



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 11, 2007  
Contact name: Fernando da Costa  
Contact phone number: 728-1665  
Contact email: [atocosta@gmail.com](mailto:atocosta@gmail.com)

**EVER PROJECT: TIMOR-LESTE SEES DROP IN ELECTORAL VIOLENCE**

**DILI – September 11, 2007** – Election-related violence in Timor-Leste decreased in recent weeks, but eastern districts remain tense according to the latest report from the Election Violence Education and Resolution, or EVER Project. The report states that seven people were injured but no one killed in election-related incidents from August 10-August 31.

EVER monitors report a total of 20 incidents—a 35 percent drop over the previous reporting period. Baucau had the most incidents of any region with six. The previously volatile situation in Viqueque improved, although tension levels remain high

The decline in this reporting period follows a spike in the previous period resulting from the formation of the new government six weeks after the June 30 election.

The overall decrease in violence corresponds with an increase in peace activities across the country. These events took place in nine districts, with four of the activities supported by EVER's Small Grant Fund.

Property damage remained the most common form of election violence. The report shows a substantial drop in the number of incidents carried out by political party supporters or their affiliates, from 29 to 9. The number of incidents carried out by unknown parties increased.

Despite the improvement, the report said the potential for sudden spikes in violence in some communities remains high as the new government establishes its structure and policies. EVER recommends continued monitoring in the following sub-districts: Ermera town, Gleno, Hatolia (Ermera); Maliana (Bobonaro); Baucau district; Los Palos (Lautem); Watolari, Viqueque town (Viqueque); Comoro, Cristo Rei (Dili); Same (Manufahi); and Pante Makassar, Passabe (Oecussi).

EVER also urges political party leaders and representatives to continue to promote non-violence and constructive methods for party supporters and citizens to express their views. Government bodies should make good use of the media to announce any changes in policies in order to reduce rumors and manipulation of information.

EVER is a joint project of IFES, an international democracy development organization, and BELUN, a Timorese nongovernmental organization working to prevent conflict. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

The full report is available on [here](#), or you may request a hard copy in English or Tetum by contacting [atocosta@gmail.com](mailto:atocosta@gmail.com).

###