

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: December 2017-January 2018

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 October-December 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents reported in the state during this period included criminality, cult violence, protests, domestic violence, and child trafficking.

Violent Criminality: In October, a 23-year old member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was killed by gunmen in Owerri Municipal. Separately, a man was stabbed to death by his landlord during a disagreement in Owerri North. In November, two robbers were reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Mbatoli LGA. Separately, the police reportedly killed two robbers during a shootout in Orlu LGA.

Criminality during this period also involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG). In October, for instance, the corpse of a 63-year old woman was discovered in a forest in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The forest is reportedly a hideout for kidnappers and cultists.

Gang/Cult Violence: In October, a 24-year old commercial motorcyclist was reportedly killed and buried in a forest by members of Iceland cult group in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The corpse of the victim was later exhumed by the police. Separately, two cultists who were involved in kidnapping were reportedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

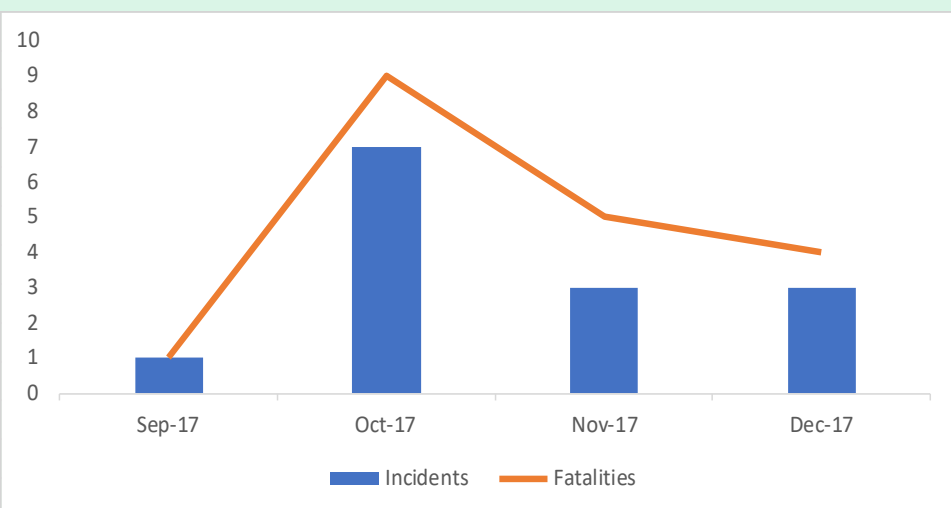
Domestic Violence/Child Trafficking: In October, a man was killed by his wife in Mbatoli LGA. The woman reportedly poured acid on the victim. In Ikeduru LGA, the police reportedly arrested a couple for stealing and selling two children.

Violent Protests: In November, a young man was reportedly killed by a traditional ruler during a disagreement in Mbatoli LGA. The incident led to a protest by youth, who

burned down an oil mill and vehicles. In December, five people were reportedly injured and 10 tricycles destroyed during a clash between tricycle operators and officials of the state Environmental Transformation Committee (ENTRACO) in Owerri Municipal LGA. The clash was triggered by the state government ban on the use of tricycles in the metropolis.

Others: In December, four members of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) were reportedly killed during a clash between two factions of the group in Unuimo LGA. Separately, there was tension in the state following the reported suspension of the Majority Leader of the Imo State House of Assembly in Owerri, the state capital.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



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

Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2018

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality, communal tensions, and fire outbreak.

Violent Criminality: Three kidnapers were reportedly killed in a gun battle with operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Njaba LGA. Separately, six hoodlums were reportedly killed during a shootout with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

Communal Tensions: Two people, including a female octogenarian, were reportedly killed in a clash between two masquerade groups during a festival in a in Oguta LGA. Members of a masquerade cult attacked masquerades from another village to avenge their colleague's death during a masquerade festival.

Others: The official residence of the Imo state deputy governor in Owerri, the state capital, was reportedly razed by fire.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, communal tensions, cult violence, violent protests, and child trafficking. 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 (October - December 2017)

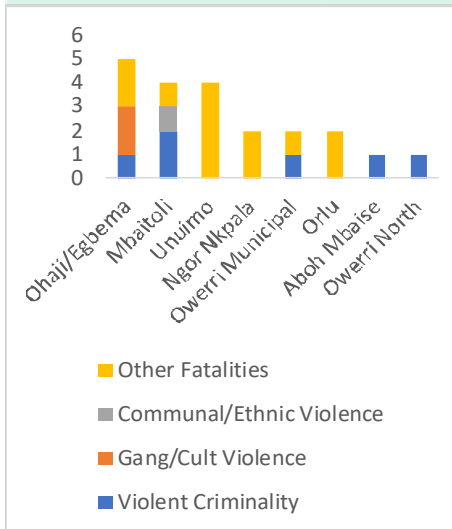
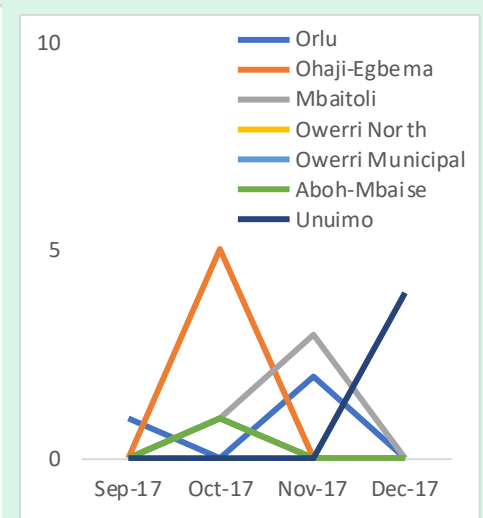
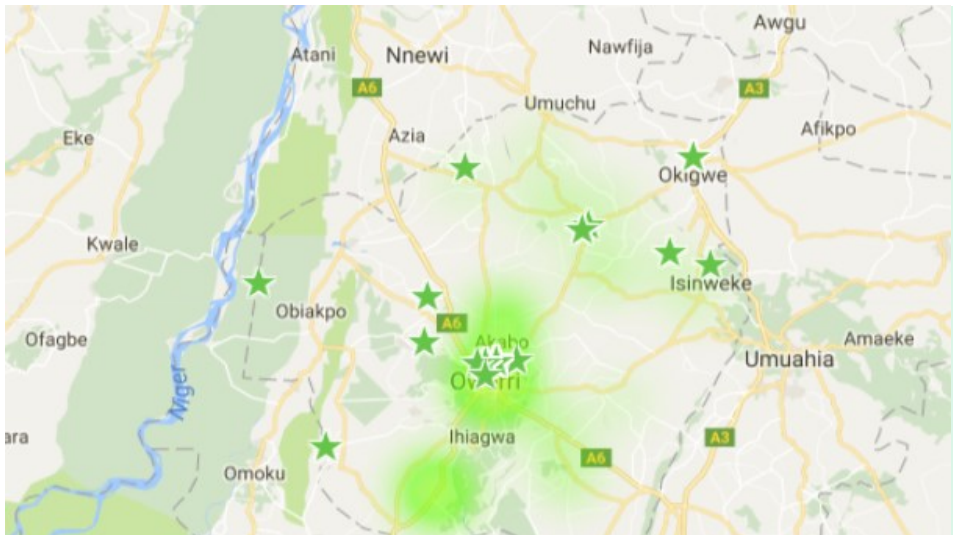


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Ohaji/Egbema, followed by Mbaitoli and Unuimo 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 October–December 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



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