

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Bayelsa State: July-August 2019

Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns of conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

Patterns and Trends

May-July 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there were no change in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Bayelsa state in July 2019 compared to previous month. Incidents reported during this period related mainly to criminality including militancy and kidnapping, cult violence, communal conflict, and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Violent Criminality: In June, hoodlums reportedly burgled the Bayelsa State High Court complex in Yenagoa LGA. In July, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station and killed four officers including a pregnant female officer in Agudama community, Yenagoa LGA. The hoodlums carted away arms, ammunition and police uniforms.

Kidnapping: In June, the corpse of a 78-year old woman who reportedly kidnapped by gunmen was found along the creeks in Amassoma, Southern Ijaw LGA. In July, kidnapers reportedly abducted a 5-year old girl in Akenfa community, Yenagoa LGA. The kidnapers later left the girl in a hotel room after they had collected a 1-million naira ransom.

Militancy: In July, militants reportedly attacked an oil flow station, killed two soldiers, abducted another and made away with rifles belonging to the soldiers in Azagbene community, Ekeremor LGA. Following the incident, soldiers reportedly attacked the community and burned several houses.

Communal Conflict: In July, two people were reportedly killed during a clash between Toru-Orua and Ofoni communities, Sagbama LGA. One of the victims allegedly killed a man and stole his motorcycle. He was later killed by the kinsmen of the man he killed.

Cult Violence: In May, a male cultist was reportedly killed during a clash between members of two rival cult groups in Akaba community, Yenagoa LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, kidnapping of women and girls was also

reported during this period. In July, for instance, three women were reportedly kidnapped in Odoni community, Sagbama LGA. They included an 80-year and 66-year old woman with her 17-year old daughter.

Protest: In June, community leaders reportedly issued a 2-week ultimatum to an oil company to settle with the community or have its operations shut down in Agge community, Ekeremor LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2019

Incidents reported during this period related mainly to political and mob violence.

Political Violence: During the month, gunmen reportedly attacked the residence of a former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) senator in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa state capital. Separately, political thugs reportedly fired

Figure 1: Incidents & Fatalities, Bayelsa State

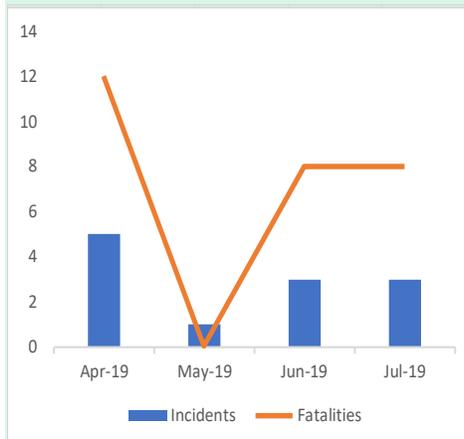
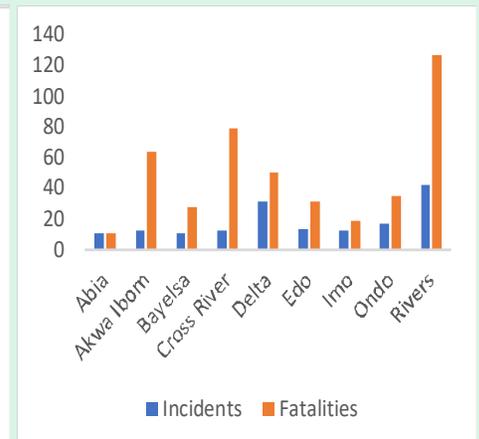


Figure 2: Incidents & Fatalities, Niger Delta (April - July 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from April—July 2019 in Bayelsa State and regional trends.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

gunshots and detonated an explosives device suspected to be dynamite close a local secretariat of the PDP in Yenagoa LGA. The incidents was reportedly an attempt by the attackers to stop the party’s ward congress in the secretariat. Political tension has been elevated in the state capital in the context of the PDP governorship primary elections scheduled for 3rd September 2019, and ahead of the November 2019 gubernatorial elections in the state.

Mob Violence: Three robbery suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Biogbolo community, Yenagoa LGA. The suspects were arrested by a local vigilante group.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and violence in Bayelsa state during this period were mainly driven by criminality including kidnapping for ransom, militancy, political violence, cult violence, communal conflict, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents should monitor the security 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 (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 (May - July 2019)

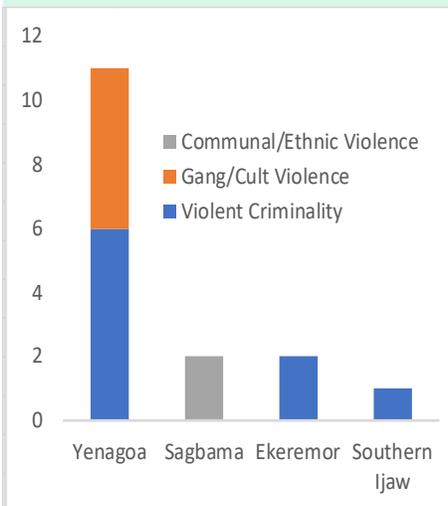
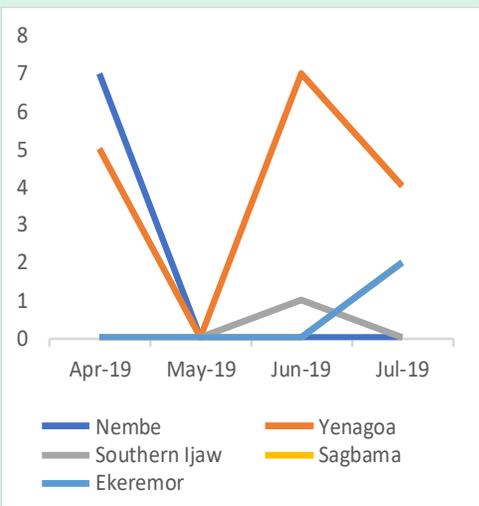
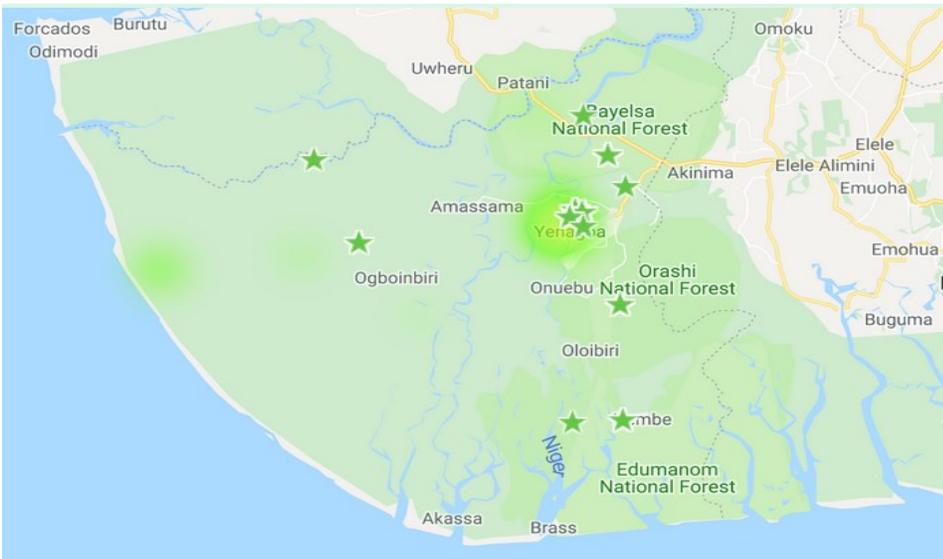


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (May - July 2019)



Reported fatalities by Local Government Area (LGA) in Bayelsa State this period show that Yenagoa had the highest number of reported incidents of lethal violence. 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 Bayelsa State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from May - July 2019 in Bayelsa; 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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