

Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

Rivers State - February 2016

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 Nov 2015-Jan 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), December was the most violent month since 2010. Issues reported during this quarter included political tensions, cult clashes, kidnappings and criminality.

Following several pro-Biafra protests that led to clashes between demonstrators and police in November, it was reported in December that at least 17 communities had invaded by cults or deeply affected by cult violence, resulting in the death of dozens across Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. In Ikwerre, three fatalities were reported and property destroyed in clashes between the rival Icelanders and Degbam cult groups. In January, it was reported that over 20 people were killed in cult violence in Ahoada East, Ahoada West, Obio/Akpor and Ikwerre LGAs.

Also in January, protests by ex-militants over the Amnesty Programme were reported in Port Harcourt. In Asari-Toru, three people were reported killed when a team of security forces raided the home of an ex-militant who is now an executive in the LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, February 2016

In February, there was a rise in political tensions, cult violence and criminality.

Political Tensions: In the context of ongoing political tensions in Rivers, a former State House of Assembly member was shot dead

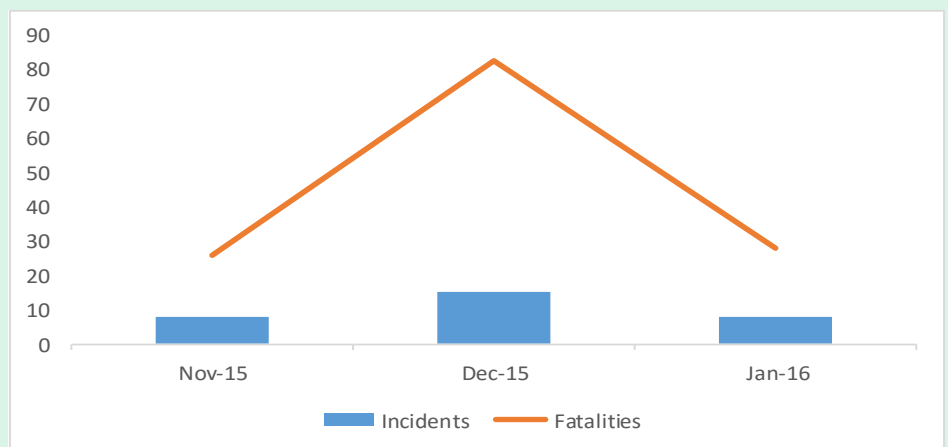
in Obio/Akpor. Also, the state liaison office of a senatorial candidate was reportedly razed by suspected political thugs in Khana.

Cult Violence: Eight fatalities were reported during a supremacy battle between rival cult groups in the Omoku community in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni.

Ex-militants: The house of an ex-militant accused of gun-running was reported to have been demolished by soldiers in Gokana. This was followed by clashes between soldiers and supporters of the ex-militant in Khana.

Criminality: In Port Harcourt, an expatriate

Figure 1: Rivers State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from October-December in Abia State.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Questions for Peace Agents

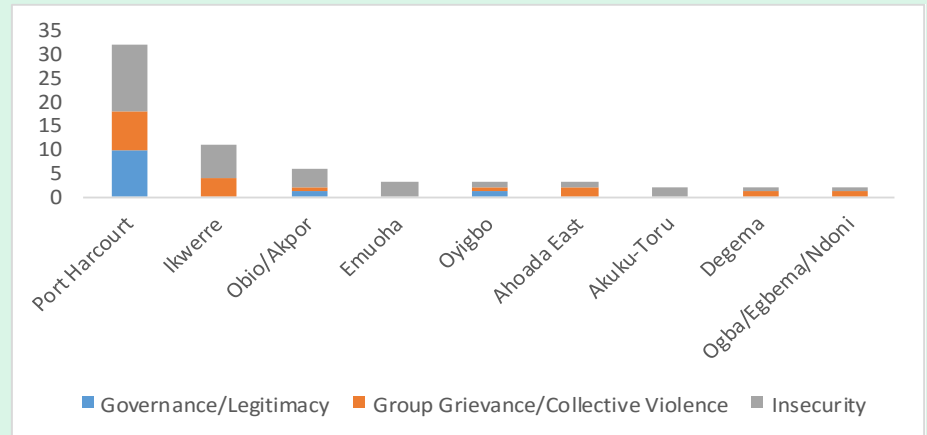
was reported kidnapped, while in another incident, security agents shot dead a member of a gang that robbed a bank in the GRA. Separately, two fatalities were reported when robbers attacked an ATM point.

Prognosis

Political tensions and cult violence continue to be very high in Rivers State and do not seem to be abating. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely in the context of the ongoing political tension ahead of the March 19 senatorial elections in the state as the current state of insecurity could be exacerbated by pressures relating to forthcoming elections.

1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue or potential conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a top 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?

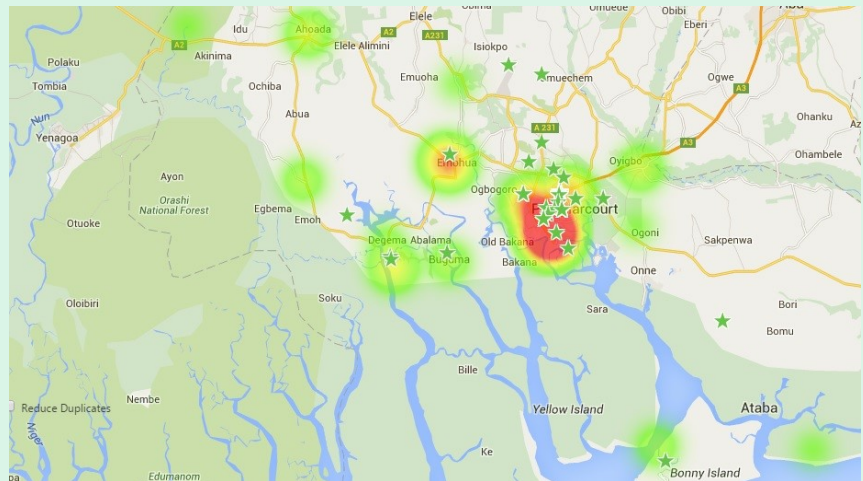
Figure 2: Trends in Conflict by LGA (Nov-Jan)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State in January 2016 shows that Port Harcourt had the most incidents across the three indicators.

Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 3: Heatmap of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State



Heatmap shows concentration of incidents reported from November 2015-January 2016 in Rivers 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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