

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: January-February 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

### November 2016-

### January 2017

According to Peace Map data (figure 1), there was a rise in reports of lethal violence in January. Incidents reported during the period included cult violence, communal and political tensions, and criminality.

**Violent Criminality:** 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 people and abducted another in Omoku. In January, a policeman was reportedly killed in a shootout with robbers during an attack on a bank in Obio/Akpor LGA. 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.

**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 voting irregularities and improper actions by security forces 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 assassinations of party members.

**Communal Tensions:** In December, there were reportedly heightened tensions between Wiikemaa and Wiyakara communities in Khana LGA. Wiikemaa women reportedly protested over attacks by militiamen from Wiyakara.

**Protests:** In January, several protests were reported in the state. There were reports of protests by three communities over acquisition of their land by the Nigerian

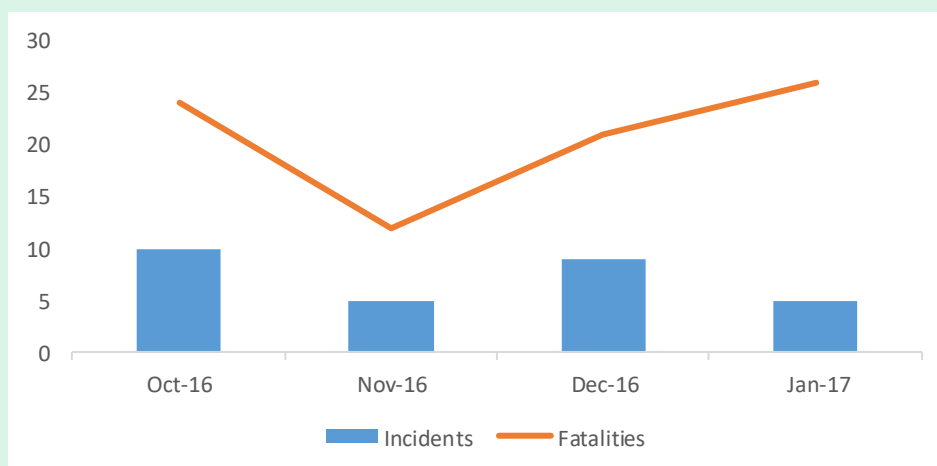
Army for barracks in Ikwerre LGA. Separately, protesters from host communities reportedly attacked a fertilizer plant over employment disputes in Eleme LGA. In another incident, security forces reportedly shot 11 people and arrested 65 others during a rally. The rally was held by supporters of the Indigenous 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.

## Recent Incidents or Issues, February 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to cult violence, criminality, political violence, and protests.

**Gang/Cult Violence:** During the month, two cultists were reportedly killed in a shoot-out with operatives of the joint task force (JTF) in Emuoha LGA. Separately, cultists reportedly

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from October 2016-January 2017 in Rivers State.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

killed two people and abducted another in Emuoha. In another incident, the house of a cultist was reportedly burned down by a rival cult group in Port Harcourt.

**Violent Criminality:** A policeman was reportedly shot dead by robbers during an attempted bank robbery in Obio/Akpor.

**Political Violence:** Officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were reportedly assaulted by thugs during the February 25, 2017 supplementary rerun elections in Etche LGA.

**Other Incidents:** Three people were reportedly killed by fire caused by a gas pipeline explosion in Emuoha LGA. In Okrika, there was a protest over pollution caused by soot from the Port Harcourt refinery.

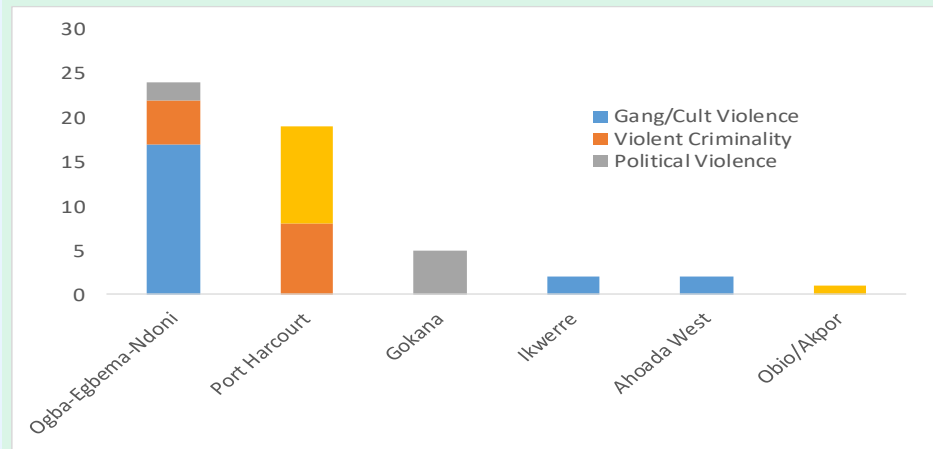
## Prognosis

There has been a rise in reported 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

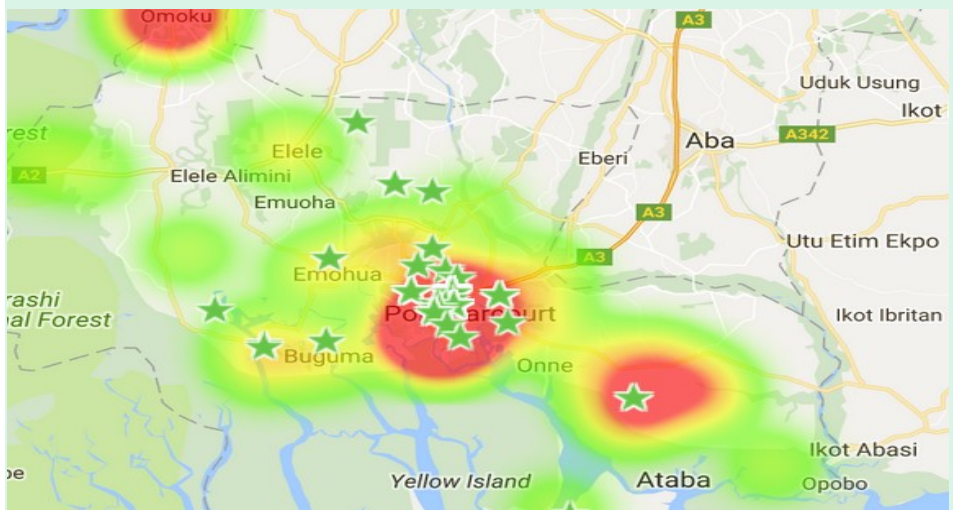
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 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 (November 2016 - January 2017)**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Port Harcourt had the highest number of reported fatalities. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from November 2016–January 2017 in Rivers; with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://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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