

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: March-April 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 January-March 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in lethal violence in Rivers state in March 2019. Based on reported incidents (see Figure 2), Rivers had the highest number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period. Reported incidents included cult and political violence, sexual and domestic violence, and criminality including kidnapping for ransom.

Violent Criminality: In January, gunmen reportedly attacked a company vehicle that was leaving a bank, killed the police escort and made away with the money inside the vehicle. Separately, the leader of Ahoada West LGA Legislative Assembly was reportedly killed by gunmen along the East-West Road in Ahoada West LGA. In February, a 27-year old woman reportedly stabbed her male neighbor to death in Elikpokwudu community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In March, gunmen in military uniform reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, killed three soldiers and injured several others in Abonema, Akuku-Toru LGA. Separately, a woman was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Andoni LGA. In another incident, the police reportedly killed two kidnappers during a gun duel and rescued a victim in Ogbodo Isiokpo forest, Ikwerre LGA.

Kidnapping: In January, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus, killed the driver

and two passengers, and abducted the rest of the travelers in Rumuekpe, Emuoha LGA. Separately, the police reportedly killed some kidnappers and rescued a kidnap victim in Khana LGA.

Political Violence: In February, four people were reportedly killed in a stampede during a political rally in a stadium in Port Harcourt LGA. In March, political thugs reportedly killed two people and hijacked voting materials during elections in Akinima community, Ahoada West LGA. Separately, one person was reportedly killed in a clash between rival cult groups supporting different political parties during elections in Omerelu community, Ikwerre LGA. In another incident, six persons were reportedly killed by gunmen during elections in Khana LGA. Also in Khana LGA, a polytechnic lecturer was reportedly shot by security operatives during the elections in Bori community. The lecturer later died in the hospital.

Cult Violence: In January, two people were reportedly killed by cultists in Khana LGA.

One of the victims was beheaded. In March, a young man was reportedly burned to death during a clash between two rival cult groups in Alakahia, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls

(VAWG): In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, sexual violence was also reported during the period. In March, for instance, robbers who double as cultists reportedly raped some married women and young girls during a robbery operation at Afikpo Waterfront in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, April 2019

Reported incidents during the month mainly related to cult violence and criminality.

Cult Violence: Several incidents of cult violence were reported in the state during the month. Cultists reportedly killed eight people in a reprisal in Mgbuodobia, Obio/Akpor LGA. Five killed in Rumueche and Rumuhia communities, Emohua LGA. One

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State

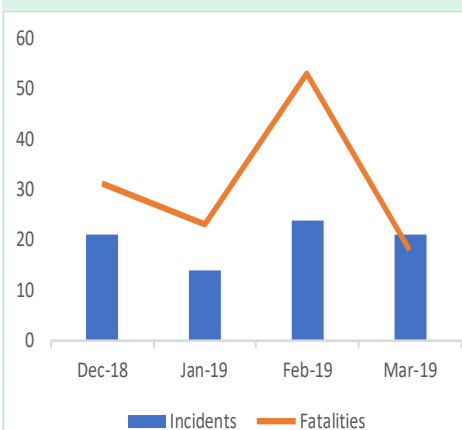
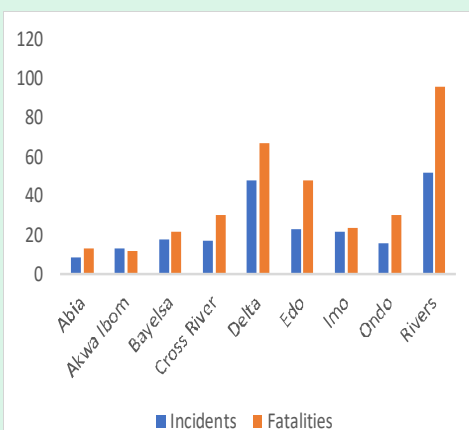


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (Dec 2018 - Mar 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from December 2018 – March 2019 in Rivers State and regional trends.
Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

reportedly killed during a gun battle between cultists and the police in Choba, Obio/Akpor LGA. Four beheaded and three others killed by cultists in Aluu, Ikwerre LGA. Seven killed during a clash between two rival cult groups in Ibaa and Egbeda communities, Emohua LGA.

Criminality: Seven people including a police officer were reportedly killed by gunmen in Kaani Babbe community, Khana LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly kidnapped four staff members of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and shot another in Abua-Odual LGA.

Domestic Violence: A 46-year old man reportedly killed his wife during a disagreement in Rumuigbo, Port Harcourt LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to cult violence, political violence, domestic violence, sexual violence and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG), and criminality including kidnapping for ransom. 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 (January - March 2019)

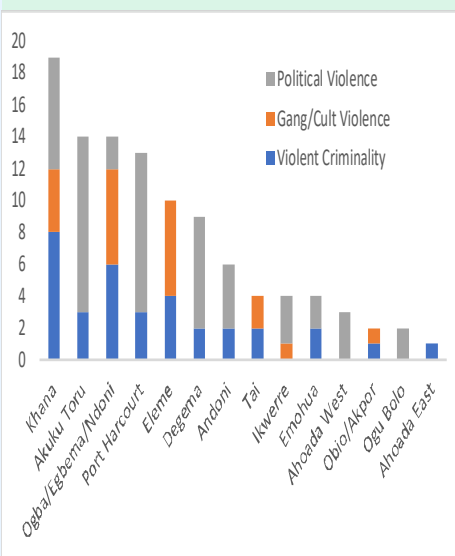
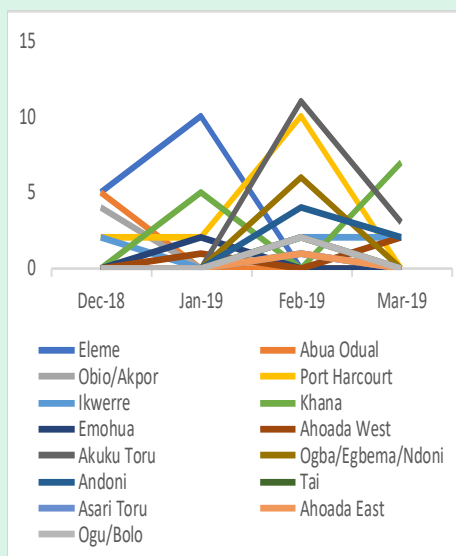
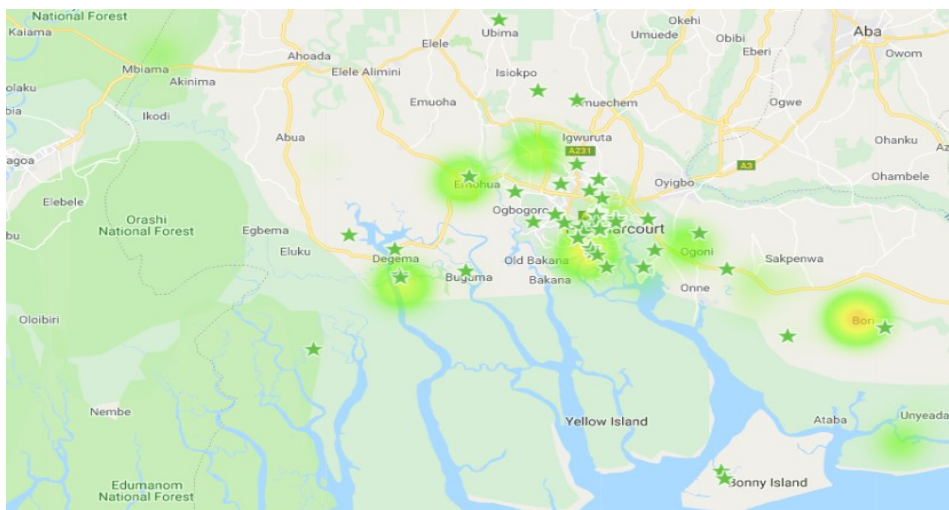


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Khana, followed by Akuku Toru and Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, had the highest number of reported fatalities. 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 January – March 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org