

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Imo 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 Imo state in February 2019. Incidents reported in the state during this period included political violence, protests, and criminality including kidnapping.

**Violent Criminality:** In December, a retired Deputy Commissioner of Police and his wife were reportedly killed by unknown gunmen in his home in Umuoke community, Obowo LGA. The killing caused apprehension among residents who fear for their safety in the area. Separately, operatives of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS) reportedly arrested a kidnap kingpin who abducted a lawyer in Owerri Municipal LGA.

**Political Violence:** In February, a ward chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was reportedly killed by gunmen during a political meeting at his residence in Ngor Okpala LGA. Separately, two cultists were reportedly killed by soldiers during a clash between rival cult groups at the venue of a political rally in Ejemekwuru community, Oguta LGA.

**Protest:** In December, lawyers in the state reportedly boycotted court sittings in protest over the assassination of a magistrate in Oru West LGA. In January, there was a violent protest by youths over the demolition of some houses belonging to a politician who is a member of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) in Oguta LGA. The rioters reportedly clashed with the police, and burned three police vehicles and a bulldozer.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2019

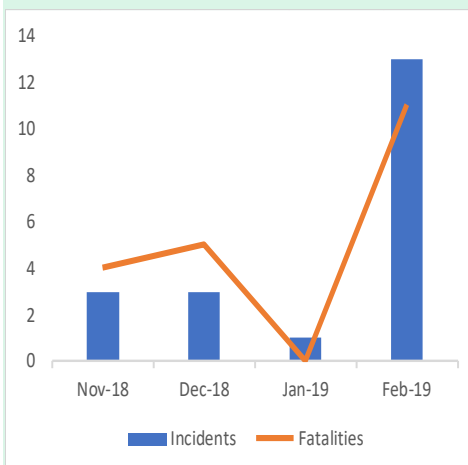
Incidents during the month related mainly to political and cult violence.

**Political Violence:** During the month, a youth was reportedly shot dead by a soldier during a clash between supporters of the Peoples

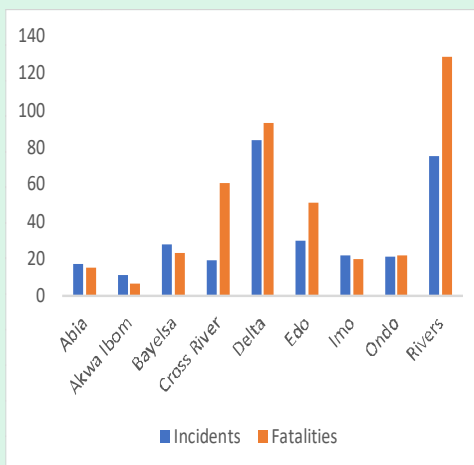
Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Obizi Agwa, Ezinihitte LGA. Separately, an agent of the PDP was reportedly killed during a clash between rival political thugs in Umudim Umuwala community, Nkwere LGA. In another incident, a man who returned from Mozambique to participate in the general elections was reportedly killed by political thugs during the elections in Amiyi community, Njaba LGA. In a separate incident, security operatives reportedly arrested three suspects with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) at a voting center in Iho community, Ikeduru LGA.

Three people were reportedly killed by political thugs in Umuoma Nekede community, Owerri West LGA. The killings are believed to be related to the outcome

**Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State**



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



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2018 – February 2019 in Imo state and regional trends.  
Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

the general elections in the area. The killings reportedly occurred during a disagreement over the sharing of money for mobilization of voters during the elections.

**Cult Violence:** During the month, 10 students were reportedly killed during a clash between Aye and Baggers cult groups at a federal polytechnic in Nekede, Owerri West LGA. The incident occurred as a result of battle for supremacy between the two rival cult groups. Separately, a young woman was reportedly killed by cultists at Edele street, Owerri Municipal LGA.

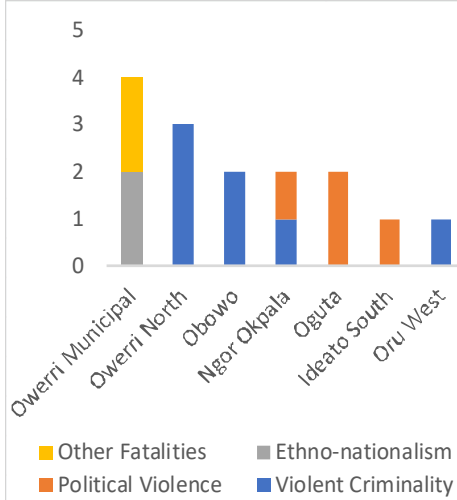
## Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to political violence, cult violence, protest, and criminality including kidnapping. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

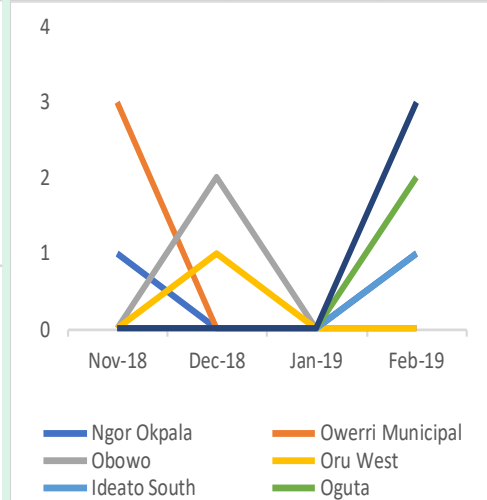
## Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything 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 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (December 2018 - February 2019)**

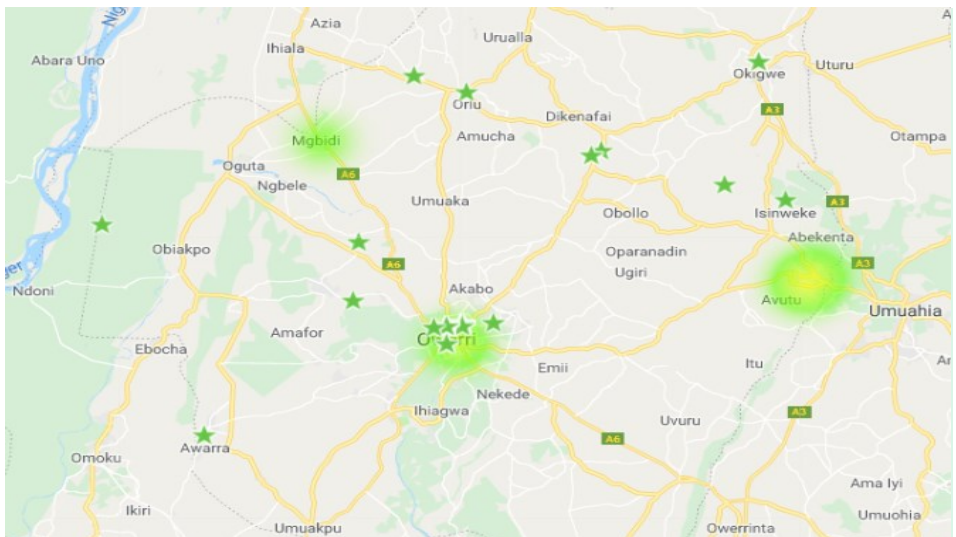


**Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri Municipal, followed by Owerri North had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state during the period. 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



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