

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Imo State: September-October 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

#### July-September 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there has been a decrease in conflict risk and violent fatalities in Ondo state since August. Incidents reported during this period included criminality, cult violence, and protests.

**Violent Criminality:** In July, five robbers and kidnappers were reportedly shot dead by police in Owerri West LGA. Separately, police also reportedly shot two robbers in Ideato North LGA. In August, a businessman was reportedly arrested for attempting to kill a woman for ritualistic purposes in Mbatoli LGA. In September, a Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Orlu LGA. The body of the victim was later dumped in a bush. Separately, a 16-year old illegal arms dealer was reportedly arrested by the police in Owerri. A large cache of weapons were recovered from the suspect, who reportedly supplies arms and ammunition to robbers and kidnappers in the state. Criminality during this period also involved violence affecting women and girls

(VAWG). In July, a 35-year old man reportedly beheaded a man at a funeral ceremony in Ihitte/Uboma 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.

**Violent Protests:** In August, 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. 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

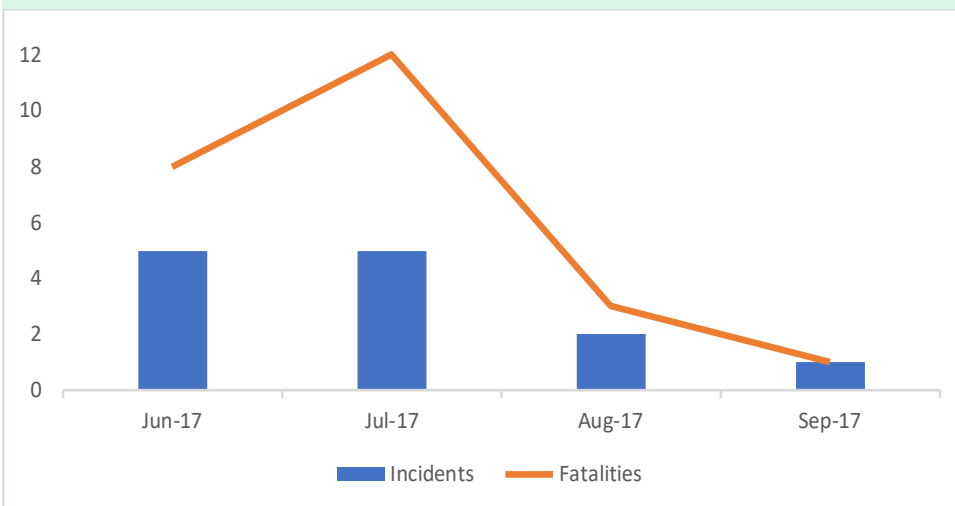
with security operatives in the state capital. In September, a traditional ruler was reportedly attacked by youths over a leadership tussle in Isiala Mbano LGA.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, October 2017

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality, cult violence, child trafficking and domestic violence.

**Criminality:** A 23-year old member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was killed by gunmen in Owerri Municipal. Separately, a man was stabbed to death by his landlord during a disagreement in Owerri North. In a separate incident, the corpse of a 63-year old woman was discovered in a

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from June– September 2017 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

forest in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The forest is reportedly a hideout for kidnappers and cultists.

**Cult Violence:** A 24-year old commercial motorcyclist was reportedly killed and buried in a forest by members of Iceland cult group in Ohaji/Egbema. The corpse of the victim was later exhumed by the police. Separately, two cultists who double as kidnappers were reportedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

**Domestic Violence/Child Trafficking:** A man was killed by his wife in Mbatoli LGA. The woman reportedly poured acid on the victim during a disagreement. In Ikeduru LGA, the police reportedly arrested a couple for stealing and selling two children. The children were allegedly sold for one million Naira.

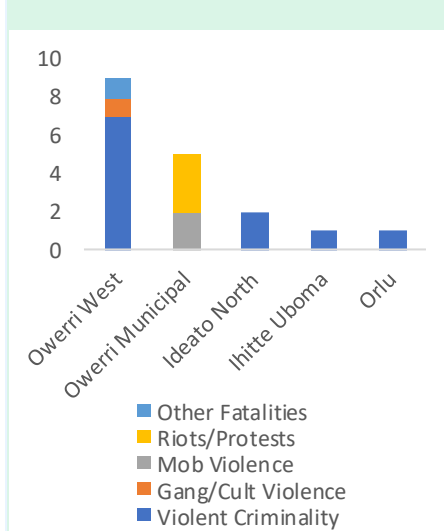
## Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence and child trafficking. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

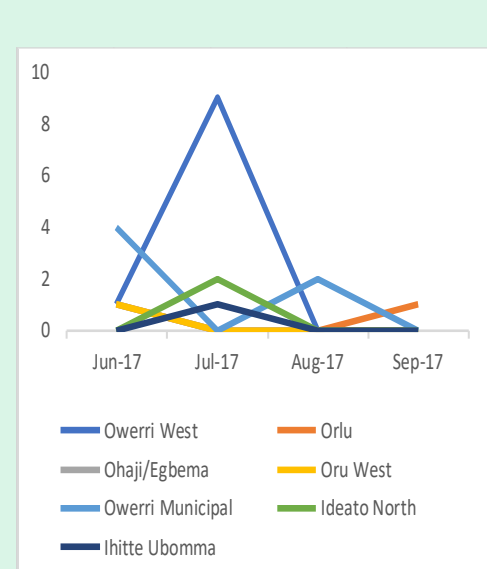
## Questions for Peace Agents

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 (July - September 2017)**

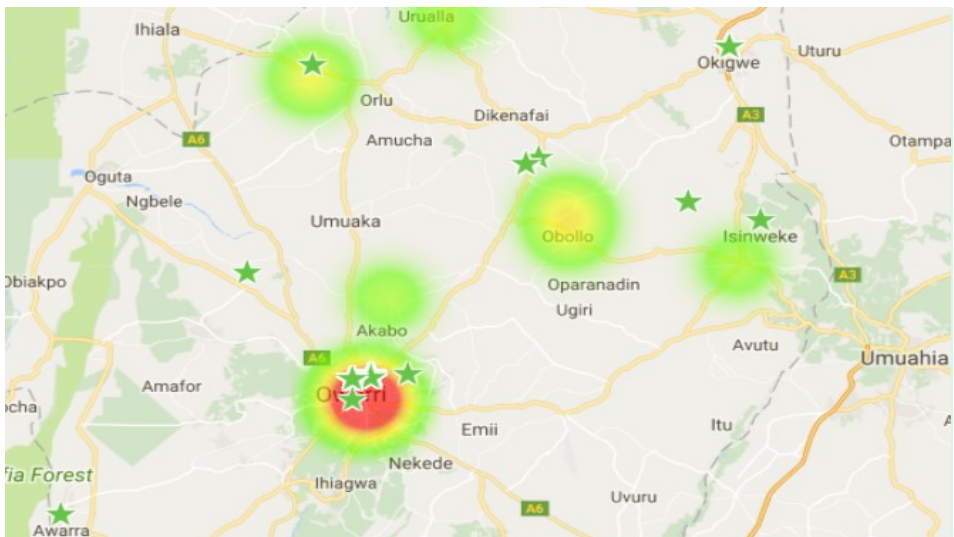


**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from July–September 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](http://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



**Inquiries:** Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

**Telephone:** 08172401595

**Email:** [afeno@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afeno@pindfoundation.org)