

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: July-August 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

May-July 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a slight decrease in conflict risk and violence in July 2016. Key incidents reported during the quarter included militancy, cult violence, and criminality, political tensions, protests, and mob violence.

Militancy: In June, a new militant group, the Niger Delta Red Squad, reportedly attacked oil facilities in Owerri. It was reported that a militant group also destroyed an oil facility in Ohaji/Egbema.

Criminality: In June, three members of a kidnapping gang who had abducted a 75-year old traditional ruler from Rivers State were later reportedly killed in a gun duel with police in Ohaji/Egbema. A polytechnic student was also allegedly kidnapped and killed by his friend in Owerri West. In July, armed vandals attempted to vandalize the facility of a telecommunication company and reportedly killed a guard.

Political Tensions: In July, a shoot-out was reported between supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) during a re-run of the State House of Assembly elections.

The violence took place in the Okata and Amiri communities in Oru East.

Protest: In July, hundreds of women in Owerri Municipal reportedly protested over the relocation of a popular market. Also in July, students of the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education reportedly violently protested and caused the college to close due to the damage.

Other Incidents: In June, there were reportedly ritual killings carried out on a man and his wife at their farm in Aboh-Mbaise. The suspect was apprehended and lynched by a mob. In July, an alleged thief was reportedly lynched and burned to death by a mob in Owerri.

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2016

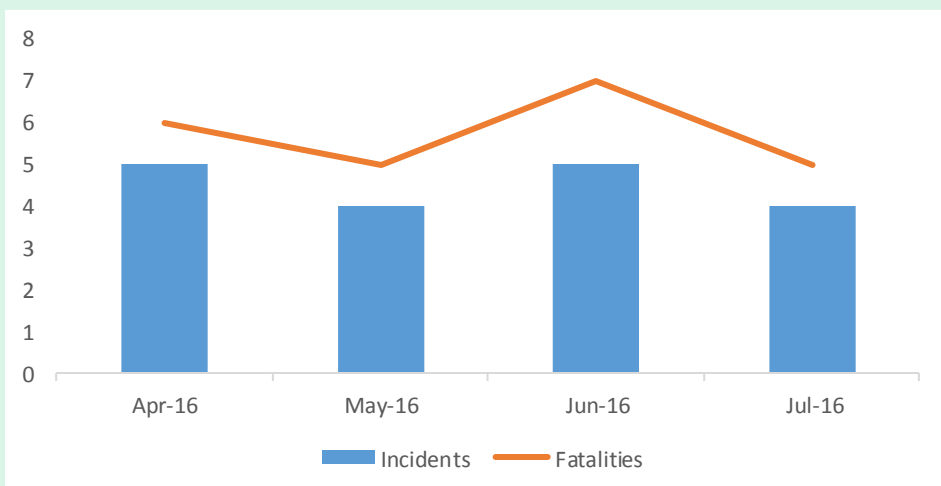
Incidents reported in August included

communal violence, cult violence, and violent criminality.

Communal Violence: Seven people were reportedly killed during a clash between the Hausa community and their host Akokwa community in Ideato North. Three people were reportedly killed in a reprisal attack by the host community following the alleged murder of two young women by a Hausa security guard.

Cult Violence: A 5-year old child was killed in a fire after a house was set ablaze by suspected members of Icelando cult groups, who were allegedly looking for a police informant in Ohaji/Egbema. Separately, a group of cultists from the Icelando and Degbam group reportedly invaded a community in Ohaji/Egbema, killed one person, injured many, and burnt several houses. Also in Ohaji/Egbema, about 10 persons were reportedly shot dead by

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from April-July 2016 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

cultists during a dispute over the process of selecting a traditional leader. In Owerri North, a male graduate of the Imo state university was reportedly killed by cultists.

Violent Criminality: A couple was reportedly murdered by assassins who then kidnapped three children of the victims in Unuimo LGA. The woman was reportedly raped before she was killed. Separately, two students of Imo State Polytechnic were reportedly burnt to dead by hooligans in their hostel in Ohaji/Egbema.

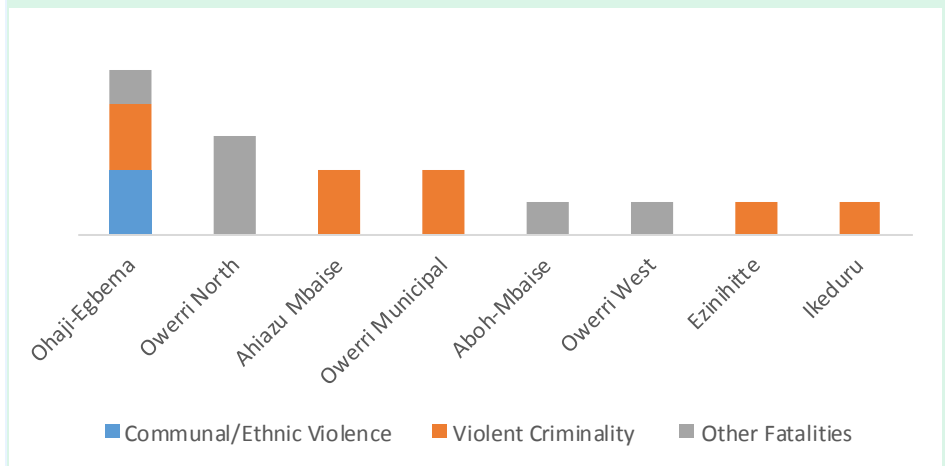
Prognosis

Violence remained the same in the state in July, driven mainly by violent criminality and cult clashes. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation, especially in the context of the recent state government amnesty programme for militants in the state.

Questions for Peace Agents

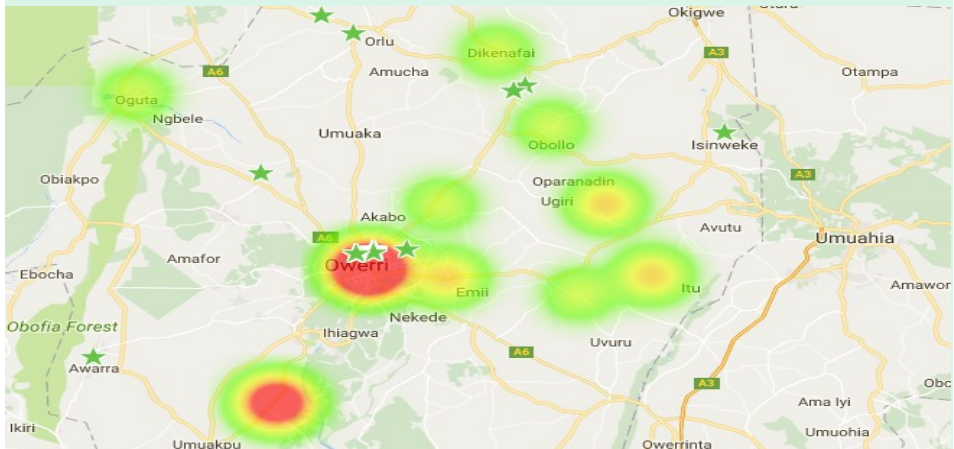
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 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: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (May-July 2016)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Ohaji/Egbema had the highest level of violence and conflict risk in the state. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 3: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Imo State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from May–July 2016 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org