

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: June-July 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 April-June 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 2), Rivers had the highest number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Reported incidents included cult violence, criminality including kidnapping for ransom, domestic violence, and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Cult Violence: In April, cultists reportedly killed eight people in a reprisal in Mgbuoba community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, five were reportedly killed in Rumueche and Rumuohia communities, Emohua LGA. Four reportedly beheaded and three others shot dead by cultists in Aluu community, Ikwerre LGA. Seven were reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult groups in Ibaa and Egbeda communities, Emohua LGA. In May, 14 persons were reportedly killed during a reprisal by members of the Iclander cult group in Kono Boue and Gbam Boue communities in khana LGA. Separately, suspected cultists reportedly killed two people in Isiodu community, Emohua LGA.

Violent Criminality: In May, gunmen reportedly killed a local chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Port Harcourt. Separately, gunmen reportedly attacked a community and killed a resident in Bori, Khana LGA. In June, four persons

were reportedly killed during a clash between security operatives and oil thieves who double as cultists in Gio community, Tai LGA. Separately, a professor was reportedly killed by robbers at his residence in Rumuolumeni community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Kidnapping: In April, gunmen reportedly kidnapped four staff members of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and shot another in Abua-Odual LGA. In June, a vigilante group, ONELGA Security Planning and Advisory Committee (OSPAC), reportedly invaded the hideout of kidnappers and arrested some suspects who double as cultists in Ndele and Rumuji communities, Emohua LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In addition to the impact of cult violence and criminality on women and girls listed above, domestic violence was also reported during the period. In April, for instance, a 46-year old man reportedly killed his wife during a disagreement in Rumuigbo, Port Harcourt LGA.

Protest: In June, there was a protest by residents of several oil bearing communities over an alleged plan by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to resume oil exploration in Belema community, Akuku-Toru LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, July 2019

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

Criminality: During the month, robbers reportedly killed two policemen inside a car in Ojoto at Mile 2, Port Harcourt LGA. The robbers made away with rifles belonging to the policemen. Separately, pirates reportedly attacked travelers and killed a man along Bille waterways in Degema LGA. The pirates dispossessed the travelers and stole their boat. In another incident, gunmen reported killed a community leader and one other in Choba community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State

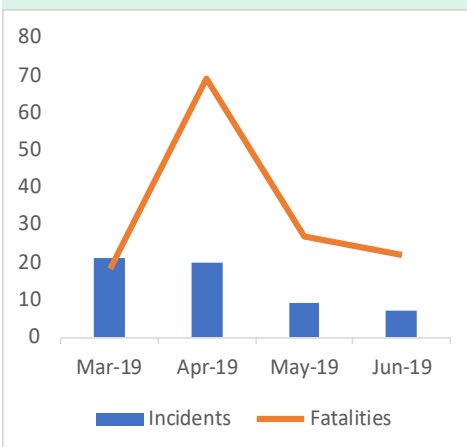
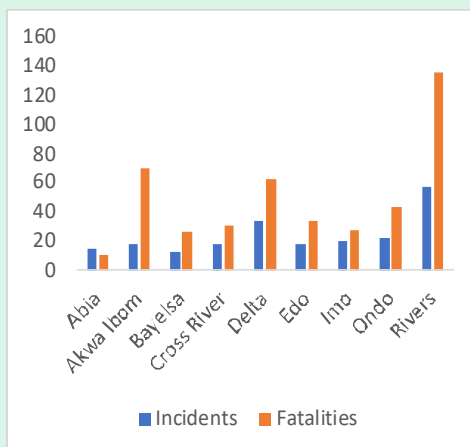


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (March - June 2019)



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

Two kidnapping suspects were reportedly killed by the police during a raid on the criminal's hideout along the East-West Road, Emohua LGA.

Cult Violence: Two students of the Rivers State University (RSU) were reportedly killed during rival cult clashes in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA.

Other Fatalities: Three people were reportedly killed during a clash between youths and some police officers in Nkpolu community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, 10 people were reportedly killed after an oil pipeline exploded in Komkom community, Oyigbo LGA.

Protest: There was a protest by residents against an international oil company over an alleged plan to resume oil production in Offion-Ama community, Akuku-Toru LGA.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers state during this period were driven mainly by cult violence, criminality including kidnapping for ransom, violent protests, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). 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 (April - June 2019)

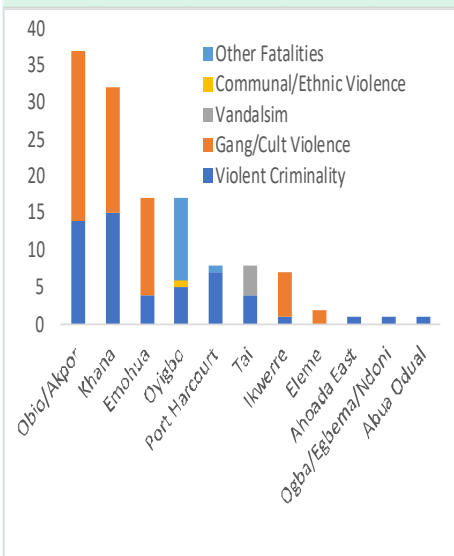
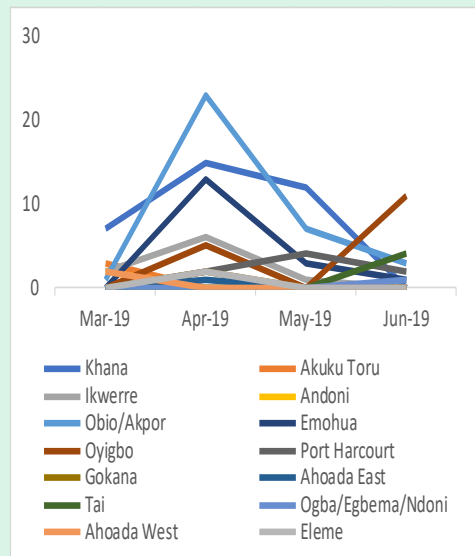
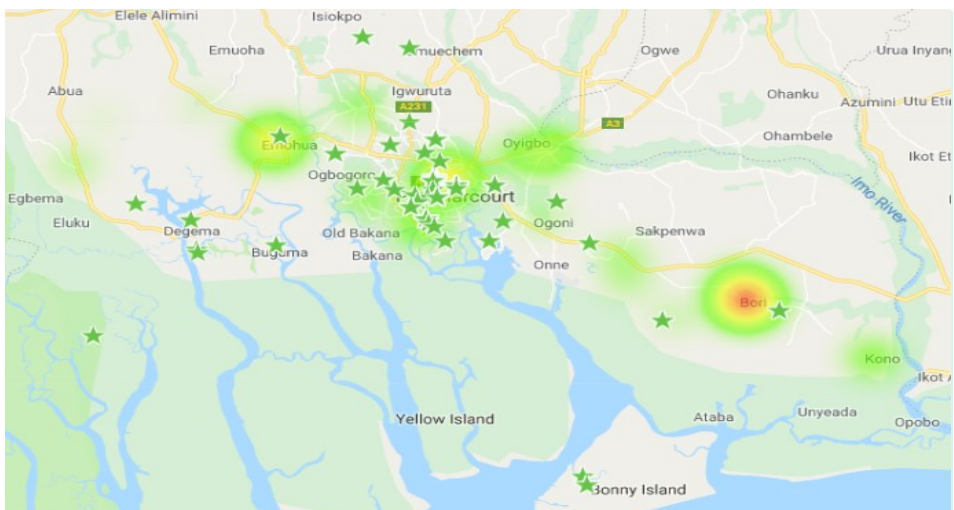


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this period shows that Obio/Akpor, followed by Khana, had the highest number of lethal conflict. 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 April – June 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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