

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: December 2016-January 2017

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 October-December 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in reports of lethal violence during the month of December. Incidents reported during this period included cases of militancy, cult violence, criminality, and mob violence.

Militancy: In November, ex-militants reportedly attacked two communities, killing 11 people and setting houses ablaze in Ohaji Egbema LGA.

Violent Criminality: In October, an abducted businessman was reportedly found dead near his village in Owerri West LGA. Separately, a police Inspector attached to a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was reportedly shot dead in Mbaitoli. In another incident, a 12-year old primary school pupil was reportedly abducted from school and killed for ritualistic purposes in Ideato North LGA. In November, kidnappers reportedly killed a nursing mother and

abducted her 5-month old baby in Ngor-Okpala LGA.

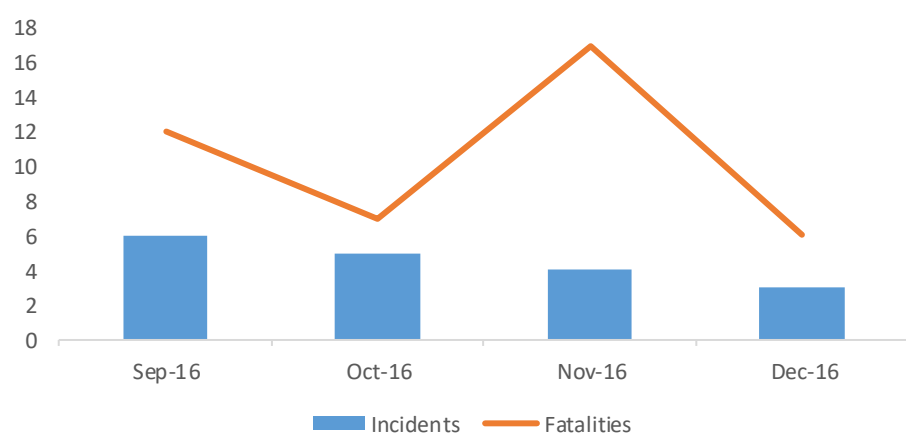
Cult Violence: In October, one person was reportedly killed during a gun duel between two rival cult groups in Owerri North LGA. In December, four persons were reportedly killed by cultists in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The cultists who are reportedly members of 'Ashland' fraternity, attacked many communities during the Christmas period. Separately, a male student of the Imo State University was reportedly shot dead by cultists at a bar in Owerri Municipal.

Mob Violence: In October, three kidnapping suspects were reportedly lynched by youths

after a failed attempt to abduct a baby in Unuimo LGA. In November, two robbers were killed by a mob in Owerri North LGA after they reportedly snatched a lady's handbag and killed a motorcyclist and attempted to escape with the motorcycle. Separately, two robbers were reportedly burnt to death by a youth vigilante group in Ikeduru LGA.

Other Incidents: A man was reportedly shot by a policeman in Owerri Municipal when a dispute over a missing mobile phone escalated. Separately, there was reportedly a protest by pensioners in Owerri, the state capital, over payment of pension arrears.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



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

Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2017

Reported incidents included criminality and protests.

Violent Criminality: During the month gunmen reportedly attacked a court and freed a notable criminal who was on trial in Owerri, the state capital. Two people were reported to have been killed during the attack.

Protests: During the month, several protests were reported in Owerri. Pensioners reportedly protested over issues related to their pensions. Separately, staff of the Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC) reportedly protested in Owerri Municipal over labor policies. In Oru West LGA there was a reported protest over planned demolition of a market by the state government.

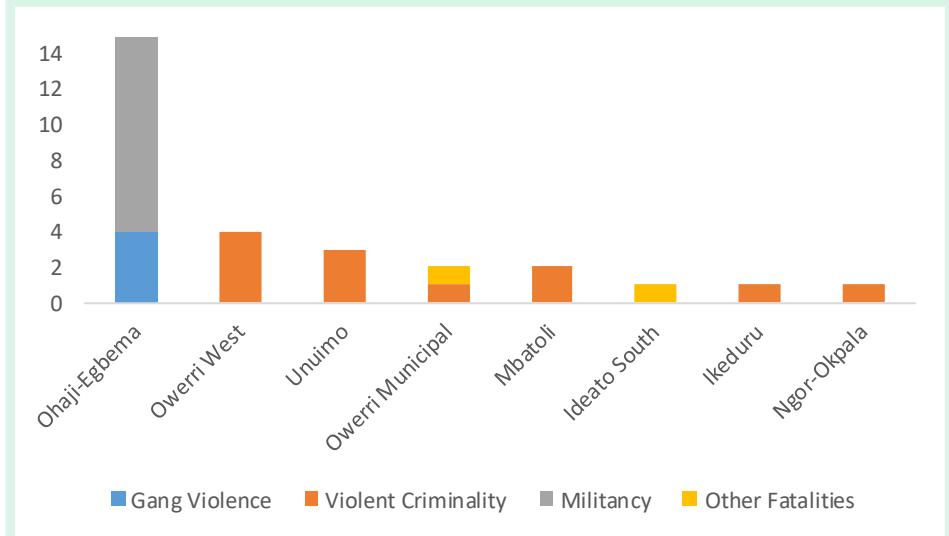
Prognosis

Incidents reported during the period were mainly related criminality, cult violence, mob violence, and protests. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

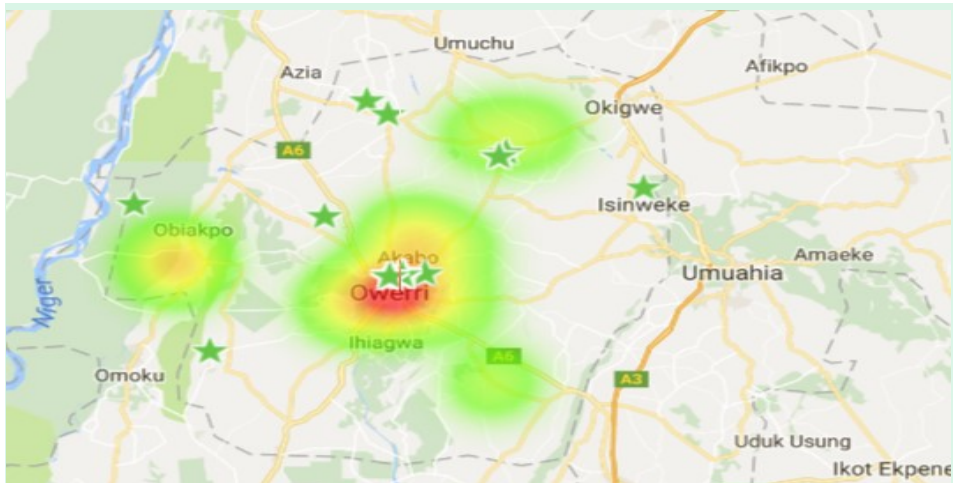
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 6 months that could escalate this conflict?
4. Who are the 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 (October - December 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 October–December 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



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