

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: February-March 2019

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 Dec 2018-Feb 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was an increase in lethal violence in Rivers state in February 2019. Based on reported incidents (see Figure 2), Rivers had the highest number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period. Reported incidents included cult and political violence, sexual and domestic violence, and criminality including kidnapping for ransom.

Violent Criminality: In December, a paramount ruler was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Rumuepirikom community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed five people in Adada-Odua community, Abua/Odua LGA. In January, gunmen reportedly attacked a company vehicle that was leaving a bank, killed the police escort and made away with the money inside the vehicle. Separately, the leader of Ahoada West LGA Legislative Assembly was reportedly killed by gunmen along the East-West Road in Ahoada West LGA. In February, a 27-year old woman reportedly stabbed her male neighbor to death in Elikpokwudu community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Kidnapping: In January, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus, killed the driver and two passengers, and abducted the rest of the travelers in Rumuekpe, Emuoha LGA. Separately, the police reportedly killed some kidnappers and rescued a kidnap victim in Khana LGA.

Cult Violence: In December, six people were reportedly killed during a series of clashes between members of Icelanders and Greenlanders cult groups in Port Harcourt LGA. In January, two people were reportedly killed by cultists in Khana LGA. One of the victims was beheaded.

Domestic Violence: In December, a 35-year old man reportedly killed his four children and later committed suicide in Alesa, Eleme LGA. The children aged, 8, 5, 3 and 1, were locked up and burned to death in their house.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, domestic violence against women was also reported during the period. In December, for instance, a 30-year old man reportedly strangled his 32-year old pregnant ex-lover and buried her in his one-room apartment in Rumuepirikom, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Others: In December, a policeman reportedly shot a passenger who was travelling in a commercial bus over one hundred naira bribe along the East-West road, Emohua LGA. In February, four people

were reportedly killed in a stampede during a political rally in a stadium in Port Harcourt LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2019

Reported incidents during the month mainly related to political violence, cult violence and criminality.

Political Violence: During the month, political thugs reportedly killed two people and hijacked voting materials during elections in Akinima community, Ahoada West LGA. Separately, one person was reportedly killed in a clash between rival cult groups supporting different political parties during elections in Omerelu community, Ikwerre LGA. In another incident, six persons were reportedly killed by gunmen during elections in Khana LGA. Two of the victims were beheaded. Also in Khana LGA, a polytechnic lecturer was reportedly shot by security operatives during the elections in Bori community. The lecturer later died in

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State

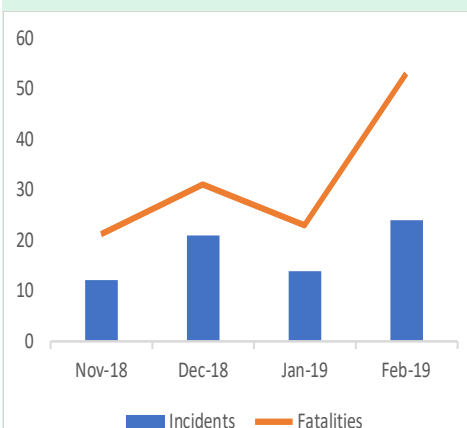
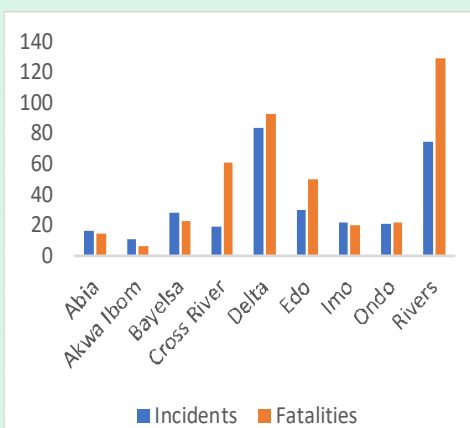


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (Nov 2018 - Feb 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2018 – February 2019 in Rivers State and regional trends.
Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

the hospital. He served as an agent for one of the political parties during the elections.

Cult Violence: A young man was reportedly burned to death during a clash between two rival cult groups in Alakahia community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Criminality: Gunmen in military uniform reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, killed three soldiers and injured several others in Abonema, Akuku-Toru LGA. Separately, a woman was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Andoni LGA. The gunmen also killed a policeman in the area. In another incident, the police reportedly killed two kidnappers during a gun duel and rescued a victim in Ogbodo Isiokpo forest, Ikwerre LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to cult violence, political violence, domestic violence, sexual violence and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG), and criminality including kidnapping for ransom. Peace Agents should monitor the security 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 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (December 2018 - February 2019)

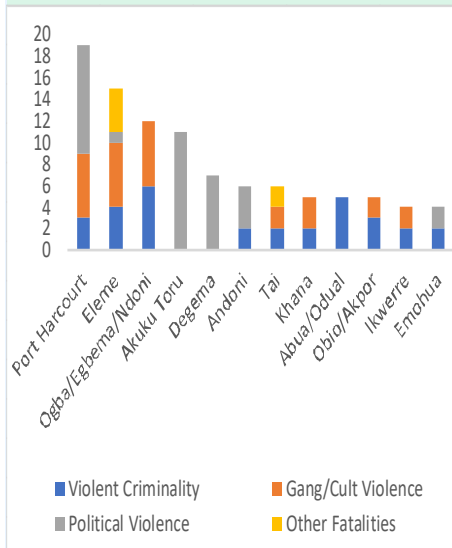
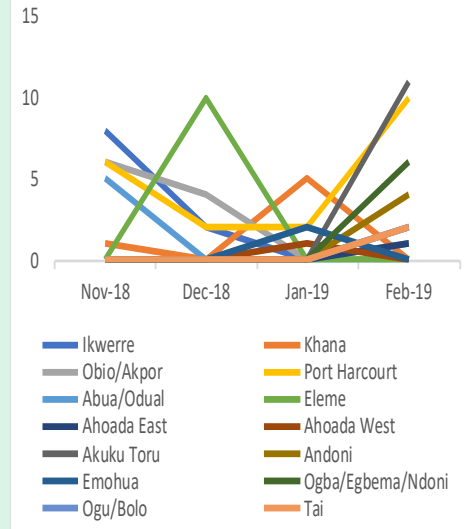
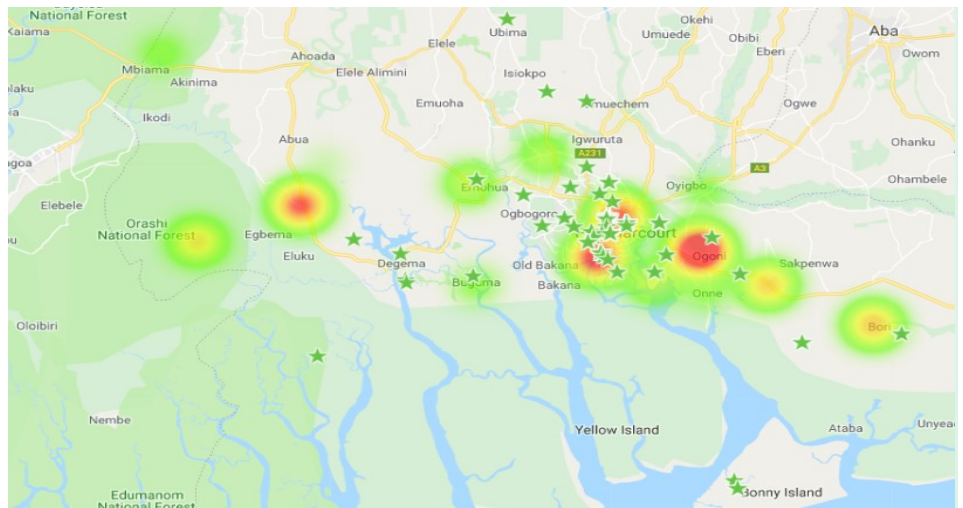


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Port Harcourt, followed by Eleme had the highest number of reported fatalities. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from December 2018 – February 2019 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



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