

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: August-September 2019

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 June-August 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), There was an increase in lethal violence in Rivers State in August 2019, compared to the previous month. Rivers had the highest number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Reported incidents included cult violence and criminality including kidnapping for ransom, piracy.

Cult Violence: In July, two students of the Rivers State University (RSU) were reportedly killed during rival cult clashes in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. In August, a student of the University of Port Harcourt was reportedly killed by cultists in a reprisal attack in Choba town, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, suspected cultists reportedly attacked a community, killed five residents and destroyed several houses in Okwale community, Khana LGA. In another incident, the leader of a vigilante group was reportedly killed by cultists in Rumuchukara community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Violent Criminality: In June, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash between security operatives and oil thieves who double as cultists in Gio community, Tai LGA. Separately, a professor was reportedly killed by robbers at his residence in Rumuolumeni community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

In July, robbers reportedly killed two policemen inside a car in Ojoto at Mile 2, Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, pirates reportedly attacked travelers and killed a man along Bille waterways in Degema LGA. In another incident, gunmen reported killed a community leader and one other in Choba community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In a separate incident, two kidnapping suspects were reportedly killed by the police during a raid on the criminal's hideout along the East-West Road, Emohua LGA.

In August, several people were reported killed in a series of incidents involving communal and criminal violence. Gunmen reportedly attacked a community, killed four residents and destroyed the palace of a traditional ruler in Taaba, Khana LGA. Gunmen reportedly killed six people and destroyed the residence of the local council chairman in Opuoko community, Khana LGA. In another incident, gunmen attacked and killed six people in Azorgwu, Omarihu and Obete communities, Oyigbo LGA. In a

separate incident, two people were reportedly killed during sporadic shooting by gunmen in Bangha community, Khana LGA.

Kidnapping: In June, a vigilante group, ONELGA Security Planning and Advisory Committee (OSPAC), reportedly invaded the hideout of kidnappers and arrested some suspects who double as cultists in Ndele and Rumuji communities, Emohua LGA.

Other Fatalities: In July, three people were reportedly killed during a clash between youths and some police officers in Nkpolu community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, 10 people were reportedly killed after an oil pipeline exploded in Komkom community, Oyigbo LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In addition to the impact of criminality and communal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls was reported during this period. In August, for instance, a girl was reportedly strangled by her male partner in a hotel room in D-line, Port Harcourt LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State

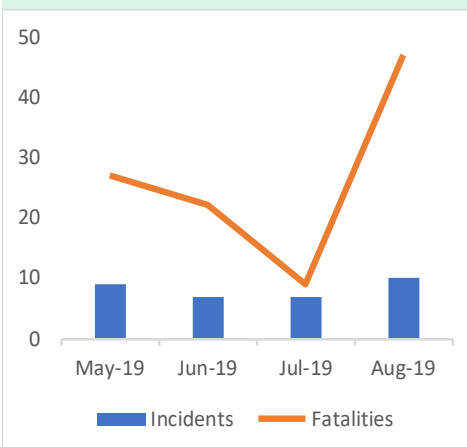
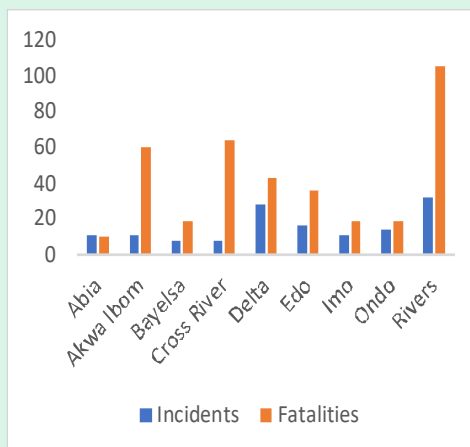


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (May - August 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from May – August 2019 in Rivers State and regional trends.
Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Recent Incidents, September 2019

Reported incidents during the month mainly related to kidnapping and violence against women and girls.

Kidnapping: During the month, gunmen reportedly abducted five travelers who stopped to help victims of a road accident in Elele, Ikwerre LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): The police reportedly arrested a suspected killer and rescued a female victim in a hotel in Mile 4, Obio/Akpor LGA. The woman raised the alarm when the man tried to strangle her. In a related development, there was a protest by women groups in Port Harcourt LGA over the killing of women by serial killers in hotel rooms in the state.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers State during this period were driven mainly by cult violence, criminality including kidnapping for ransom, and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents should monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is anything missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issues are a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
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 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (June - August 2019)

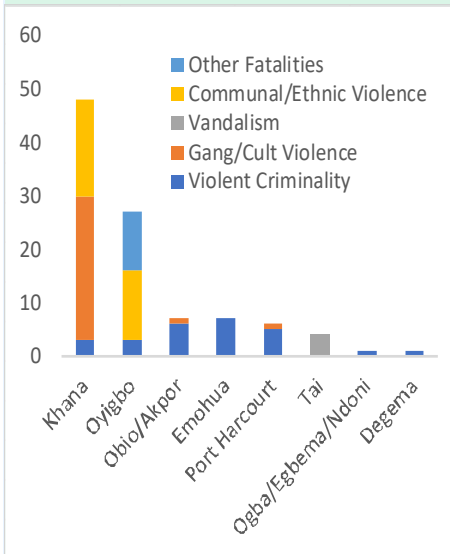
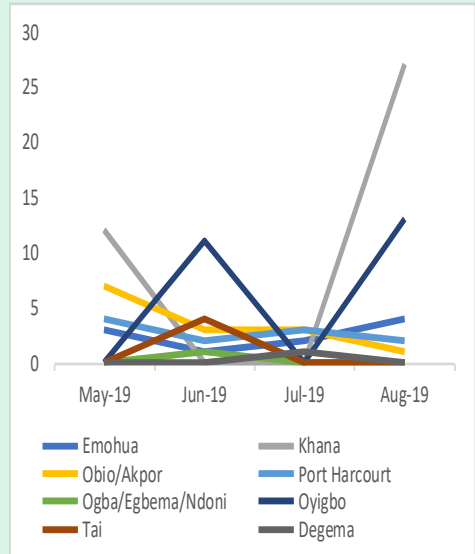
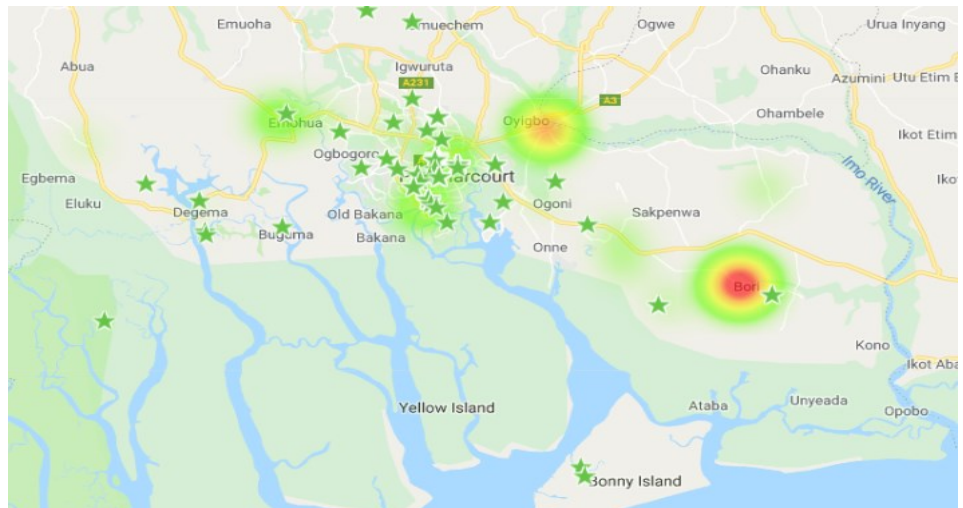


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this period shows that Khana, followed by Oyiibo, had the highest number of lethal conflict. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from June – August 2019 in Rivers; 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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