



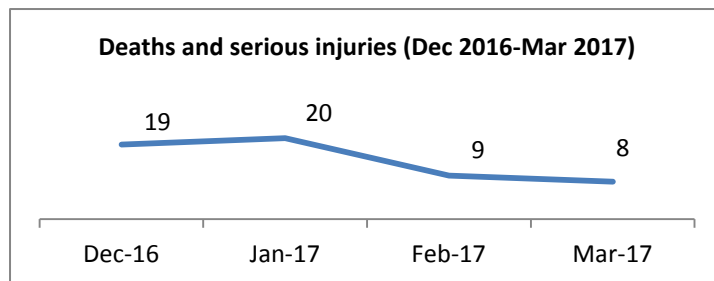
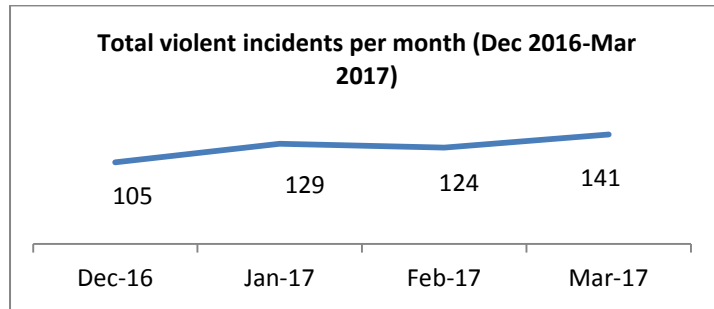
# SITUATION REVIEW – MARCH 2017

## Issues to watch

- ▶ Incidents increase in number, but decrease in severity
- ▶ 41 mostly minor incidents around Presidential Election
- ▶ Martial and Ritual Arts-related violence remains low

### Incidents increase in number, but decrease in severity

Belun’s Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) system recorded 141 violent incidents in March. Incident totals have increased over the past four months, however the severity of the incidents has been decreasing over the same period, as can be seen by the below graphics, which respectively show total monthly incidents and number of death/serious injuries as a result of violent incidents.



Total number of violent incidents by municipality in March 2017	
Municipality	Incidents
Aileu	7
Ainaru	10
Baukau	10
Bobonaru	5
Covalima	4
Dili	56
Ermera	8
Lautein	3
Likisá	14
Manatutu	6
Manufahi	9
Oekusi	3
Vikéké	6
<b>Totál</b>	<b>141</b>

## 41 mostly minor incidents during Presidential election period

EWER field monitors recorded 41 incidents of electoral violence before, during and after the Presidential election on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The majority of these incidents were verbally violent, while only six involved physical violence (rock throwing, fighting, etc.). Most incidents were recorded in Dili (13), followed by Likisá (8), Ainaru (3), Covalima (3), Manufahi (3), Bobonaru (2), Aileu (1), Ermera (1), Lautein (1), Manatutu (1), and Oekusi (1).

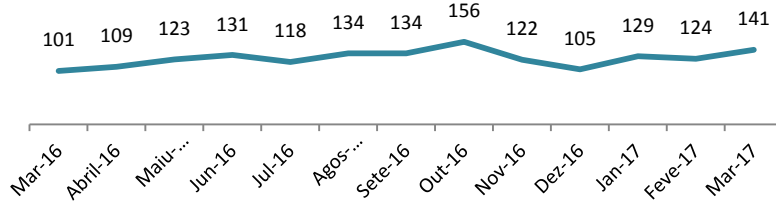
- In 19 incidents, supporters of opposing candidates provoked each other either during the campaign, the vote-counting period or after the result was announced.
- In 8 incidents, voters became angry because they, or electoral officials themselves, did not understand the electoral rules or process. For example, poll workers in Baucau refused to allow F-FDTL soldiers in civilian clothing to vote, which is their right.
- In 4 incidents, people became angry when voters knowingly defied electoral rules, for example, by taking photos inside the voting booths, wearing party symbols within the voting center, etc.)
- In 4 incidents, observance or suspicion of irregularities in the voting process led to violence. For example, in Aileu a voter became violent after allegedly receiving four ballots in succession that had already been filled. In another example, voters became angry when it appeared that polling staff were voiding spoiled ballots from some candidates and not others.
- In 4 incidents, people grew angry after waiting in long lines.
- In 2 incidents, people protested when polling centers were closed before they were able to vote.

## Martial and Ritual Arts-Related Violence Remains Low in March

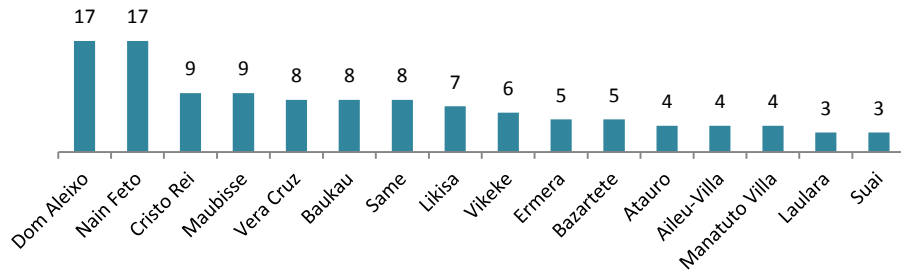
In March, only five Martial and Ritual Arts Group-related incidents were recorded, which is lower than the monthly average of 8.1 such incidents over the past year. Three incidents were recorded in Baucau Municipality: in Samalari Village, Laga Administrative Post, a group stopped a bus that was headed to Dili from Lospalos and beat up the driver and passengers. In two incidents in Baukau Administrative Post, students from different groups fought at school. Two incidents were recorded in Dili: in Comoro Village, on the first day of the Presidential campaign, two groups fought and threw rocks at each other after campaign events – an incident that could be linked to both Martial Arts Group and political rivalries. In Bairo Pite Village, members from rival groups fought at a billiards hall.

## INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

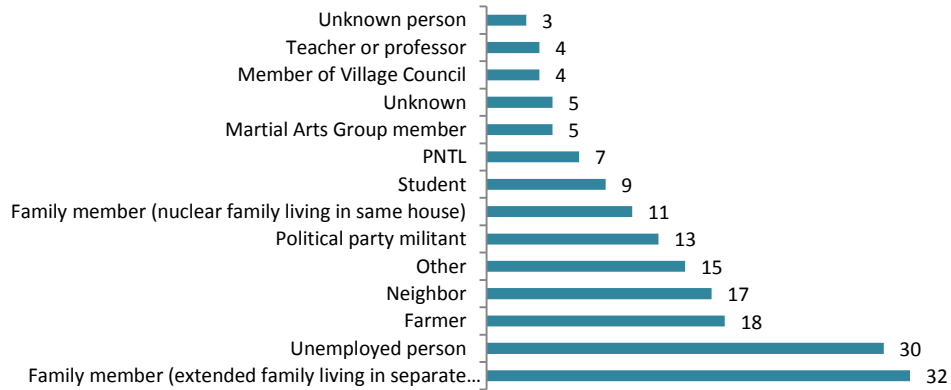
**Total Incidents: March 2016 - March 2017**



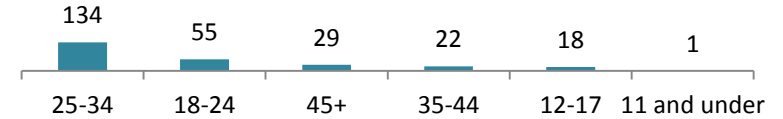
**Incidents by Administrative Post (3 and over)**



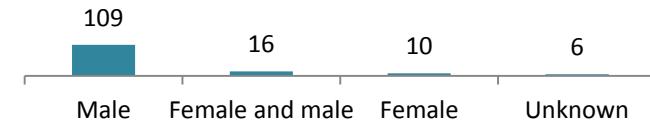
**Perpetrators by position or status (3 and over)**



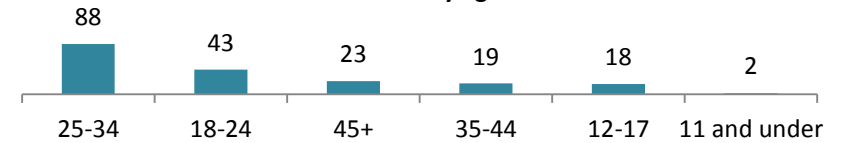
**Perpetrators by age**



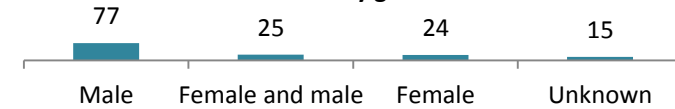
**Perpetrators by gender**



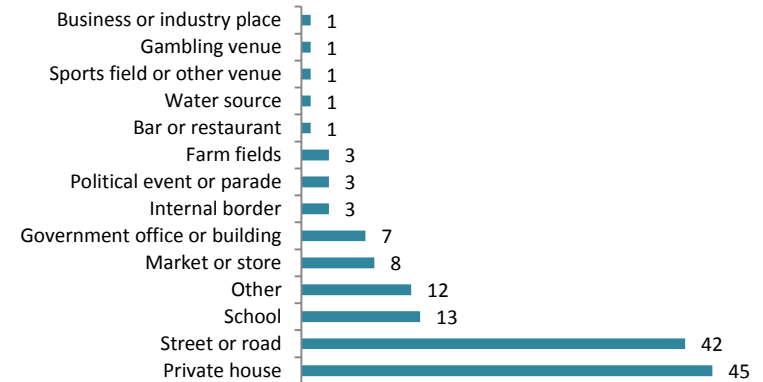
**Victims by age**



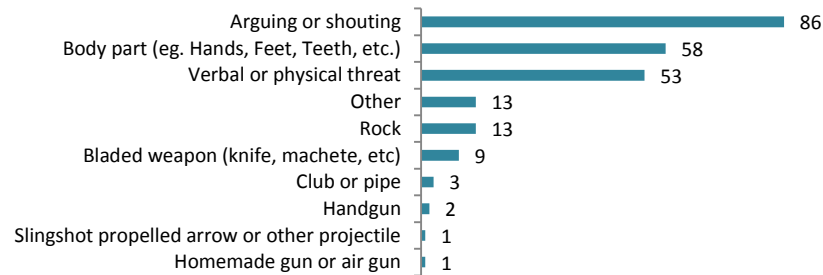
**Victims by gender**



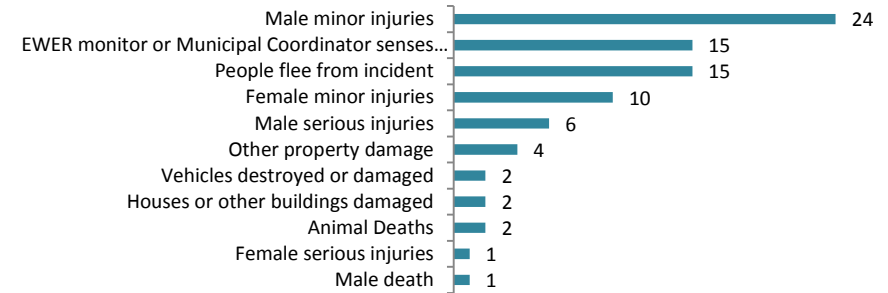
**Physical location**



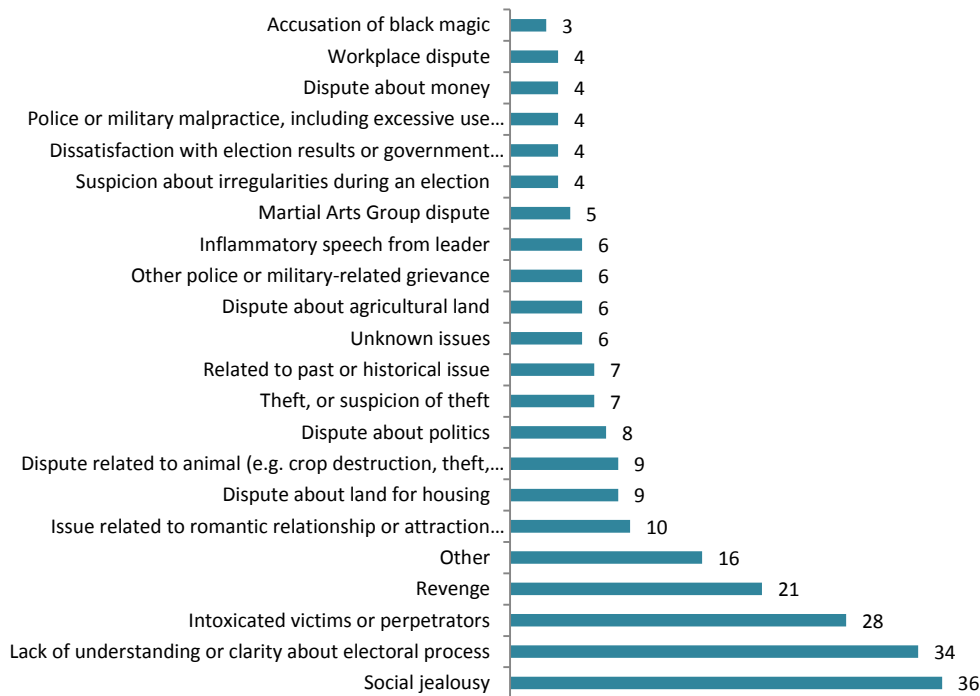
### Weapons used / Form of violence



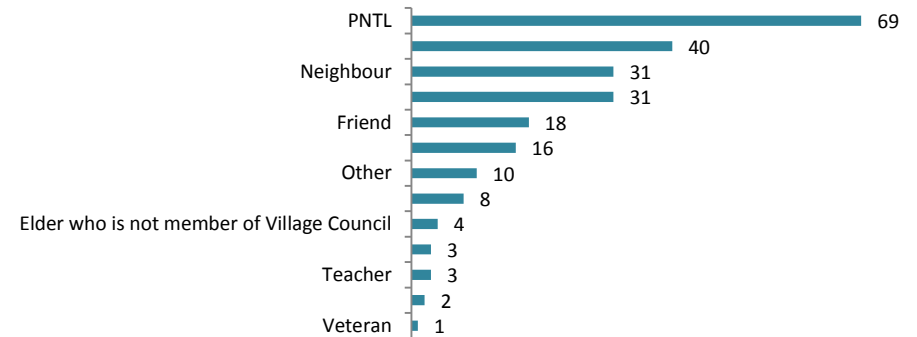
### Incident impact



### Incident factors (3 and over)



### Incident responder



## CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

### By the Access to Justice Clinic Team:

- ▶ The team held five alternative dispute resolution awareness-raising sessions in Ainaru, Bobonaru, Baukau, Manufahi and Vikéké.
- ▶ The team mediated seven land disputes, three of which were resolved, one of which was referred to the Public Defender's Office and three of which will continue with future mediation sessions.

### By the Community Policing Support Program (CPSP) team:

- ▶ The team held regular Village Community Policing Council meetings in Covalima (7 meetings), Manufahi (8 meetings, plus a Women Community Policing Council meeting and a Municipal Security Meeting), Likisá (3 meetings), Dili (4 meetings) and Vikéké (1 meeting).

- ▶ The team implemented two action plans in Dili – an awareness-raising session about the electoral law in Kampung Alor village and an awareness-raising session about the traffic law in Duyung village.

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

- ▶ On 8 March, the team held a talkshow on STL News to discuss electoral violence and offer recommendations to various institutions about how to prevent it.
- ▶ Also on 8 March, the team and the Conflict Prevention and Response Network in Likisá held a civic education session for 156 local leaders, youth, veterans, political party representatives and police to educate them about the electoral process ahead of the Presidential Election.

### 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 March 2017. Complete data and incidents descriptions can be found at: [www.atres.belun.tl](http://www.atres.belun.tl). 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.

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