

Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

Rivers State - January 2016

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 Oct-Dec 2015

Issues reported during this period included political tensions, cult clashes, protests, piracy, kidnapping, criminality, and violence against women and girls. December was the most violent month since early 2010 according to Peace Map data (see Figure 1).

Ex-militants (Oct): Hundreds reportedly blocked roads and barricaded the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in protest of issues related to the Amnesty Program.

Political Tensions (Oct): In the context of ongoing political tensions in the state, PDP supporters protested the confirmation of an APC minister. An advisor to the governor was attacked in Asari-Toru LGA. Market traders protested the nullification of the

gubernatorial election by the Rivers Petition Tribunal.

Ethno-nationalism (Oct/Nov): Two people were killed and dozens arrested and charged with treason after pro-Biafra protests broke out in demonstration against the arrest of a popular radio personality. Similar protests occurred across the region.

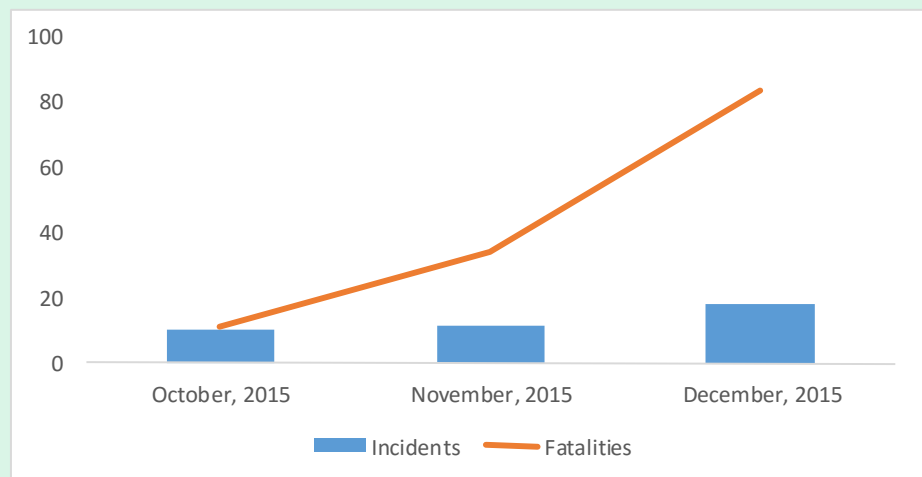
Cult Violence (Dec): Cultists reportedly attacked over a dozen communities in Ogba/Egbma/Ndoni Local Government Area (LGA) during a clash between rival groups. Also,

clashes between Degbam and Iceland cult groups killed three in Ikwerre.

Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2016

In January, the Supreme Court declared Nyesom Wike the winner of the gubernatorial election, reducing much of the uncertainty and protest over the issue. However, protest by ex-militants over the Amnesty Program continued, as did cult violence, which reportedly killed several in Ahoada East, Obio/Akpor, and Ikwerre LGAs.

Figure 1: Rivers State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from October-December in Rivers State.

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

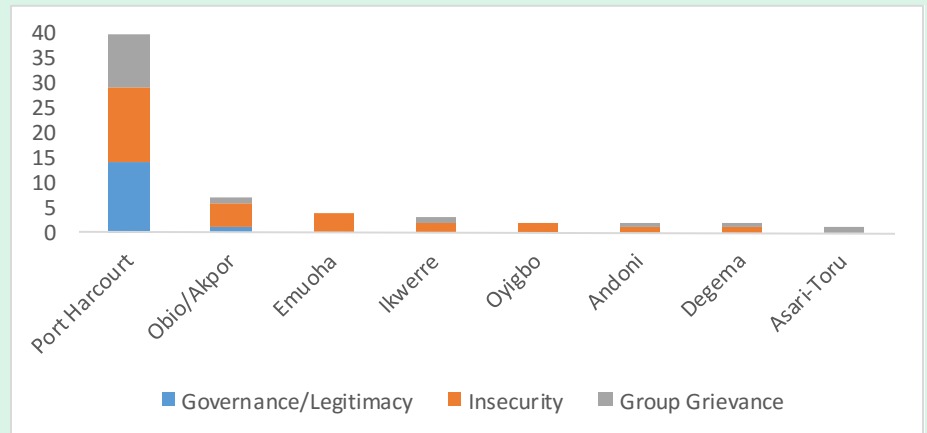
Prognosis

Political tensions have been very high in Rivers over the last year. The recent resolution over the governorship by the Supreme Court should ease some of those issues. However, rising cultism, ethno-nationalism, and continued agitation by ex-militants may be cause for continued attention by peace actors in the state.

Questions for Peace Agents:

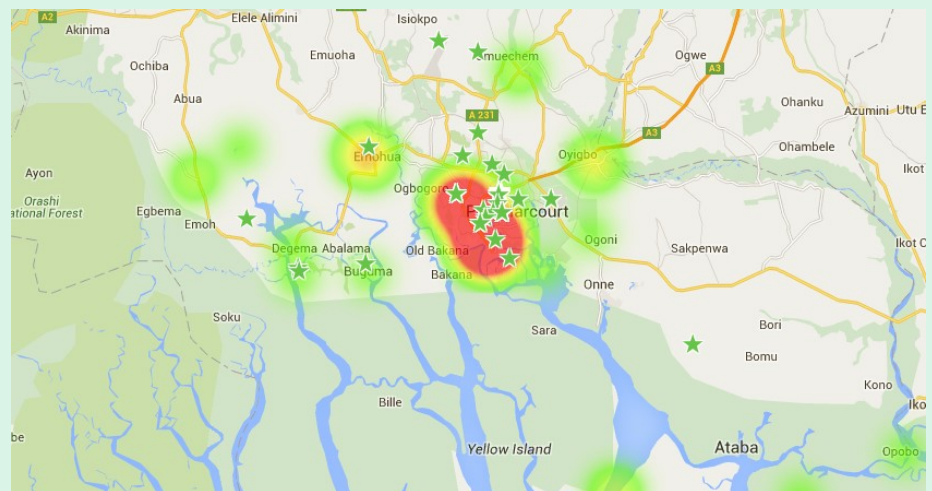
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue or potential conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a top priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely 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 2: Trends in Conflict by LGA (Oct-Dec)



Reports by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State show Port Harcourt with the most incidents across the three indicators. Although not reflected in this chart, high levels of cult violence were also reported in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 3: Heatmap of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State



Heatmap shows concentration of incidents reported in Rivers; with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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