

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Imo State: July-August 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 May-July 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 2), Imo was one of the least violent states in the Niger Delta during this period. Incidents reported in the state during this period included criminality, communal conflict, human trafficking, Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG), and protest.

**Criminality:** In May, gunmen reportedly killed a 19-year old female student and kidnapped two persons in Isiala Ngwa LGA. In July, security operatives reportedly killed three kidnapping suspects and rescued seven kidnap victims from a hideout of kidnap victims in Ilile Forest, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. Separately, residents reportedly caught a herdsman with 88 life bullets in Obudi Agwa community, Oguta LGA. The suspect was handed over to the police.

**Communal Conflict:** In May, two boys were reportedly killed by herdsmen in Uratta community, Owerri North LGA.

**Human Trafficking:** In May, a 23-year old woman was reportedly arrested for selling her newborn baby boy for eight hundred and fifty naira in Nekede, Owerri West LGA. In June, a Cameroonian woman was reportedly

arrested for attempting to sell a 6-year old boy in Owerri Municipal LGA.

#### **Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG):**

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, other incidents of violence against women and girls were reported during this period. In July, for instance, a 25-year old man reportedly raped and murdered a 27-year old female member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Mgbidi community, Oru LGA. The suspect buried the victim in a shallow grave.

**Other Fatalities:** In June, three persons were reportedly killed by a bomb explosion in Ezioru community, Oguta LGA. In July, a policeman reportedly shot dead a young man during a disagreement at a restaurant in Otoko community, Obowo LGA. Following

the incident, the youths of the community set a police station ablaze and freed some detainees.

**Protest:** In June, there was a protest by some local government chairmen and councilors at the premises of the State House of Assembly in Owerri the state capital, over alleged plans by the state government to terminate their tenure.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2019

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality, human trafficking, sexual violence, and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

**Criminality:** During the month, gunmen suspected to be cultists reportedly attacked residents and killed five people in Ilile

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State

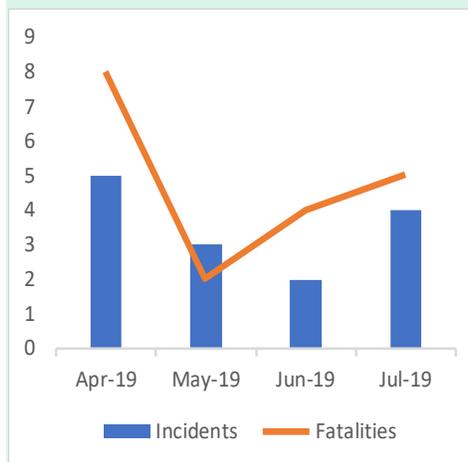
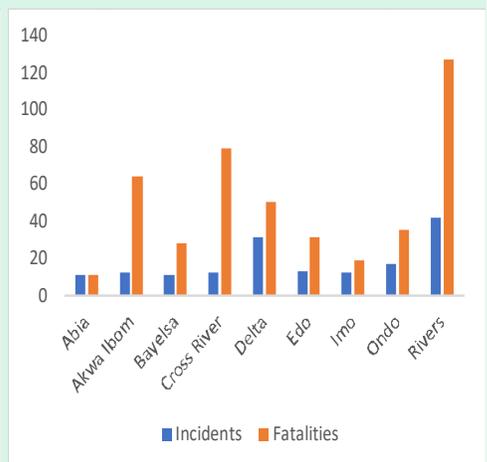


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (April - July 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from April – July 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).

community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. Several others sustained injuries during the incident. Separately, the wife of an Anglican Bishop was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen in Ekemele, Ikeduru LGA. In another incident, two persons were reportedly injured during a clash between two factions of herders over cattle rustling in Agbala, Owerri North LGA.

**Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG):** A man reportedly killed his 16-year old niece, threw the corpse into a pit and stole the victim’s 1-week old baby in Owerri town, Owerri Municipal LGA. He sold the baby for three hundred thousand naira. Separately, a lady was reportedly strangled by her male partner in a hotel in Owerri town, Owerri Municipal LGA. The suspect hid the corpse under the bed and fled. In another incident, women protested over the rape of a girl in Oboku-Avu community, Owerri West LGA.

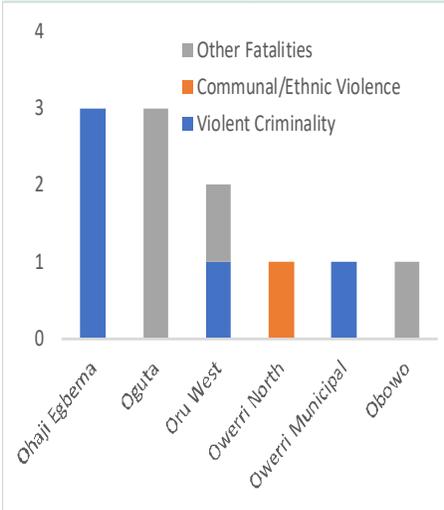
**Prognosis**

Conflict risk and lethal violence in Imo state during this period were driven mainly by criminality, communal conflict, human trafficking, sexual violence, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

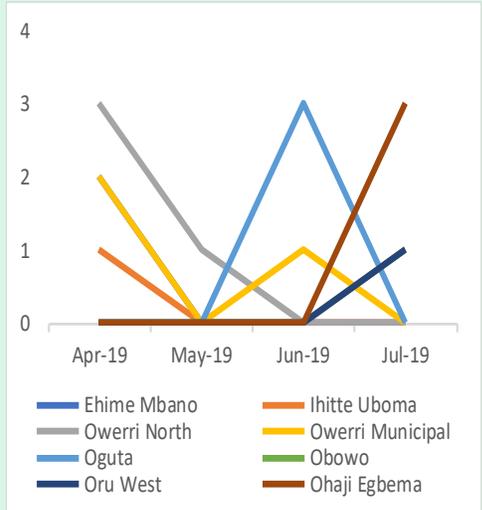
**Questions for Peace Agents**

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 (May - July 2019)**

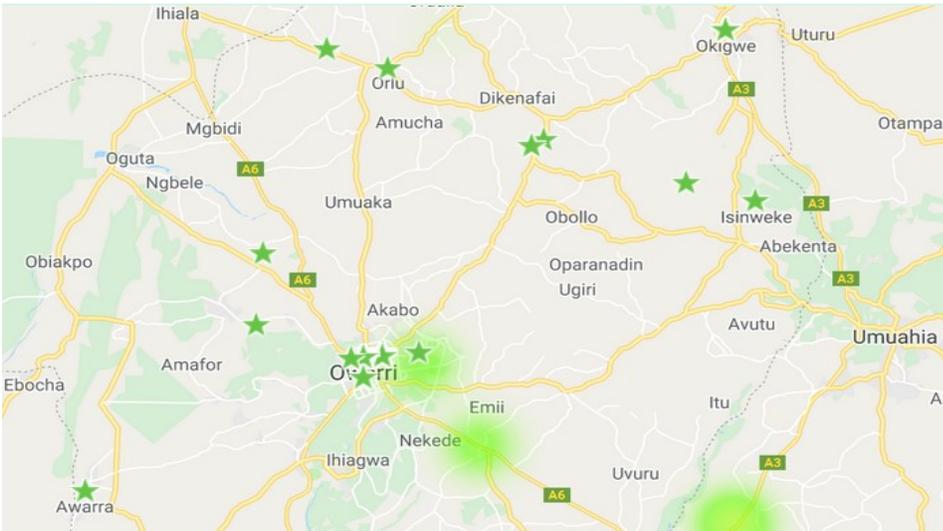


**Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Ohaji Egbema and Oguta 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 May – July 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

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**Contact Us**

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