

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: July-August 2017

Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns and trends in conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback and input for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

Patterns and Trends

May-July 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents reported during this period included criminality, cult violence, and communal tensions.

Violent Criminality: In June, robbers reportedly attacked an aide to a member of the Imo State House of Assembly and made away with the money he withdrew from the bank in Owerri Municipal. The robbers reportedly killed four including a tricycle operator during the attack. Separately, one was reportedly killed by robbers during an attack on a community in Oru West LGA. In another incident, a robber was reportedly killed by the police in Oru West LGA. Also in Oru West, the police arrested a female robber. In July, five robbers and kidnappers were reportedly shot by police in Owerri West LGA. Separately, police also reportedly shot two robbers in Ideato North.

Communal Tensions: In May, a young man was reportedly killed by a mob in Ideato South LGA. In reprisal violence, several

houses were burned including a community town hall. Separately, there was a reported protest over the selection of a traditional ruler in Ihiagwa community, Owerri West LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence: In July, cultists reportedly attacked a community and destroyed houses belonging to rival cult members in Owerri West. The attack was reportedly a reprisal for the killing of their members by the rival cult group.

Others: In May, a passerby was reportedly shot by a policeman in Orlu LGA. In June, one person was reportedly killed by a cultist in Owerri West LGA. Separately, a murder suspect was reportedly killed by a mob in Ideato South LGA. A member of a street gang was reportedly killed by some youths in

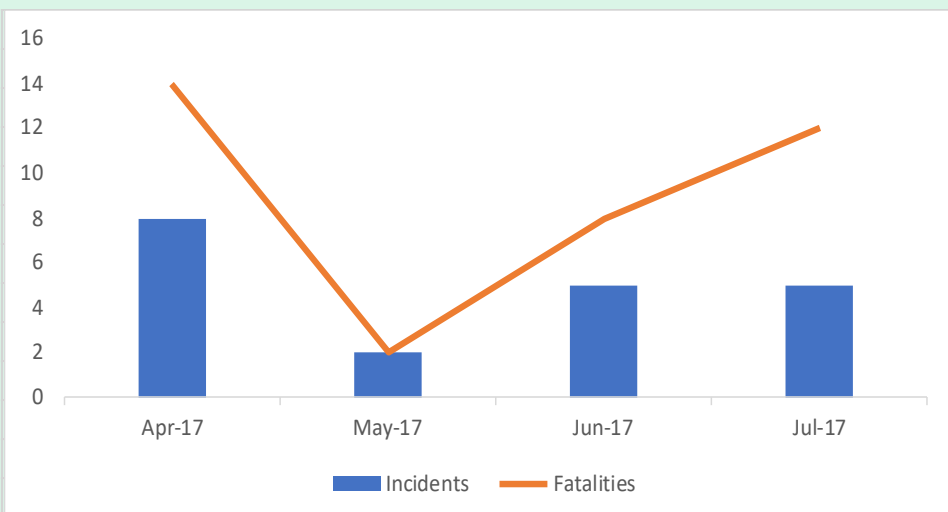
Owerri West. In retaliation, a house belonging to the father of one of those allegedly involved in the killing was set ablaze. In July, a 35-year old man reportedly beheaded a man at a funeral ceremony in Ihitte/Uboma LGA

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2017

Reported incidents during the month related mainly to violent protests and criminality.

Violent Protests: A 10-year old boy was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by security operatives deployed to maintain order during a protest over the demolition and relocation of a market in Owerri Municipal. Plans by the state government to relocate the market from the city center in

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from April – July 2017 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

order to decongest the area has been resisted by traders and indigenes who regarded the market as their ancestral heritage. The death of the 10-year old boy escalated the situation causing the death of two protesters. Three residents were also shot and injured, and vehicles destroyed as traders and youths clashed with security operatives in the state capital.

Criminality: A businessman was reportedly arrested for attempting to kill a woman for ritualistic purposes in Mbatoli LGA. The victim was stabbed multiple times before she escaped. The suspect was apprehended by youths and handed over to the police.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to communal tensions, criminality, cult violence, and violent protests. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 6 months that could escalate this conflict?
4. Who are the key stakeholders that have influence on the conflict?
5. What will you do to help mitigate the conflict in the short, medium, and long term?

Figure 2: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (May - July 2017)

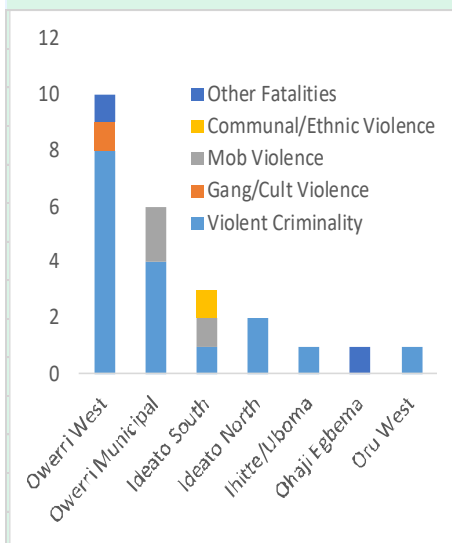
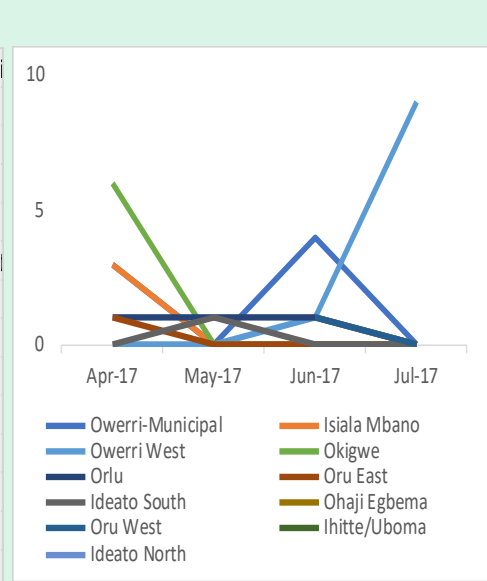
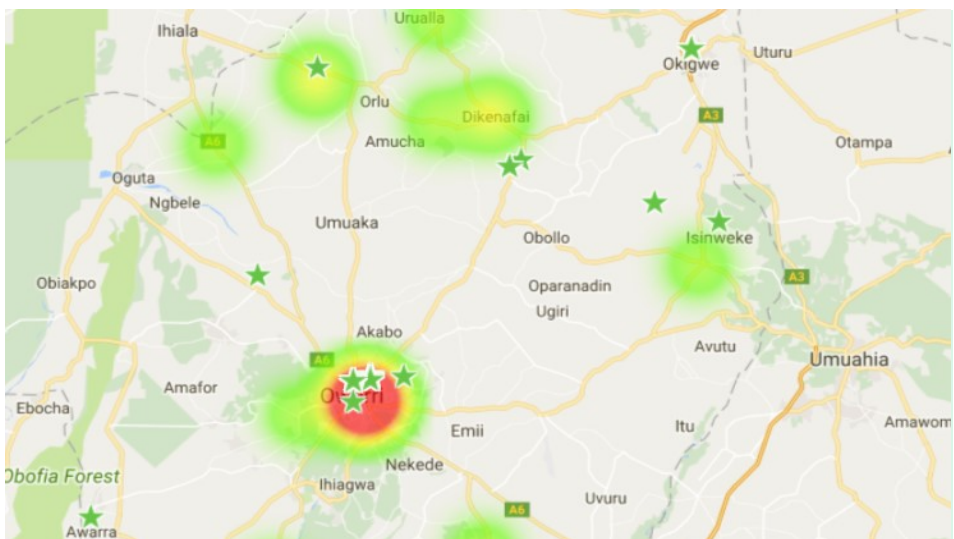


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri West, followed by Owerri Municipal had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state. Source (Figure 2): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 3): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Imo State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from May–July 2017 in Imo State, with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text: 080 9936 2222

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description

Contact Us



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