶ On 27 July, the team published an Alert titled “Belun Condemns Recent Grave Incidents Perpetrated against Girls and Young Women” to inform competent institutions and the wider public about a number of serious recent incidents. The Alert included recommendations to prevent future similar incidents and can be accessed at belun.tl/en.

By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ On 22 July, the Community Policing Council in Balibar Suku, Cristo Rei Administrative Post, Dili held a reconciliation activity between youth from different Aldeias (hamlets) who had been involved in a violent incident on 15 July. The activity was supported by Belun, The Asia Foundation and the New Zealand Embassy.
- ▶ On 21 July, Belun and The Asia Foundation signed a continuation agreement to extend Belun’s role in implementing the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP). The program is supported by the New Zealand Government and seeks to observe and assist with regular meetings of Village Police Officers and village-level Community Policing Councils in Covalima, Dili, Likisá, Manufahi and Vikeké.

By the Land Mediation and Dispute Resolution (LMDR) team:

- ▶ On 12 July, the team and the local office of the Department of Land, Property and Cadastral Services from Bobonaro Municipality facilitated a mediation session between two disputants who both claimed one plot of land. With Belun assistance, the disputants signed an agreement to resolve the matter.

ABOUT THIS SITUATION REVIEW

This situation review reports on violent incidents and trends in Timor-Leste that were identified by Belun’s Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) monitoring system in 43 of Timor-Leste’s 65 Administrative Posts in July 2016. Descriptions of all incidents recorded by the EWER system can be found at: www.belun.crowdmap.com. Belun strives to share up-to-date and verified information. Considering that situations change rapidly, we appreciate receiving information to clarify or update our EWER monitoring data.

For more information or to report an incident, please contact:

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