

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Bayelsa State: January-February 2017

Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns of conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

Patterns and Trends November 2016- January 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), reported incidents during the period included communal tension, gang violence, criminality, and protests.

Communal Tensions: In December, tensions were heightened following protests by farmers from several communities in Yenagoa and Ekeremor LGAs over the alleged destruction of farmland by cattle. The farmers called on the state government to enact laws to restrict the movement of herders in the state.

Gang Violence: In November, two cultists were reportedly killed during rival cult clashes and reprisal attacks in Yenagoa LGA.

Militancy: In Nembe LGA, members of the Niger Delta Avengers reportedly destroyed an oil pipeline in November.

Violent Criminality: In November, several incidents were reported in Southern Ijaw LGA. Three kidnappers were reportedly killed by operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF). Separately, operatives of the JTF reportedly

rescued three victims from kidnappers. In another incident, a sea pirate was reportedly killed by soldiers. Also, a 72-year old retired school principal was allegedly abducted and later found dead after a ransom had been paid for his release. In January, it was reported that soldiers fatally shot two gunrunners and a boat driver in Yenagoa LGA. Separately, soldiers under the joint task force code-named 'Operation Delta Safe' reportedly raided a militant camp near an oil flow station in Nembe LGA and killed two militants in a shootout.

Protest: In December, there was a protest by youth and women's groups over the proposed relocation of a gas company. Tension was elevated in the state following the alleged plan by an oil company to move its headquarters from the Niger Delta area. The Ijaw Youth Congress (IYC) warned that such move would escalate conflict in the region.

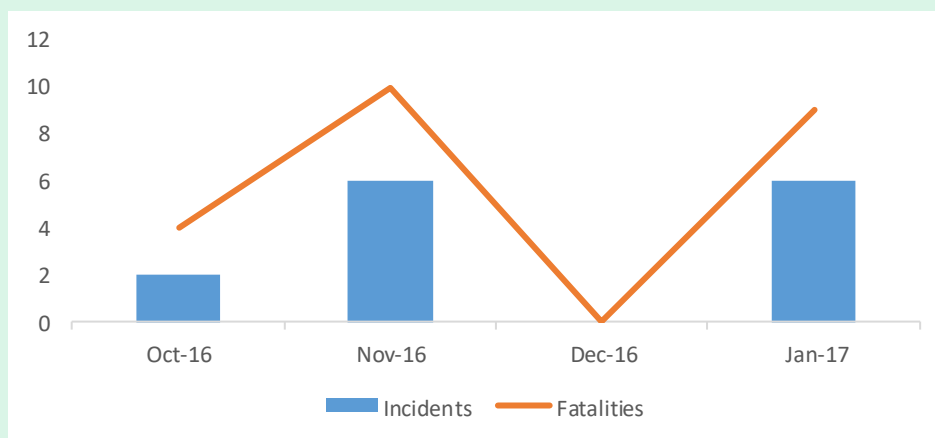
Other Incidents: In January, a man was reportedly beaten to death by a mob for stealing from a trader in Brass LGA. Separately, a woman reportedly killed her husband in Yenagoa. In another incident, a 7-year old boy was reportedly tortured to death by his father and step-mother over allegations of witchcraft in Yenagoa.

Recent Incidents or Issues, February 2017

Incidents reported during the month included criminality, and Labor strikes/protest.

Criminality: In Southern Ijaw, oil vandals reportedly attacked Korokrosei community. A young man was reported killed and two children injured during the attack. The attack was alleged to be a revenge attack over colleagues who had been arrested.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State



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

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

Labor Strikes/Protest: There was a reported protest in Yenagoa over the state government's plan to allocate a portion of land to herdsmen for grazing. The protesters were reported to have been attacked by ex-militants and hoodlums. Separately, staff of the state broadcasting corporation (Glory FM) reportedly embarked on a labor strike over an industrial dispute.

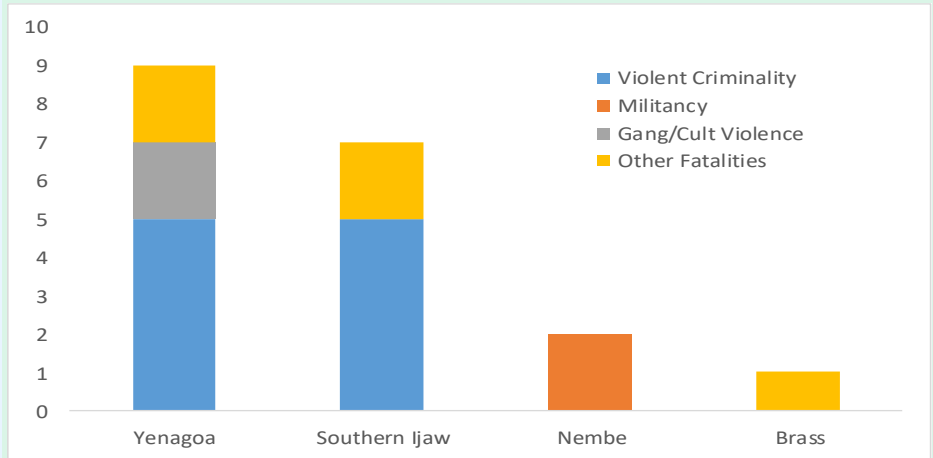
Prognosis

There was a rise in lethal violence in the state in January 2017. Conflict risk and violence during the period related mainly to criminality and protests. 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?

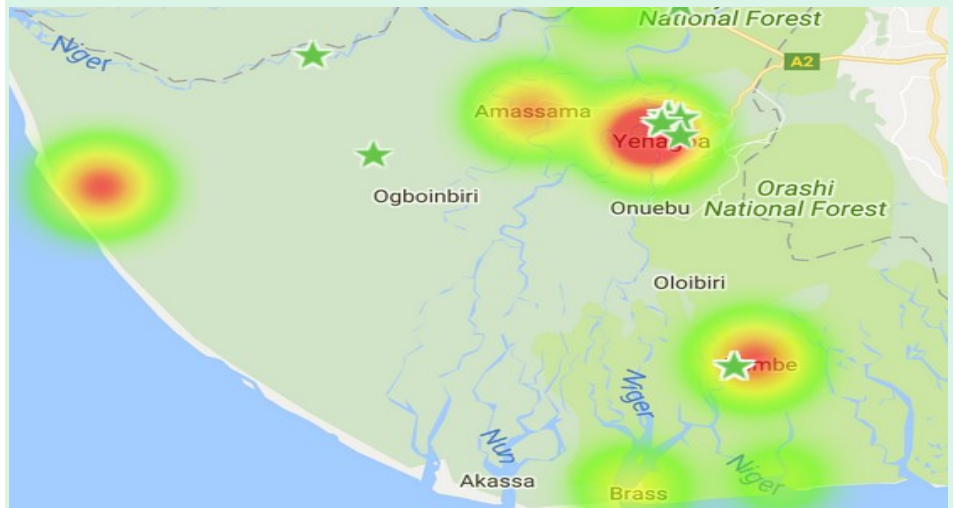
Figure 2: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (November 2016 – January 2017)



Reported fatalities by Local Government Area (LGA) in Bayelsa State in this quarter shows that Yenagoa and Southern Ijaw LGA had the most reported incidents of conflict risk and violence.

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 Bayelsa State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from November 2016-January 2017 in Bayelsa; 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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