

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Akwa Ibom State: April-May 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 February-April 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was an increase in lethal violence in April 2017. Incidents reported during the period included communal tensions, criminality, mob violence, cult clashes and labor strike/protests.

**Communal Tensions:** In February, over twenty fatalities were reported in clashes over land dispute between Oku Iboku community in Itu LGA and Ikot Offiong community in Cross River state. The clashes also resulted in the closure of a major highway in the state. Separately, a village head and a youth leader were reportedly killed during a disagreement over the distribution of revenue from a community oil palm plantation in Ukanafun LGA. In April, over thirty people were reportedly killed in renewed clashes over a land dispute among communities in Ikot Offiong in Odukpani LGA, Cross River state and Oku Iboku in Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom state.

**Criminality:** In February, kidnappers reportedly abducted a Catholic priest from a parish school where he teaches in Esien

Udim LGA. In April, the secretary to Ukanafun LGA was reportedly assassinated at his farm. Another who sustained gunshot wounds during incident later died. Separately, two expatriates were reportedly kidnapped from their hotel in Eket LGA. In another incident, a man was reportedly kidnapped at gunpoint from a church in Uyo, the state capital.

**Mob Violence:** In April, six persons, including two policemen, were reportedly killed during a clash between the police and youths in Etinam LGA. The clash occurred when the police tried to arrest members of a vigilante group who allegedly had beaten a boy to death for stealing.

**Cult Violence:** A February clash involving the Icelanders reportedly killed a PDP youth leader and several others in Etim Ekpo LGA.

**Labor Strike/Protest:** In April, non-academic

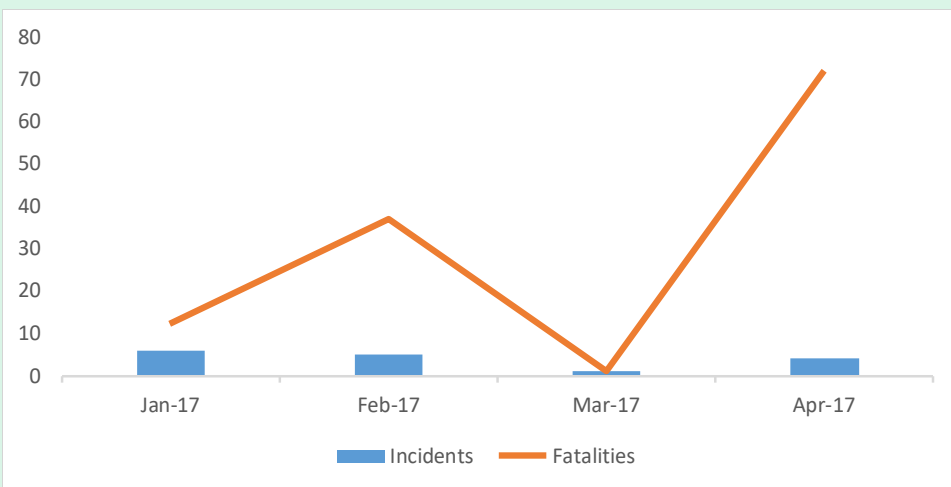
staff of three educational institutions in the state reportedly embarked on a labor strike in protest over salaries in Uyo, the state capital.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2017

Reported incidents of conflict risk and violence in the state during the month included communal violence, criminality, cult violence, and labor strike/protests.

**Communal Violence:** During the month, gunmen suspected to be ethnic militias attacked a fishing community and killed over 45 persons in Uruan LGA. The attack is reportedly related to a land dispute between communities in Itu and Uruan LGAs in Akwa Ibom, and communities in neighboring Odukpani LGA of Cross River state.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State



Reported incidents and fatalities from January - April 2017 in Akwa Ibom State.

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

**Violent Criminality:** A photo journalist was reportedly shot dead by robbers who attacked his apartment in Uyo.

**Cult Violence:** Three were reportedly killed in a rival cult clash between Klansmen and Black Axe confraternities in Uyo.

**Labor Strike/Protest:** In Uyo, the state capital, members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) embarked on a –day labor strike in protest over oil companies' preference for expatriate workers over Nigerians.

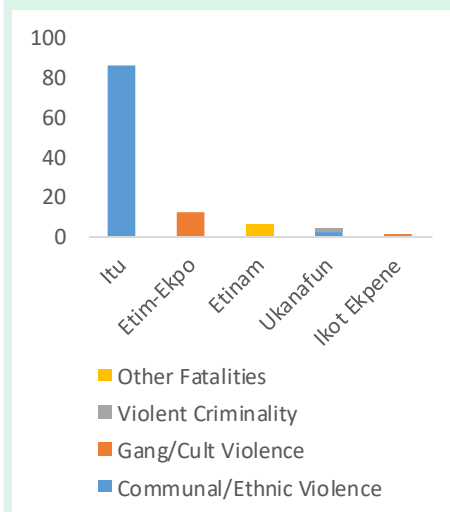
## Prognosis

There was a rise in lethal violence in the state in April 2017 (see Figure 1). Conflict risk and violence during this period are mainly related to communal tensions, criminality, cult violence, and labor strikes/protests. Peace actors should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

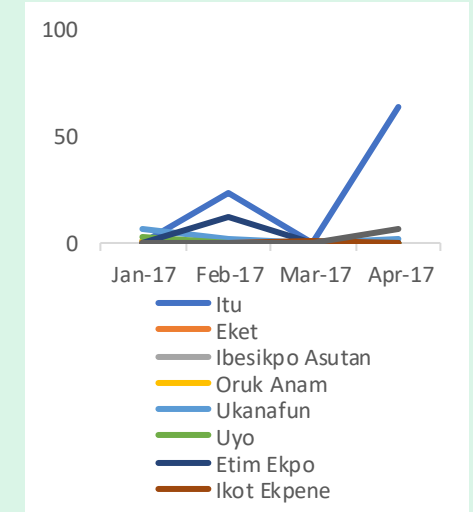
## Questions for Peace Agents

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 (February - April 2017)**

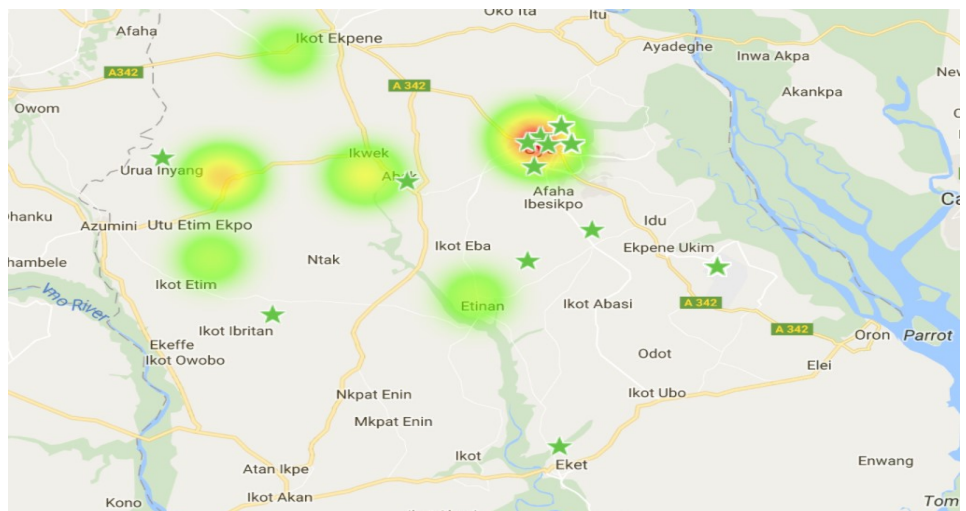


**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) shows that Itu had the most reported lethal conflict during this period. 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

**Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Akwa Ibom State**



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from February-April 2017 in Akwa Ibom; 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo,  
IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595