

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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 decrease in violence and fatalities in July. Issues reported during the period include political tensions, cult violence, violent criminality, and communal conflict.

Political Tension: In June, a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was reportedly shot and beheaded in Abua/Odual. In July, the Khana LGA office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Bori was reportedly burned down.

Cult Violence: Cult-related violence was a major conflict driver during the period, especially in Ahoada East, Obio/Akpor, Khana, Ikwerre, Abua/Odual, Emuoha, Gokana, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, and Ogu/Bolo LGAs. In June, dozens of fatalities were reported in rival cult clashes. In Emuoha, cultists reportedly attacked a police station, freed the detainees and killed up to a dozen people including security personnel. Also, members of the Greenlanders reportedly invaded a community in Ikwerre, in a reprisal attack against members of the Icelanders, killing upwards of 17 people. In July, four

persons were reportedly killed by cult members in the Ogu community of Ogu/Bolo. Separately, a young man was reportedly shot dead by cultists in Aluu community in Ikwerre. A fatality was also reported during a clash between rival cult groups in Eleme.

Violent Criminality: In June, two policemen were reportedly shot dead by gunmen in Obio/Akpor, who also took their weapons. Separately, four kidnappers were reportedly killed by soldiers in Emuoha. In Gokana, gunmen reportedly killed a policeman and made away with his weapon.

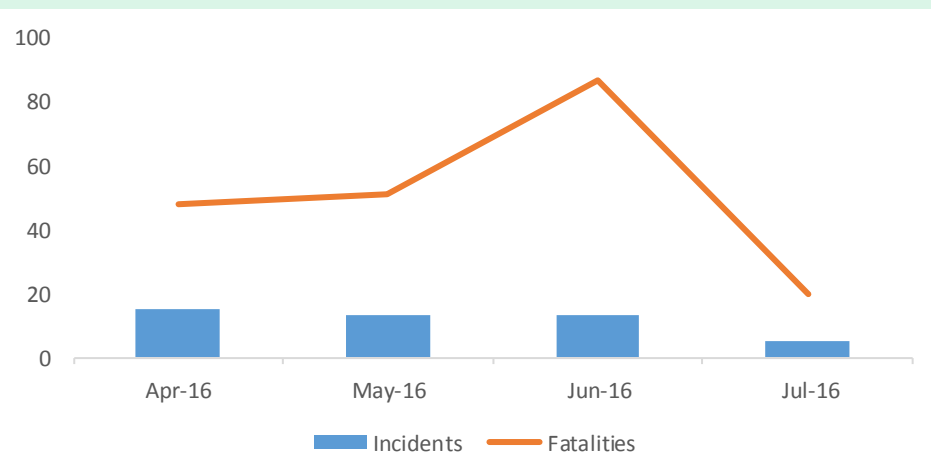
Inter-communal Conflict: In June, youth from a neighboring village reportedly attacked Wakama village in Tai and killed seven people. In July, one person was reportedly killed during a fight at a reconciliation meeting between elders from Barako and Nwebiara communities in Gokana.

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2016

Incidents reported in August included criminality, cult violence, counter-insurgency, and rape.

Violent Criminality: An account officer in the Presidential Amnesty Programme was reportedly assassinated along the expressway in Ahoada East. The victim was allegedly in a dispute with ex-militants over deductions from their monthly stipends. Separately, six robbers were reportedly shot dead by the police in Ahoada East. A prominent human rights lawyer and council to an APC chieftain in a murder case was assassinated in Aluu in Ikwerre. In Obio/Akpor, three policemen were reportedly shot dead by kidnappers. Also in Obio/Akpor, a retired army officer was reportedly killed by gunmen. In Ikwerre, two lecturers with the University of Port Harcourt were reported to have been kidnapped in two separate

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from April-July 2016 in Rivers State.

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

incidents. In Port Harcourt, a policeman attached to a bank was reportedly shot dead by his colleague.

Cult Violence: Thirteen cultists were reportedly killed in a clash between Icelanders and Degbam cult groups in Emuoha. Separately, four persons were reportedly killed in a clash in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni.

Counter-insurgency: Soldiers under the military's 'Operation Crocodile Smile' reportedly killed five militants and arrested twenty-three others in Ikwerre.

Rape/Child Abuse: During the month, several cases of rape/child abuse were reported in Etche, Obio/Akpor, and Port Harcourt. The victims were underage girls.

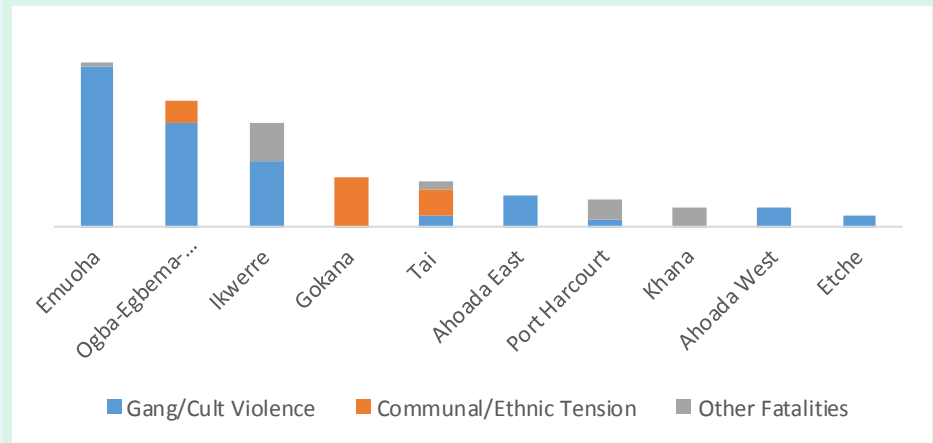
Prognosis

There was a rise in insecurity in the state during the period. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely, especially in the context of tensions being generated by the March 19th legislative re-run elections, and the rise in general criminality.

Questions for Peace Agents

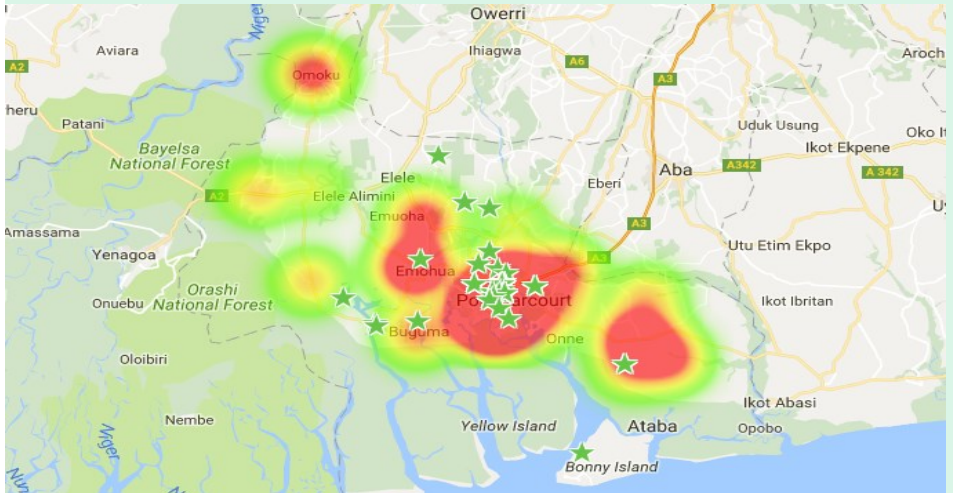
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 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 Rivers State this quarter shows that Emuoha followed by Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni had the highest number of fatalities. 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 Rivers State



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