

# Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

## Bayelsa State - March 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

#### Dec 2015-Feb 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), January was the most lethal month since March 2012. Violence increased in the buildup to the December 5th Gubernatorial elections with tension and violent clashes between supporters of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressive Congress (APC). In January, fatalities were connected to supplementary elections in Southern Ijaw, along with some polling units in Brass, Ekeremor, Nembe, Sagbama, Yenagoa and Ogbia. Other reported incidents included kidnappings and vandalism of energy infrastructure in Brass and Kolokuma/Opokuma.

In February, ex-militants reportedly hijacked a chemical tanker near Brass, and kidnapped three expatriates. Also in February, a 35-year old nephew of former President Goodluck Jonathan was kidnapped and later found dead in Ogbia.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2016

Key incidents reported in March included bank robberies, piracy, cult violence, and an attack on a police station.

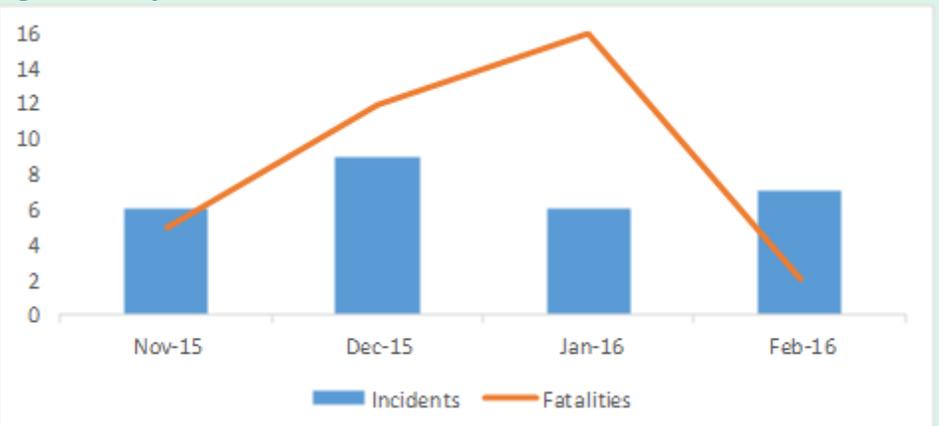
**Bank Robbery:** Two robbers were reported shot dead by police during a foiled robbery at Stanbic IBTC in Yenagoa. In a separate incident gunmen attacked a the Amassoma branch of the United Bank for Africa (UBA) in Southern Ijaw, and carted away an Automated Teller Machine (ATM). In another incident, an alleged robber was reportedly shot dead by operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Ekeremor.

**Piracy:** In Ekeremor, gunmen suspected to be pirates, attacked Ekeni community. The gunmen held the community hostage, beat up residents and robbed businesspersons until the JTF intervened and arrested some of the pirates. In Nembe, pirates reportedly attacked a passenger boat, shot the driver and took 3 passengers hostage

**Attack on Police Station:** In Southern Ijaw, gunmen attacked a police station in Amassoma and carted away arms and ammunition.

**Cult Violence:** In Southern Ijaw, three students of the Niger Delta University (NDU) in Amassoma were reportedly shot dead by members of a rival cult group.

Figure 1: Bayelsa State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2015-February 2016 in Bayelsa State.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

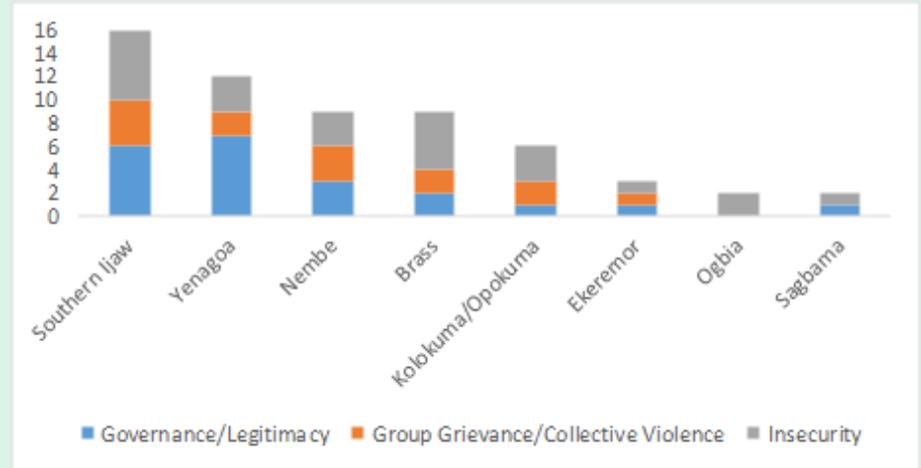
## Prognosis

Bayelsa is one of the more violent states on a per capita basis in the Niger Delta region. Aside from election-related conflict, incidents relating to robbery, piracy and kidnapping have been elevated in the state. Peace actors must monitor conflict risk closely and respond to the current conflict dynamics.

## 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?

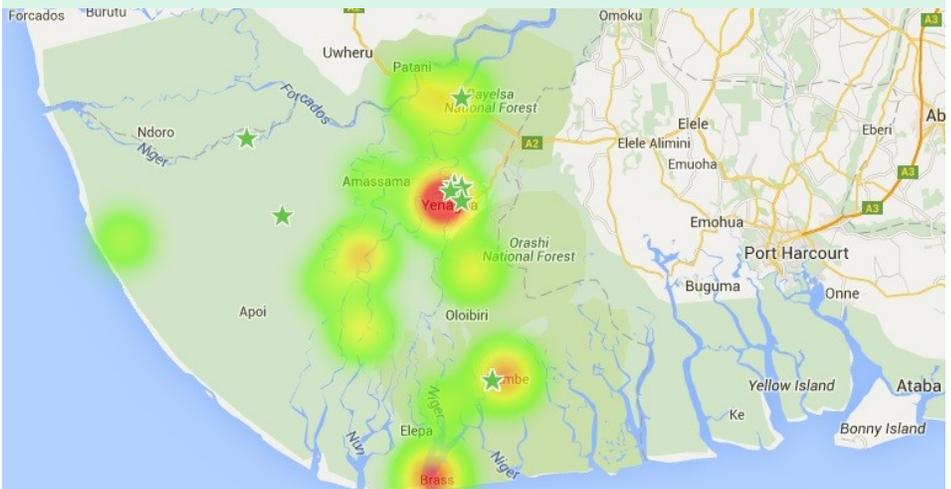
Figure 2: Trends in Conflict by LGA (Dec 2015 –Feb 2016)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Bayelsa State in this quarter shows that Yenagoa, Southern Ijaw and Sagbama had the most incidents of conflict risk and violence.

Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



Heatmap shows concentration of incidents reported from December 2015–February 2016 in Bayelsa; 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo,  
IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: [afeno@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afeno@pindfoundation.org)