

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Bayelsa State: December 2017-January 2018

Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns of conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

Patterns and Trends October-December 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a spike in conflict risk and violent fatalities in Bayelsa state in December 2017. Reported incidents during this period included criminality, cult violence, and violence affecting women and girls (VAWG).

Violent Criminality: In December, several incidents of criminality were reported in Yenagoa, the state capital. The chairman of the state chapter of the Cattle Breeders Association (CBA) and three of his aides were reportedly killed by gunmen at an abattoir. A former commissioner in the state was killed by gunmen. The chairman of a local chapter of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) was killed by pirates. A robber was killed by his colleague during a robbery incident. A female journalist was shot by some youths. A former commissioner in the state who is a chieftain of the All Progressive Congress (APC) was found dead in a hotel in the state capital. The victim is believed to have been poisoned by his female companion. Criminality was a key driver of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

in the state during the period. Crime, particularly piracy, affects the safety and livelihoods of women and girls.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In November, a 21-year old woman was reportedly killed by her 24-year old husband with a machete in Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA.

Cult Violence: In December, a 30-year old man was reportedly shot dead by cultists in Yenagoa. A policeman was also shot during the incident. Also in Yenagoa, a policeman was mistakenly killed by his colleague during a gun duel with cultists.

Others: In November, a male student of a university in Uyo, Akwa Ibom state was killed during the election of state coordinators for the National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS) in Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa state. In December, two youths were reportedly killed during a communal clash over the

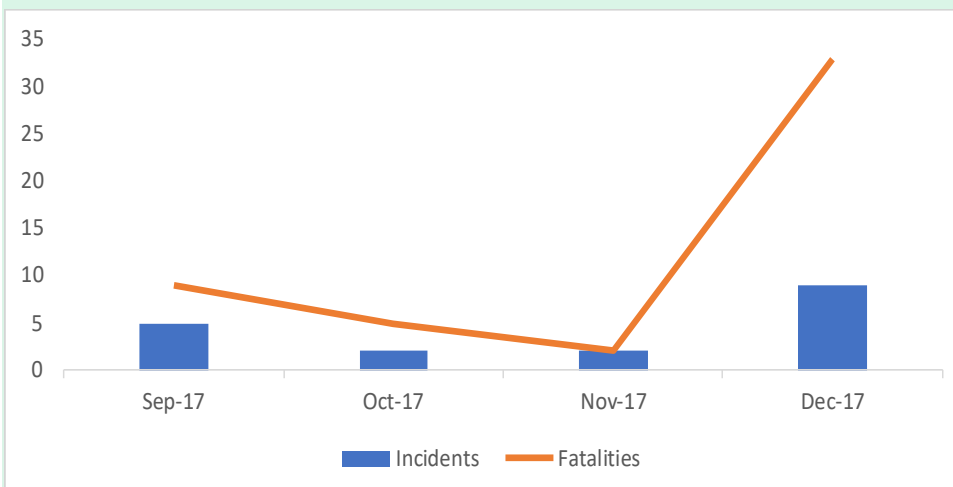
control of oil pipeline surveillance jobs in Southern Ijaw LGA. Separately, 20 were reported killed by fire caused by explosion at a local petroleum refining site in Ogbia LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2018

Incidents reported during the month mainly related to militancy and criminality.

Militancy: Four soldiers and 14 militants were reportedly killed during a military operation against militants in Ekeremor LGA. The operation was initiated in reaction to the killing of a soldier by militants in the area. The soldier was killed while negotiating with a prominent militant leader to disarm. The militant leader is believed to be responsible for many criminal activities in the area, including the kidnapping of four British humanitarian workers in late 2017. The militant leader was arrested during the

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State



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

military operation and later died during a gun battle between soldiers and his gang members. Residents fled their homes following deployment of more soldiers and military equipment to the area.

Violent Criminality: Pirates reportedly attacked a police marine base at a riverine town, killed two marine policemen and injured an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Ogbia LGA. The pirates made away with two rifles and a speedboat. Separately, an employee of the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB) was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along the waterways in Brass LGA. The kidnappers later demanded a 30-million Naira ransom.

Others: Two

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, communal tensions, and violence affecting women and girls. 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 (October - December 2017)

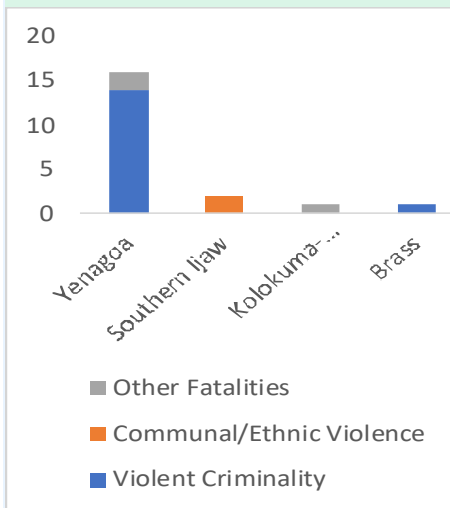
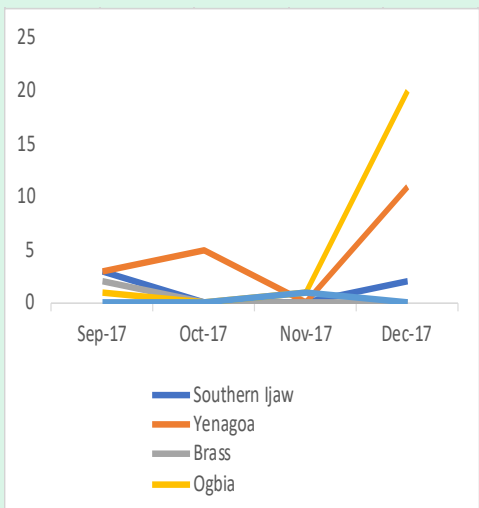
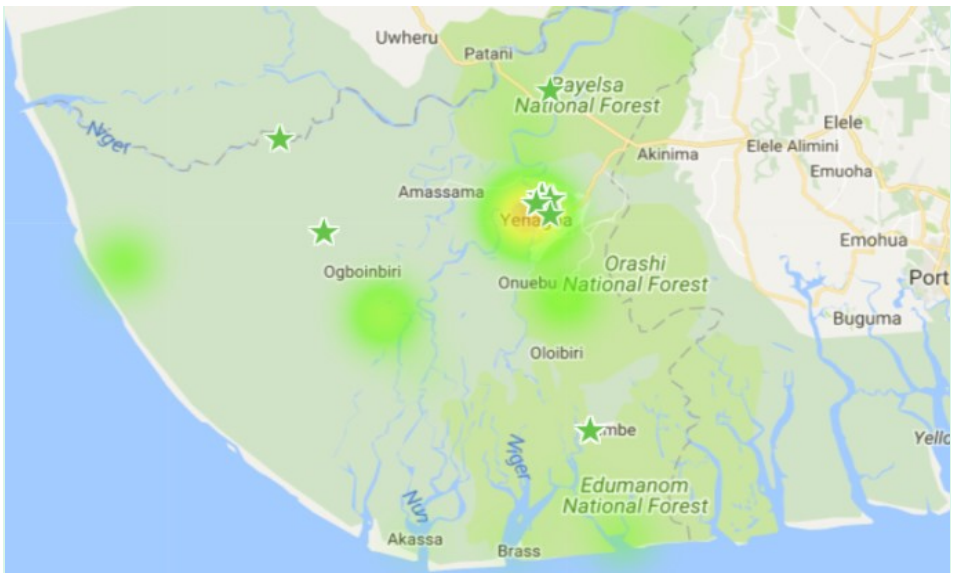


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported fatalities by Local Government Area (LGA) in Bayelsa State in this quarter shows that Yenagoa had the most reported incidents of conflict risk and violence. 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 Bayelsa State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from October-December 2017 in Bayelsa; 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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