

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: February-March 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 December 2016- February 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents reported during this period included militancy, cult violence, criminality, mob violence, and protests.

Violent Criminality: 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. In February, four people were reportedly killed by robbers in a bank in Owerri North. The robbers reportedly trailed a man to the bank where they engaged the police in a gun battle.

Cult Violence: 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.

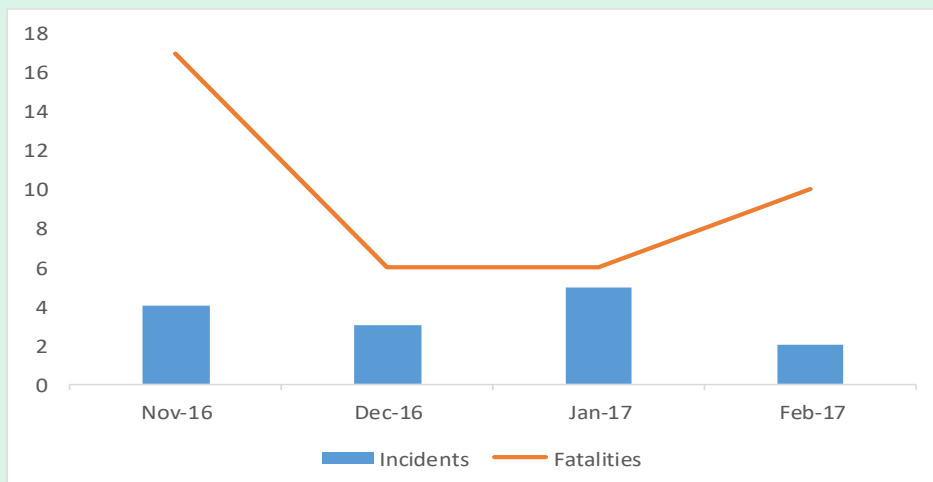
Political Violence: In February, an electoral official was reportedly assaulted and kidnapped by political thugs in Owerri North. Some of the thugs were later arrested by security operatives.

Protests: In January, several protests were reported in Owerri, the state capital. Pensioners reportedly protested over issues related to their pensions. Separately, staff of an electricity distribution company reportedly protested in Owerri Municipal over labor policies. In Oru West LGA there was a reported protest over the planned

demolition of a market by the state government. In February, students of the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO) reportedly protested over fees in Owerri Municipal. The protest turned violent and some of the students were reportedly tear gassed and arrested by the police.

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.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



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

Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2017

Reported incidents included criminality, cult violence, and protests.

Criminality: During the month, the police reported arrested fifty suspects for robbery, kidnapping, cultism, vandalism and human trafficking in the state.

Cult/Gang Violence: A male student of the Imo State university (IMSU) was reportedly shot dead by cultists. The incident was believed to be related to rival cult violence in the university.

Protests: Sacked local government workers reportedly protested over unpaid salaries in Owerri, the state capital.

Other: A policeman reportedly shot dead a 16-year old boy and wounded three others in Isiala Mbano.

Prognosis

Incidents reported during the period were mainly related to criminality, cult 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 (December 2016 - February 2017)

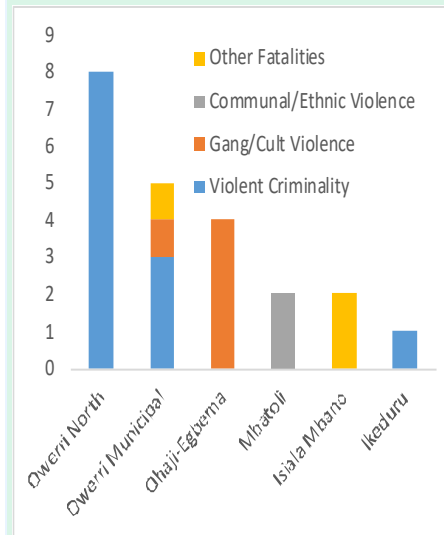
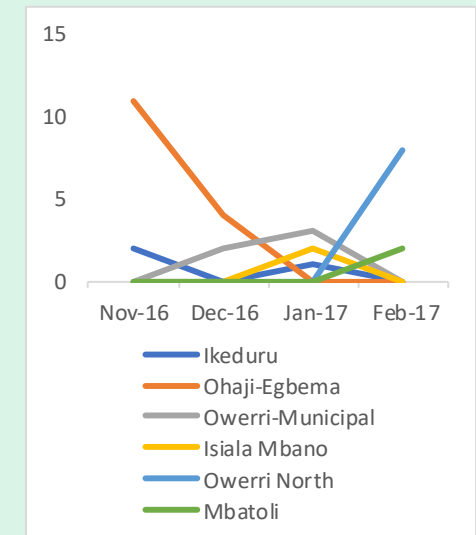
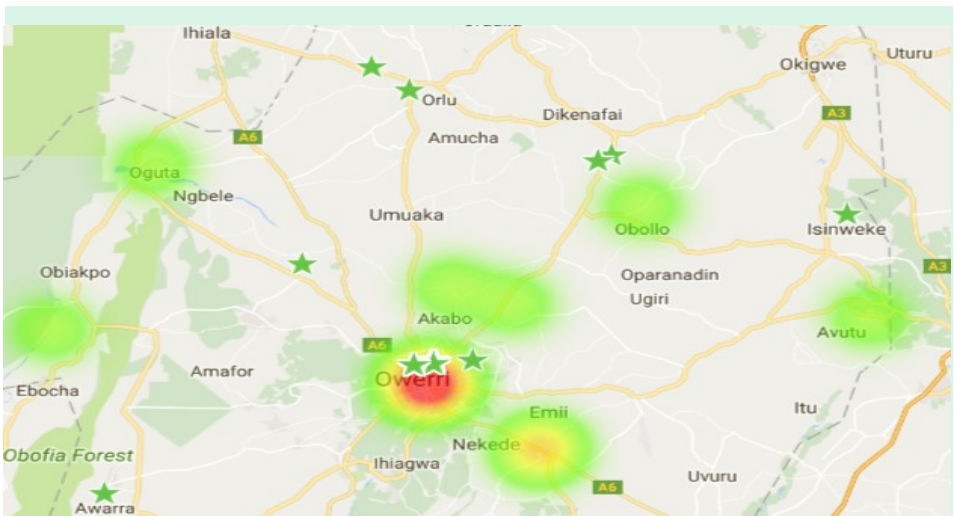


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri North, followed by Owerri Municipal and Ohaji-Egbema had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state. Source (Figure 2): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 3): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Imo State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from December 2016–February 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