

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: June-July 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 April-June 2017

According to Peace Map data (figure 1), there was an increase in lethal violence in Rivers state in June. Incidents reported during this period included cult violence, communal tensions, and criminality.

Violent Criminality: In May, four were reportedly killed by gunmen in Bonny LGA. Separately, two were reportedly killed by gunmen in Tai LGA. In June, the police reportedly killed four kidnappers and rescued nine victims in Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF) code-named 'Operation Delta Safe' reportedly killed two kidnappers and rescued a victim in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. In another incident, operatives of the JTF, 'Operation Delta Safe' reportedly killed four pirates and recovered several weapons in Degema LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence: In May, several cult related violent incidents were reported in the state. Eight were reportedly killed during a clash between Degbam and Icelanders cult groups at different locations in Emohua LGA. In Ikwerre, five were reportedly killed in rival cult clashes. In Obio/Akpor, a cult leader was reportedly beheaded by a rival group. In Tai,

a prominent member of Degbam cult group was reportedly shot dead by soldiers. In June, a couple and their stepson was burnt to death by a group of cultists in Eleme LGA. Separately, 14 were killed and six kidnapped during a clash between Deywell and Degbam cult groups in Tai LGA.

Communal Tensions: In May, a chief was reportedly killed in Mgboshimini community, Obio/Akpor LGA. The incident sparked off violent protests leading to the death of a youth and burning of houses. In June, two were reported killed during a clash between Hausa traders and youths over payment of dues at a motor park in Onne, Eleme LGA. Separately, one was reported killed during a clash between herders and farmers in Oyigbo LGA.

Others: In May, a clergyman was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ahoada West LGA. In June, a woman was reportedly killed by her 29-year old boyfriend in Ikwerre LGA.

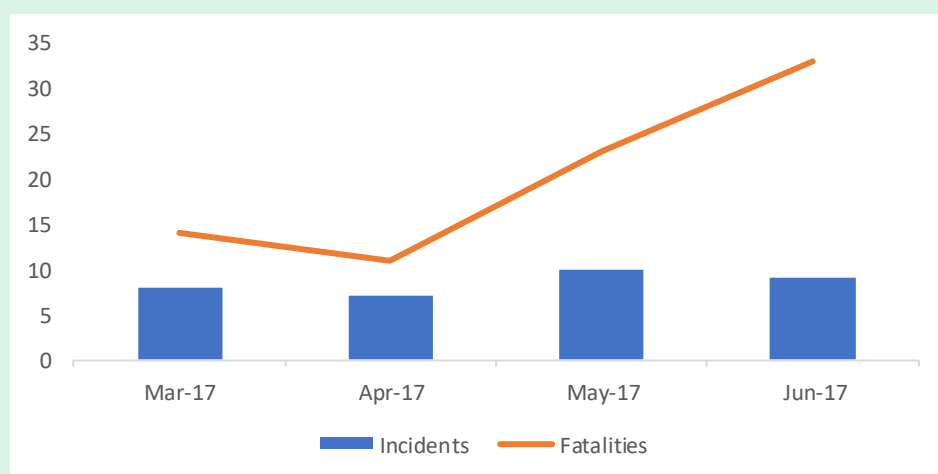
Recent Incidents or Issues, July 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to gang/cult violence, kidnapping, and insurgency/counterinsurgency.

Gang/Cult Violence: Members of Degbam cult group reportedly attacked a village and beheaded four suspected members of Icelanders cult group in Emohua LGA. Separately, members of the Icelanders reportedly attacked a community in suspected reprisal and killed eight in Emohua. In another incident, suspected cultists reportedly shot sporadically and killed one in Andoni LGA.

Kidnapping During the month, fourteen passengers who were travelling in a commercial bus from Warri, Delta state to Port Harcourt, were reportedly kidnapped at gunpoint in Emohua LGA. Separately, seven including two executive members of the Rivers state chapter of the Judicial Staff

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from March-June 2017 in Rivers State.

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

Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) who were on a trip from Abuja to Port Harcourt, were reportedly kidnapped in Ikwerre.

Militants vs Soldiers: Four militants were reportedly killed in a gun duel with soldiers during an attack on a military houseboat in Tuma community, Akuku-Toru LGA. A civilian was reportedly killed during the confrontation. In a suspected reprisal, 'Operation Pulo Shield' soldiers attacked Tuma community, Akuku-Toru LGA, destroyed 15 houses and left several persons with varying degrees of injuries.

Others: Two sons of a traditional ruler were reportedly beheaded in Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, protesters reportedly barricaded the entrance to the premises of an oil company over compensation in Bakana Community, Degema LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to cult violence, criminality, communal tensions, and insurgency/counterinsurgency. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is anything missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issues are 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 (April - June 2017)

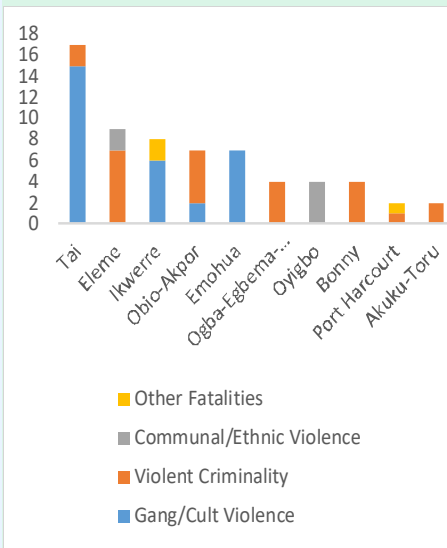
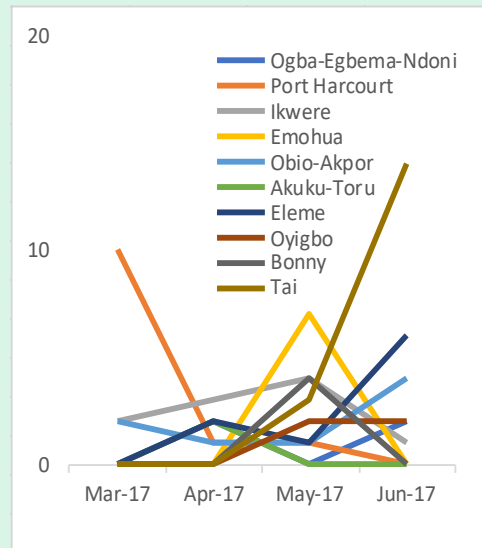
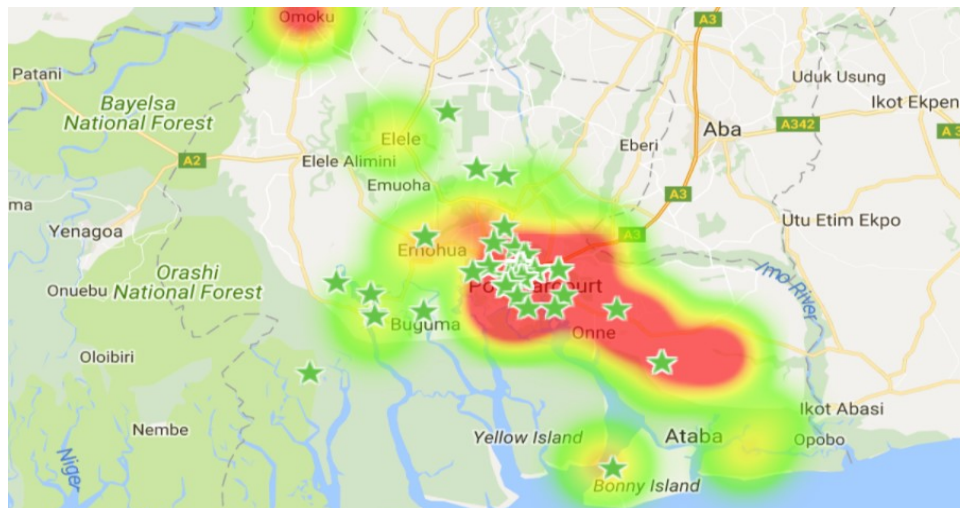


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (April - June 2017)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Tai LGA 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 April–June 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org