

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo 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 (see Figure 1), incidents reported during this period included militancy, cult violence, criminality, mob violence, and protests.

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

Violent Criminality: In November, kidnappers reportedly killed a nursing mother and abducted her 5-month old baby in Ngor-Okpala LGA. In January, 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.

Cult Violence: In December, four persons were reportedly killed by cultists in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The cultists (reportedly members of 'Ashland' fraternity) allegedly 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 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.

Protests: During the month, several protests were reported in Owerri, the state capital. Pensioners allegedly protested over issues related to pension payments. 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.

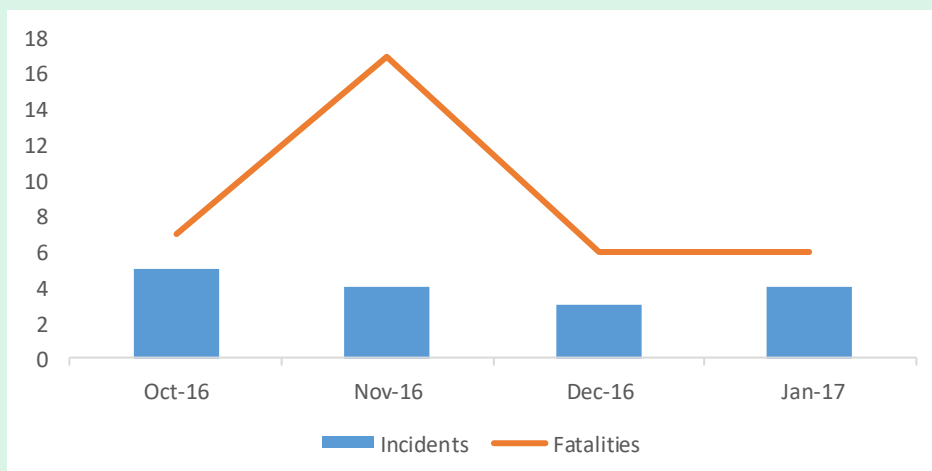
Other Incidents: In December, a man was reportedly shot by a policeman in Owerri Municipal when a dispute over a missing mobile phone escalated. Separately, there was reportedly a protest by pensioners in Owerri, the state capital, over payment of pension arrears.

Recent Incidents or Issues, February 2017

Reported incidents included criminality, political violence, and protests.

Violent Criminality: During the month, four people were reportedly killed by robbers in a

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from October 2016 – January 2017 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

bank in Owerri North. The robbers reportedly trailed a man to the bank where they engaged the police in a gun battle.

Political Violence: An electoral official was allegedly assaulted and kidnapped by political thugs in Owerri North. Some of the thugs were later arrested by security operatives.

Protests: Students of the Federal University of Technology-Owerri (FUTO) reportedly protested over fees in Owerri Municipal. The protest turned violent after some of the students were reportedly tear gassed and arrested by the police.

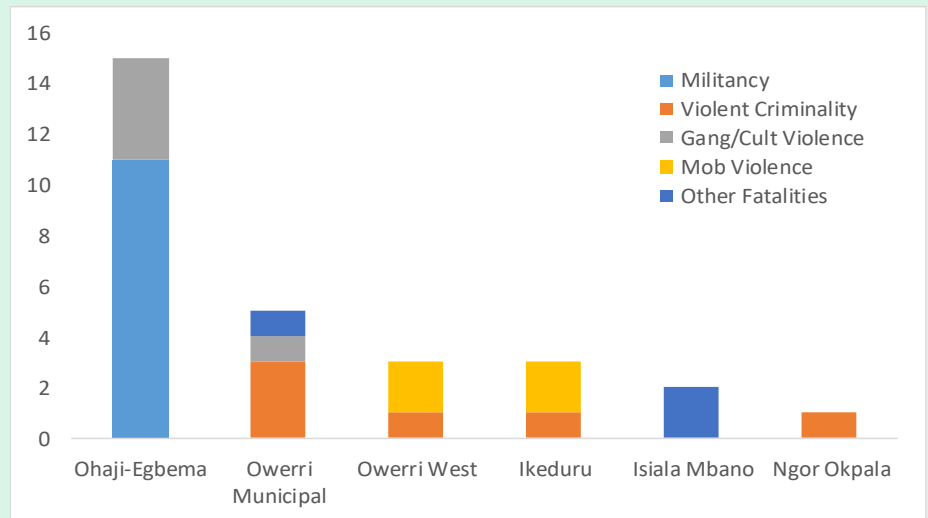
Prognosis

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

Questions for Peace Agents

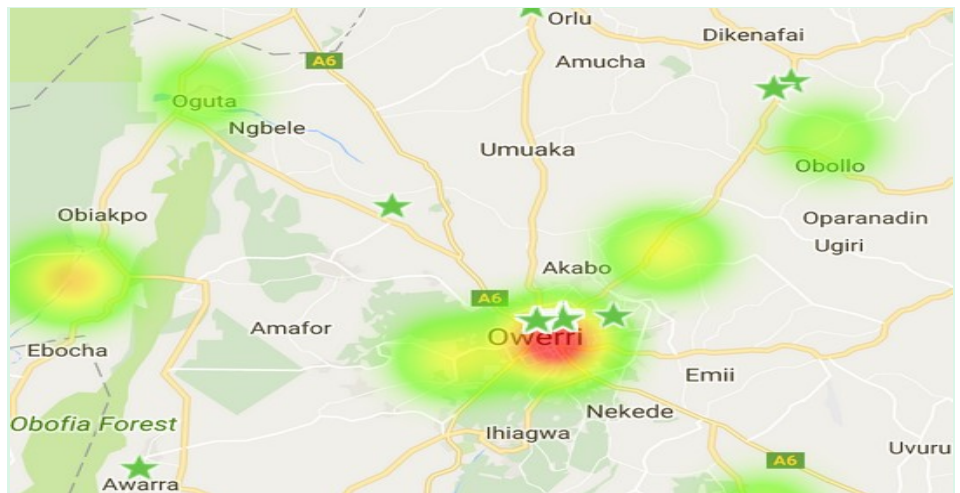
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 6 months that could escalate this conflict?
4. Who are the 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 (November 2016 - January 2017)



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 November 2016–January 2017 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