

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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 (figure 1), there was a rise in lethal violence in January. Incidents reported during the period included cult violence, political tensions, protests and criminality.

Violent Criminality: 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. In February, a policeman was reportedly shot dead by robbers during an attempted bank robbery in Obio/Akpor.

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

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

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 besieged a fertilizer

plant over employment issues 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. In February, there was a protest in Okrika over pollution caused by soot from the Port Harcourt refinery

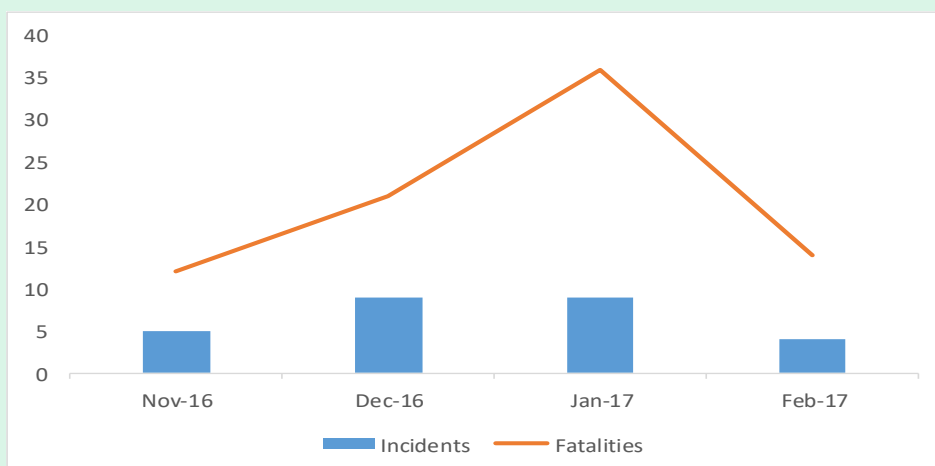
Other Incidents: In February, three people were reportedly killed by fire caused by a gas pipeline explosion in Emuoha LGA. .

Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to Violent criminality, kidnapping, and protests.

Violent Criminality: A courier service personnel with an online retailer was

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2016-February 2017 in Rivers State.

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

reportedly killed by clients in Obio/Akpor. Separately, robbers intercepted a bullion van, killed a policeman and made away with large sum of money in Ikwerre LGA. In another incident, robbers attacked a businessman in Ahoada East and made away with his money.

Kidnapping: One was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Obio/Akpor. Separately, the police raided a forest used by kidnapers as hideout in Emuoha, rescued three victims, and arrested two suspects.

Protest: There was a reported protest at the office of an oil company over the arrest of a community leader who allegedly shut down several oil wells in Port Harcourt.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period 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 (December 2016 - February 2017)

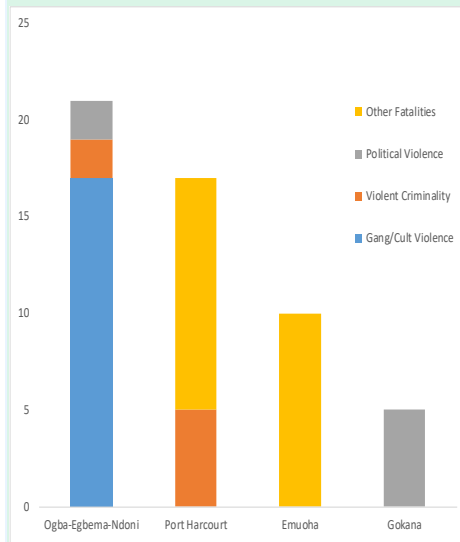
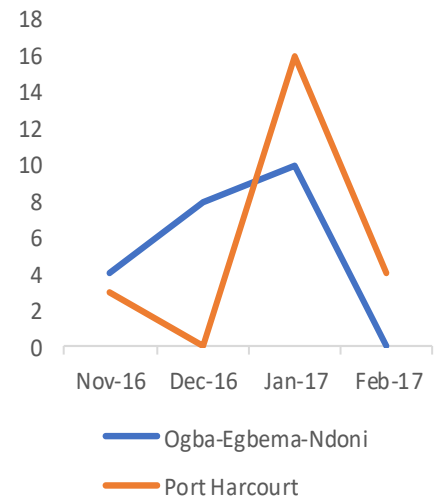
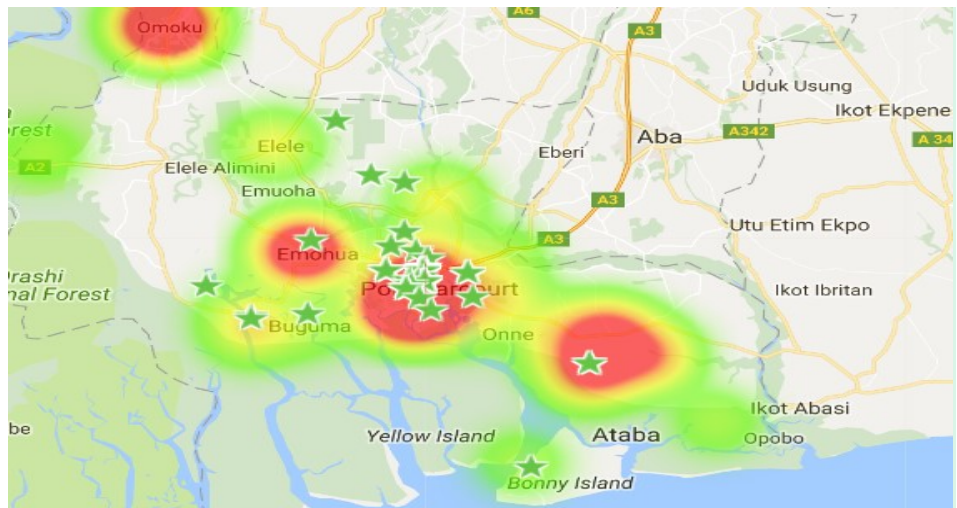


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (December 2016 - February 2017)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Port Harcourt LGAs had the highest number of reported fatalities. 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 Rivers State



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

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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