

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: August-September 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 June-August 2018

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

Violent Criminality: In June, a 17-year old boy was reportedly beaten to death by his relatives during a disagreement in Oru LGA. The deceased was beaten to death by one of his brothers and some cultists in the area.

Communal Tensions: In June, a traditional ruler was reportedly assassinated in Orlu LGA. The killing was alleged to be related to political issues and a dispute over land in the community.

Political Tensions: In July, political tension was further elevated in the state over the suspension of some members of the Imo State House of Assembly and the impeachment of the deputy governor of the state by 19 out of the 37 members of the State House of Assembly.

Child Trafficking: In August, a 28-year old man and his 30-year old wife reportedly sold three babies for six hundred thousand naira in Umuokai Owerri-Nta community, Isiala

Ngwa South LGA. The suspects lured a woman to a location and disposed her of her two children, a 3-year old girl and a 6-months old baby boy, and sold them. The suspects also sold their 4-month old baby boy to raise money for the family.

Protests: In July, there was a protest at the State House of Assembly complex in Owerri, the state capital, over political issues in the state. Separately, some parishioners of a church in Oguta LGA reportedly protested over the alleged removal of a priest in the church. In a separate incident, there was a protest by women over the destruction of their farms by herders in Amakohia-Ubi community, Owerri Municipality. In August, there was a protest by some female supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Owerri, the state capital,

over the detention and disappearance of IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kalu. The women were later arrested by the police for alleged unlawful assembly.

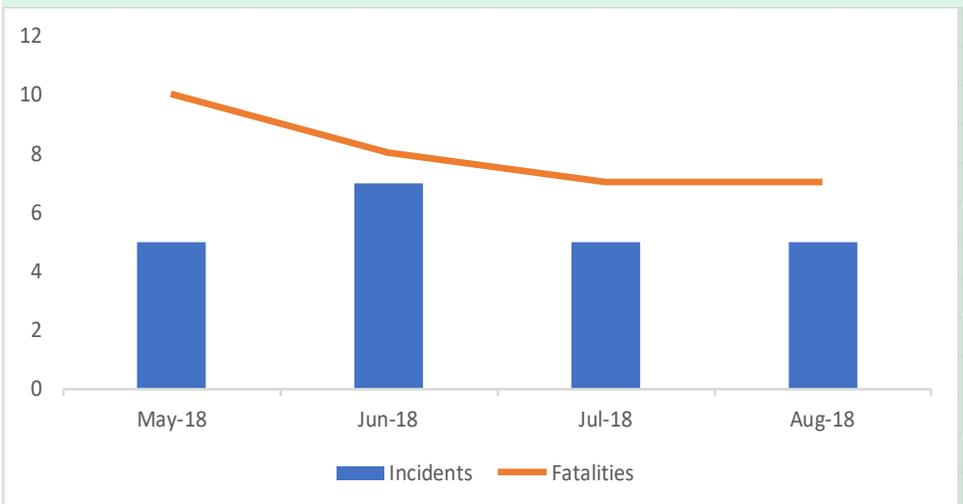
Others: In August, the headless corpse of a young woman was reportedly dumped by the roadside in Mgbirichi community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The victim is believed to have been killed for ritualistic purposes as one of her breasts was cut off.

Recent Incidents, September 2018

Incidents during the month related mainly to violent criminality and kidnapping.

Violent Criminality: A police sergeant was reportedly killed by gunmen in Owerri Municipal LGA. The robbers made away with an AK-47 rifle belonging to the police

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from May – August 2018 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

officer. A passer-by was also hit by a stray bullet fired by the hoodlums. Separately, a catholic priest was reportedly killed by robbers in Orlu LGA. Two male suspects, aged 33 and 21-years were later arrested by the police in connection with the incident.

Kidnapping: Two men were reportedly arrested by the police for allegedly stealing a corpse from the mortuary in Ikeduru LGA. The suspects reportedly demanded a 5-million naira ransom from the manager of the mortuary. The manager alerted the police who eventually arrested the suspects.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, communal tensions, cult violence, political tension, child trafficking, and protests. 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 (June - August 2018)

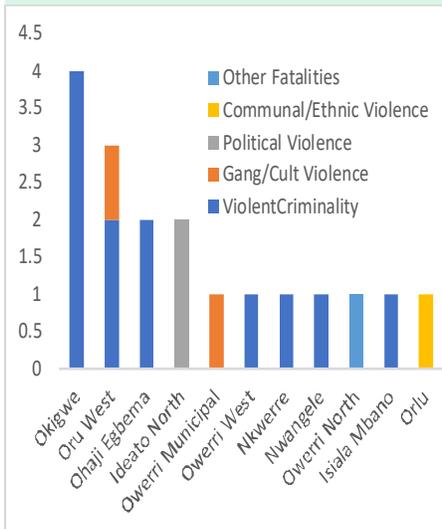
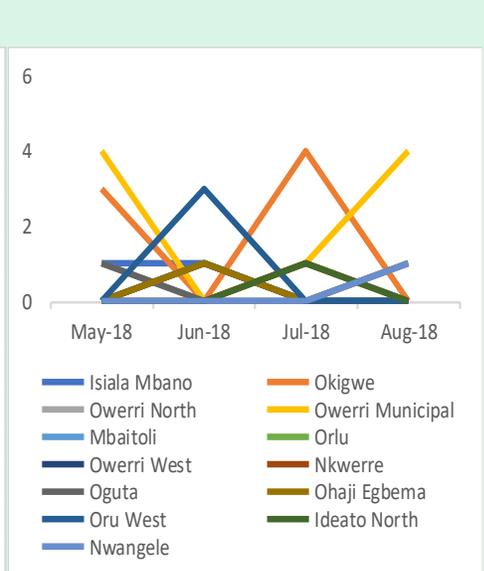
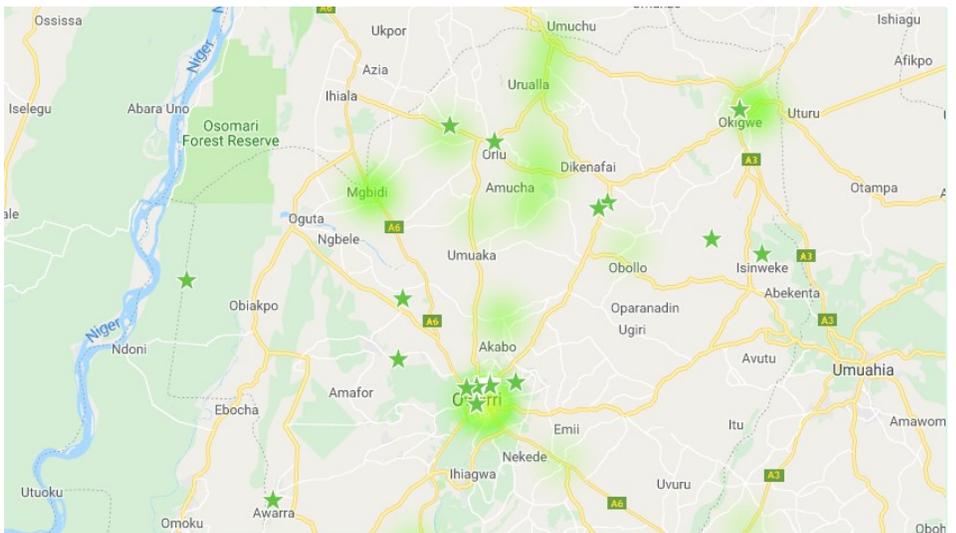


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Okigwe, followed by Oru West had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state during the period. Sources (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 June – August 2018 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org