

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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 (figure 1), there was an increase in reports of lethal violence in December. Incidents reported during the period included cult violence, communal and political tensions, and criminality.

Gang/Cult Violence: In October, cultists reportedly killed and beheaded two rival cult members in Khana LGA. Also in Khana LGA, four persons were reportedly killed and several houses set ablaze in a reprisal attack by rival cult members. In a separate incident, a cultist, who had allegedly killed a police officer, was reportedly shot dead by a rival cult group in Port Harcourt. In November, a group of cultists were reportedly caught with two human skulls in Ikwerre LGA.

Violent Criminality: In November, four personnel of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were reportedly killed by gunmen in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. Separately, police reportedly killed three robbers in a gun duel in Port Harcourt. In December, gunmen in military camouflage reportedly killed eight people including a member of a joint military task force in

Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA.

Also in Ohaji/Egbema/Ndoni, masked gunmen reportedly killed two and abducted another in Omoku.

Political Tensions/Violence: Over the period, multiple fatalities were reported in relation to rerun legislative elections in the state. In December, five people were reportedly killed in clashes with security personnel during the election in Tai LGA. A Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) was reportedly beheaded in Omoku in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. A clash was also reported between APC and PDP supporters in Opobo/Nkoro LGA. Also, there were reportedly protests over irregularities and security forces high handedness during the elections in Ahoada West, Gokana, Tai and Port Harcourt LGAs. In the aftermath of the elections, tensions were elevated between APC and PDP supporters who accused each other of arms stockpiling and assassination of party members.

Communal Tensions: There were reportedly heightened tensions between Wiikemaa and

Wiiyakara communities in Khana LGA. Wiikemaa women reportedly protested over attacks by militiamen from Wiiyakara.

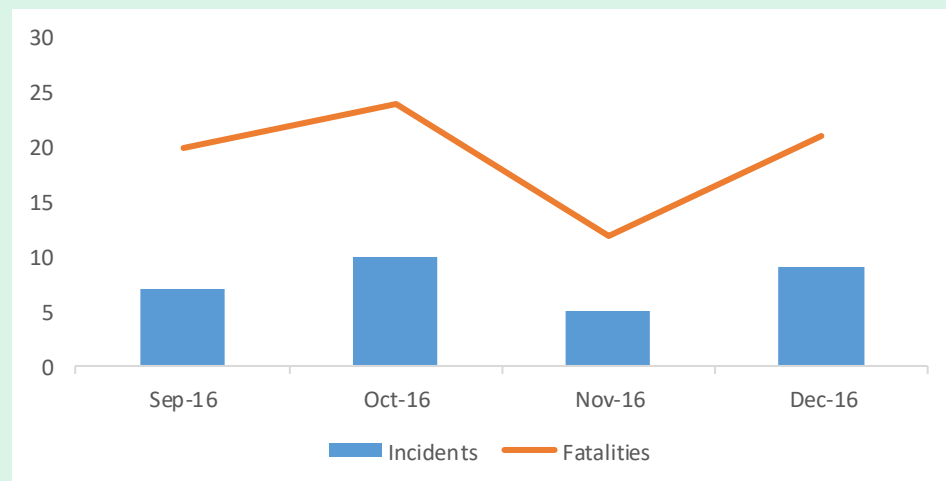
Other: In November, a female staff of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was reportedly murdered by her friend in Port Harcourt.

Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to criminality and protests.

Violent Criminality: In Obio/Akpor LGA, a policeman was reportedly killed in a shootout with robbers during an attack on a bank. Separately, a lecturer at the Kenule Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic in Bori was reportedly kidnapped in Khana LGA. In a separate incident, kidnappers reportedly abducted a woman and demanded a 20 million Naira ransom in Ikwerre LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from September-December 2016 in Rivers State.

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

Protests: During the month several protests were reported in the state. There were reports of protests by three communities over acquisition of their land by the Nigerian Army for barracks in Ikwerre LGA. Separately, protesters from host communities reportedly besieged a fertilizer plant over employment in Eleme LGA. In another incident, security forces reportedly shot 11 people and arrested 65 others during a rally. The rally was held by supporters of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) in support of the group's detained leader, Nnamdi Kanu, and US President, Donald Trump in Port Harcourt and Obio/Akpor LGA.

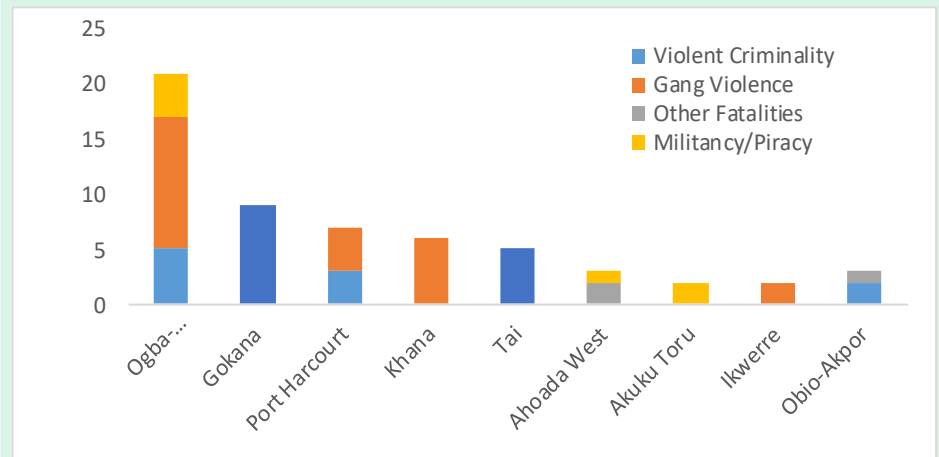
Prognosis

There has been an increase in reports of lethal violence in the state since November. Incidents are mainly related to violent criminality, political and cult violence. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

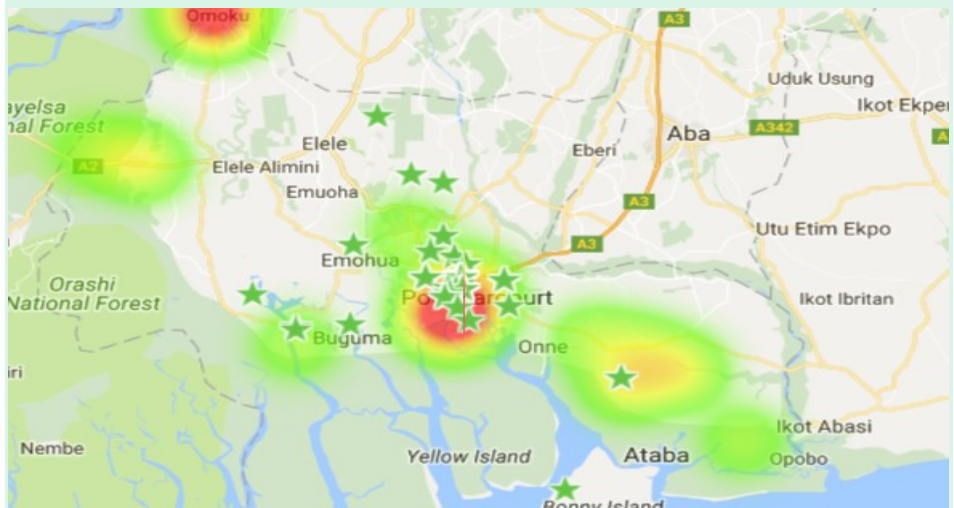
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next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



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni had the highest number of reported 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 October–December 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



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