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

**EVER PROJECT: INAUGURATION POTENTIAL FLASHPOINT FOR VIOLENCE**

**DILI – August 22, 2007** – The EVER Project urges security actors and government officials to plan for a potential new surge in violence surrounding the government’s inaugural ceremony on August 30. The warning is part of the monitoring project’s fifth report, which details the unrest that followed a presidential decision to name opposition candidate Xanana Gusmao as the country’s new prime minister.

At least nine people were injured in the 31 incidents verified by the Electoral Violence Education and Resolution, or EVER, project during the reporting period July 27-August 9. No one was killed, but at least four incidents displaced people from their homes.

EVER is a joint project of IFES, an international democracy building 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 impact of the recent violence is by far the greatest documented since EVER began monitoring on May 28<sup>th</sup>,” according to the report. “There is a fragile stability existing in many communities with the potential for a sudden escalation in tensions and violence with little warning.”

Political parties or their affiliates were the perpetrators in 94 percent of the incidents, most of which took place in Viqueque, Baucau and Dili. More than 80 percent occurred during the daytime, with most incidents involving property damage.

The EVER report states that the recent incidents prove that security actors alone cannot stabilize communities. Political leaders at the national and local level need to encourage their supporters to use non-violent methods to express their beliefs and promote tolerance of differing political views so that the country can move forward.

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

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