

SITUATION REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2013

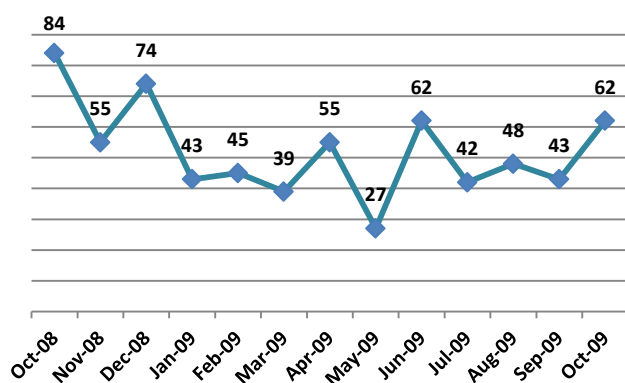
ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

- ▶ Violence caused by accusations of sorcery
- ▶ Intra-familial conflict
- ▶ Physical assaults by groups of youth
- ▶ Conflict over access to water

TOTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED PER DISTRICT

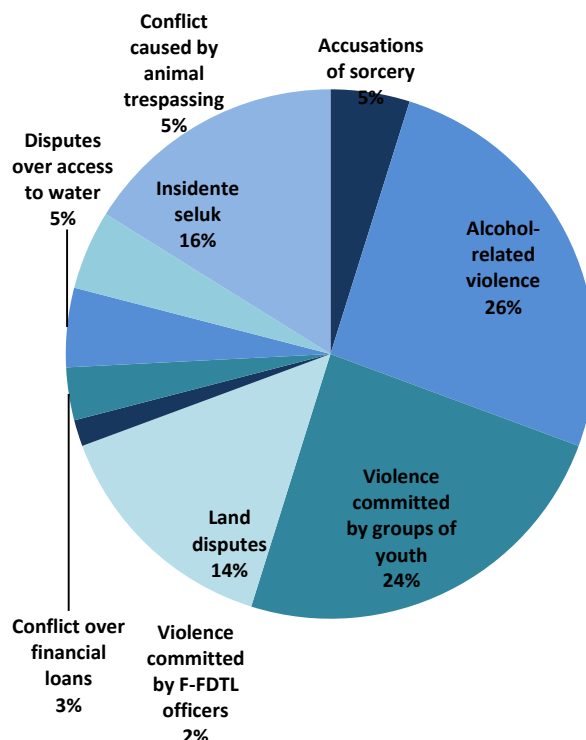
District	Incidents
Dili	15
Laute m	9
Oecusse	6
Liquiça	5
Manufahi	5
Manatuto	5
Aileu	4
Ainaro	4
Ermera	3
Bobonaro	3
Covalima	2
Baucau	1
Viqueque	0
Total	62

TOTAL REPORTED INCIDENTS NOVEMBER 2012 – NOVEMBER 2013



A detailed summary of reported incidents can be accessed through www.belun.crowdmap.com

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS



ACCUSATIONS OF SORcery

(Liquica) Man chopped with machete by in-laws:

In Leomora village (sub-district of Bazartete), an accusation of sorcery escalated into a violent murder, in which a member of the *umamane* (wife-taker) family accused his male in-law of using *aikulit* (tree bark). Acting upon these suspicions, he chopped the accused into pieces with a machete. The attack was followed by the *umamane* family burning houses owned by the victim's extended family members. The conflict between these 2 families had a much wider societal impact, with many of the community members fleeing from the area out of fear. The perpetrator was jailed, and both families intend to conduct dialogue and mediation to resolve the issue (*Nahe Biti Boot, a stretching of the big mat*), however this is yet to take place.

(Dili) House burnt down in Santa Cruz based on suspicions of sorcery practice:

Two attempts were made to burn down a house after suspicions arose in the community that the family was practicing black magic and using *aikulit* (tree bark).

The first attempt burnt down the kitchen, however the second attempt burnt the entire house. The identity of those responsible for the attack is still unknown.

Unexplained illnesses or death are frequently attributed to sorcery. The conflict potential of such suspicions and accusations are a cause for concern, given their demonstrated capacity to escalate into wide-scale conflict within communities and families, sometimes with heavy resulting impacts and possible follow-up incidents if the issue is left unresolved.

INTRA-FAMILIAL CONFLICT

(Ermera) Alcohol-fuelled fight between family members at All Soul's Day celebration

At an evening celebration of All Soul's Day, an alcohol-fuelled fight between a man and his son-in-law occurred. The incident arose because the father asked his son-in-law to purchase more alcohol, however he refused, and responded by punching his father-in-law and drinking the remainder of the wine. In reaction to this, the father-in-law punched his son-in-law, and this escalated into a violent assault by the man and his 9 sons against the son-in law. PNTL and the aldeia and suco chief responded to the incident, attempting to resolve the conflict through family dialogue. However neither side of the family wished to do so, and at present the relationship between these 2 families is still not good. Alcohol-related incidents occurred in the following districts: Aileu (2); Bobonaro (2); Ermera (2); Manatuto (1); Dili (4); Lautém (2); Oecusse (2); Manufahi (1).

(Oecusse) Argument between 2 brothers over land use:

In Oecusse, a fight began between 2 brothers after the older one began to harvest the crops from the younger brother's farmland. The younger brother began to scold his older brother, leading to argument between the 2. The younger brother reported the incident to PNTL, and the issue was resolved by the older brother agreeing to replant the crops that he had cut. The relationship between the 2 male siblings has since been reconciled. Other incidents related to disputes over land occurred in the following districts: Dili (1); Covalima (1); Liquiçá (1); Manatuto (1); Baucau (1); Ainaro (2); Lautém (1); Oecusse (1).

PHYSICAL ASSAULTS BY GROUPS OF YOUTH

(Dili) Male youth violently assaulted by a group of youth:

A male youth was attacked by a group of youth. The victim was severely beaten and stabbed in the stomach. The motive of this attack is allegedly based on past grievances between

the attacking group and the victim's group. Community leaders responded immediately to the incident, bringing the involved parties and their families together and resolving the issue straight away through dialogue. Incidents of inter-youth violence occurred in: Dili (2); Manatuto (2); Liquiçá (1); Lautém (6); Oecusse (1); Manufahi (3).

(Ermera) Animal trespassing causes group of youth to assault the animal owner:

A group of youth assaulted a young man whose buffaloes entered farmland and destroyed crops. The incident was responded to by community leaders, the Belun monitor and PNTL who requested the group of youth sign a declaration saying that they would not commit violence in the future, and one of the youth was jailed for 72 hours. Other incidents relating to animal trespassing occurred in: Ainaro (1); Aileu (1).

CONFLICT OVER ACCESS TO WATER

This month there were (4) incidents relating to access to water: In Dili, 2 women began to quarrel after 1 of them tried to push in front of the other. This escalated into a physical fight with both women sustaining injuries (nose & right leg). In Liquiçá and Manatuto, both conflicts over water occurred between family members. In Oecusse, a man destroyed public water facilities (a pipe and tank) and insulted the Aldeia chief, and employees of GMF (maintenance service) and SAS (Water and Sanitation service). The incident occurred because the man was angry that he could not gain access to the water. This issue has already been resolved through customary mechanisms, with the male providing financial and livestock compensation for his actions.

OTHER INCIDENTS THIS MONTH

(Dili) 45 inmates escape from Becora Prison:

45 inmates escaped from Becora Prison after beating up two Prison wardens. PNTL were able to recapture 35 of the escapees within a few hours, and an additional 5. To date, 3 inmates remain uncaptured.

(Aileu) Man assaulted by F-FDTL male officer:

Acting on suspicions that a man had stolen fish from his pond, an F-FDTL officer and 3 of his friends beat him. The incident has still not been addressed, and no disciplinary measures have been taken against the F-FDTL officer.

(Ainaro) Conflict caused by financial loan:

A young man borrowed money from an elderly couple, however did not repay the loan according to the date that

was mutually agreed upon. In response, the elderly couple went to the house of the male youth (owned by his aunt) and attempted to cut a tree in the yard. This led to an argument between the man's aunt and the elderly couple. Other incidents relating to disputes over loans also occurred in Oecusse (1).

CONFLICT PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSE

DAME

Sub-district level activities:

- ▶ November 18—19: The DAME Team conducted training and distributed NCA reports to the Conflict Prevention Response Network (CPRN) in the sub-district of Metinaro
- ▶ Community meetings for the Small-Grants Fund were conducted in the following sub-districts:
 - i. November 5—7: Sub-district of Baucau Vila.
 - ii. November 7—8: Sub-district of Remexio Vila.
 - iii. November 11-15: Sub-district of Metinaro.
 - iv. November 15: Sub-district of Liquica.
 - v. November 24: Sub-district of Maliana.

Land Dispute Resolution and Mediation Team (LMDR)

The LMDR team facilitated the mediation of (6) land disputes in the district of Dili.

Aldeia-level activities: On 22 November, Belun in partnership with the National Directorate of Land, Property and Cadastral Services (DTPSC) conducted a community meeting in the aldeia of Obratu (sub-district Manatuto villa) to disseminate information on the resolution of land disputes.



Community meeting on land dispute resolution facilitated by Belun's LMDR team and DTPSC, 22 November, Obratu (Manatuto).

RECOMMENDATIONS

National Parliament

Discuss and approve a Draft Alcohol Law with the following specific requirements:

- ▶ Regulations on the quality of and ethanol content in locally produced alcohol;
- ▶ Enforce regulations on the no-sale of alcohol to those under the age of 18 years;
- ▶ Ban alcohol sales from 11pm – 6 am at all alcohol retail outlets throughout the country.

Ministry of Health

- ▶ Provide financial support to media outlets to develop health programs, particularly focusing on the prevention of drug use and responsible alcohol consumption.

State Secretary for Defense and F-FDTL

- ▶ Enforce disciplinary measures against F-FDTL officers who commit violence against civilians.

Secretary of State for Professional Training & Employment (SEPFOPE) / Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment

- ▶ Continue to focus on job creation and responding to the needs of the labour force;
- ▶ Develop activities to build entrepreneurial and technical skills amongst youth, to support the development of youth-led businesses and cooperatives.

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 November 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 Maria Marilia O. da Costa (EWER Program Manager) bylah.belun@gmail.com (+670 7727 6671); or Pedro de Araujo dos Santos (Public Policy Officer) pedroa.belun@gmail.com (+670 7700 1421).

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