

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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), there was a decrease in violent fatalities in Rivers state in December 2017. Incidents reported during this period included communal tensions, gang/cult violence, militancy, and other criminal activities.

**Violent Criminality:** In December, soldiers reportedly killed three robbers who attempted to steal army uniforms from a military base in Emohua LGA. In Obio/Akpor LGA, four gunmen who were disguised as operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) were reportedly killed by operatives of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS). In Port Harcourt, two policemen were reportedly killed by hoodlums, while they were patrolling the area. Also, in Port Harcourt, another policeman was reportedly killed by gunmen. A vigilante was also shot during the incident. Many criminal incidents during the period involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG).

**Militancy/Cult Violence:** In October, members of the Iceland cult group reportedly attacked a community and killed 14 people in Obio/Akpor LGA. In November, 10 were reportedly killed during a gun battle between militants and a vigilante group in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. The vigilante group ambushed the militants, who were

fleeing the area, and engaged them in a gun battle. Separately, security forces reportedly killed six militants who double as cultists in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. Security forces raided the hideout of the militants following the killing of three members of a local vigilante group. In a related incident, soldiers raided the house of a militant who doubles as a kidnapper and assassin in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. During the raid, 10 human skulls and five corpses were discovered in the house.

Gang wars and cult clashes in the state often involved VAWG. In October, for example, five women, including a nursing mother, were among the victims when cultists attacked a community in Obio/Akpor LGA.

**Others:** In November, three youth were reportedly killed by operatives of SARS in Khana LGA. The youth were killed when they attempted to stop the security personnel from escorting locally refined petroleum products through their community. In December, a man and a girl were reportedly killed by a fire caused by an explosion in Port Harcourt. The explosion occurred while the

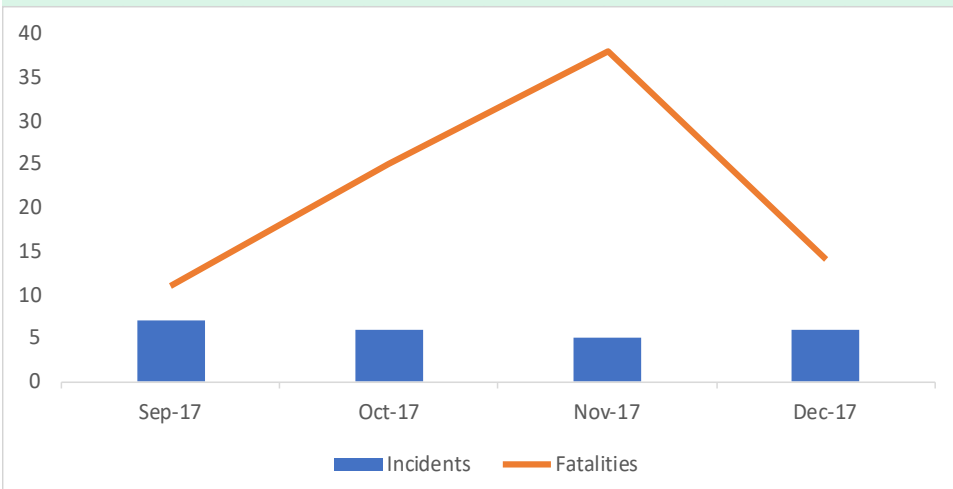
victims were filling their stove with adulterated kerosene. In a separate incident, a 6-year old boy was killed in an inferno in Port Harcourt. The boy died while his mother was asleep.

## Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2018

Incidents during the month mainly related to violent criminality, cult violence, communal tensions, and child abuse.

**Violent Criminality:** Gunmen reportedly attacked a community and killed 22 residents who were returning from a cross-over night church service in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. The attack was believed to be targeted at members of community vigilante group who destroyed a house belonging to the mother of a prominent criminal in the area. Separately, the police reportedly raided a hotel used by robbers as a hideout, and killed four suspects in Oyigbo LGA. In another incident, four hoodlums were reportedly killed by members of the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni (ONELGA) Security Planning Advisory Committee (OSPAC) in Ahoada

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from September – December 2017 in Rivers State.

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

West LGA. The hoodlums were killed during a raid on their hideout by members OSPAC.

**Cult Violence:** Seven people were reported killed during a gun battle between members of two rival cult groups in Andoni LGA.

**Communal Tensions:** Four persons were killed during a clash between Gwara and Gwure communities in Khana LGA. The clash reportedly resulted from a misunderstanding over a young girl Gwara that was allegedly abducted and raped by some gwure youths.

**Others:** A 19-year old girl was reportedly killed and her body dumped in a septic tank in Port Harcourt. Separately, a day-old baby that was reportedly dumped in a refuse bin in front of a church by the mother was found dead in Port Harcourt.

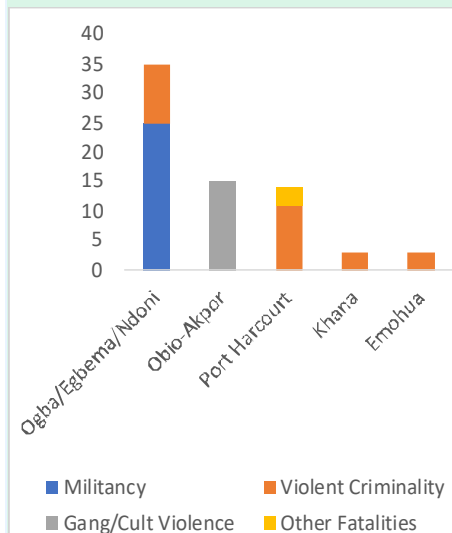
## Prognosis

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

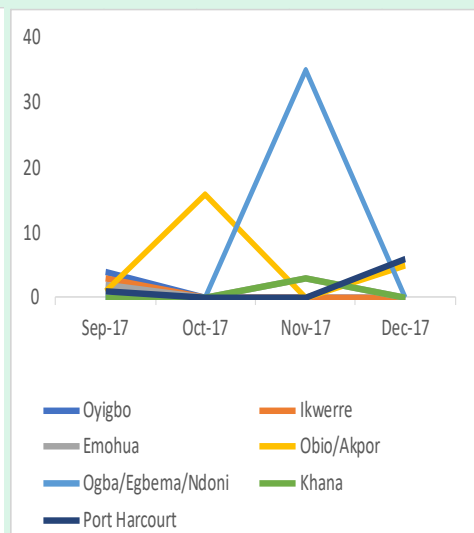
## Questions for Peace Agents

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 (October - December 2017)**

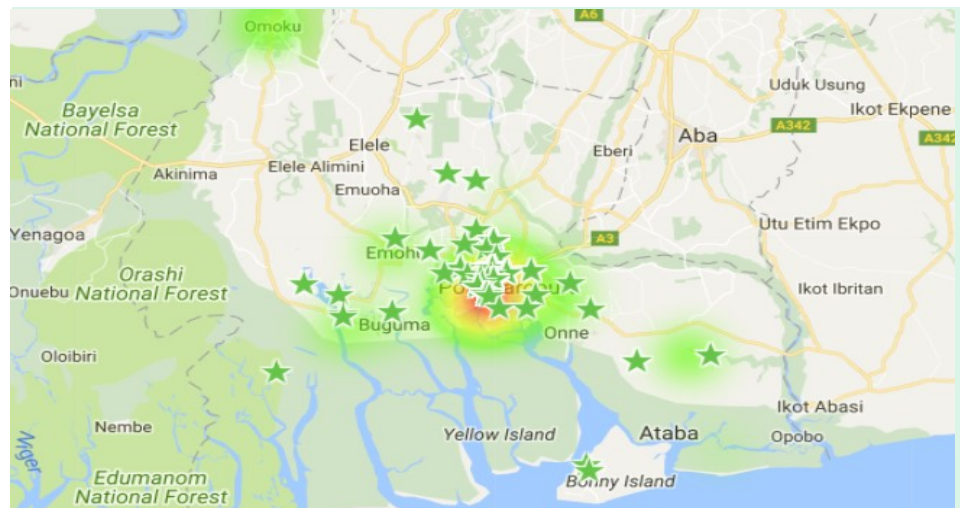


**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Ogbia/Egbema/Andoni, followed by Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from October–December 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](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



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