

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: September-October 2017

## 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 July-September 2017

According to Peace Map data (figure 1), there was an increase in lethal violence in September. As the graph below indicates, this follows a decrease conflict fatalities in August, even though more incidents of conflict risk were reported. Incidents reported during this period included communal tensions, gang/cult violence, militancy, kidnapping, and other criminal activities.

**Violent Criminality:** In August, a pastor was reportedly abducted and beheaded by a suspected cannibal in Ahoada East. Separately, a soldier was reportedly killed by suspected cultists in Ahoada West LGA. In September, three were reportedly shot dead by gunmen suspected to be cultists in Ikwerre LGA. Separately, a ward chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was reportedly assassinated in Obio/Akpor LGA. In another incident, security operatives reportedly engaged militants in a gun battle and rescued five kidnap victims in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. Many criminal incidents during the period involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG). In August, an 8-year old girl was reportedly kidnapped,

raped and killed for ritualistic purposes by her cousin in Port Harcourt.

**Gang/Cult Violence:** In July, members of Degbam cult group reportedly attacked a village and beheaded four suspected members of Icelanders cult group in Emohua LGA. Separately, members of the Icelanders reportedly attacked a community in suspected reprisal and killed eight in Emohua. In another incident, suspected cultists reportedly shot sporadically and killed one in Andoni LGA.

**Communal Tensions:** In September, three were reportedly killed during a clash involving supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), members of the Hausa community and soldiers in Oyiabo LGA. A policeman was reportedly killed in reprisal. Separately, tensions were reportedly heightened following a renewed leadership tussle in Andoni LGA.

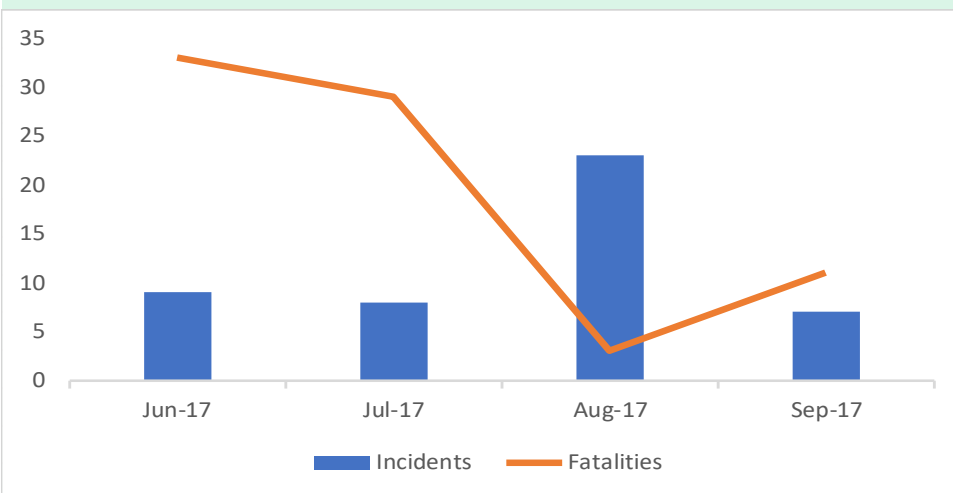
**Kidnapping:** In July, fourteen passengers who were travelling in a commercial bus were reportedly kidnapped at gunpoint in

Emohua LGA. Separately, seven people, including two executive members of the Rivers state chapter of the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) who were on a trip, were reportedly kidnapped in Ikwerre. In August, a traditional ruler was reportedly killed by kidnappers in Ahoada West. Separately, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus with 15 passengers in Emohua.

**Militants vs Soldiers:** In July, four militants were reportedly killed in a gun duel with soldiers during an attack on a military houseboat in Akuku-Toru LGA. A civilian was reportedly killed during the confrontation. In a suspected reprisal, soldiers reportedly attacked Tuma community, Akuku-Toru LGA, destroyed 15 houses and left several persons with varying degrees of injuries

**Others:** In September, a man was reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Emohua. Separately, one was reportedly killed by soldiers during a protests against an oil

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from June– September 2017 in Rivers State.

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

company in Emohua.

## Recent Incidents or Issues, October 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to criminality and cult violence.

**Gang/Cult Violence:** Members of the Iceland cult group reportedly attacked a community and shot dead 14 people in Obio/Akpor LGA. Five of the victims were women, including a nursing mother. Gang wars and cult clashes in the state often involves VAWG.

**Others:** A youth was reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Obio/Akpor LGA. The security operatives killed the victim while they were trying to arrest some members of a vigilante group in the area.

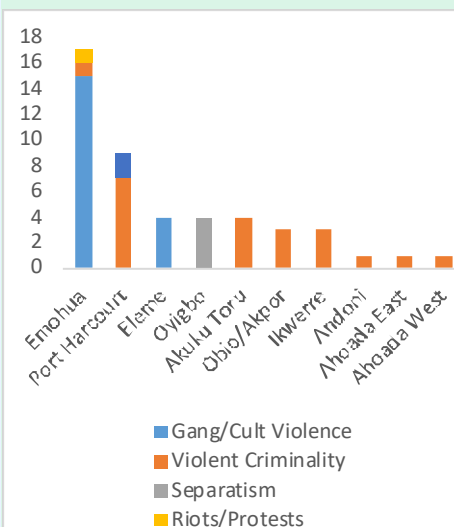
## Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, communal tensions, and insurgency/counterinsurgency. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

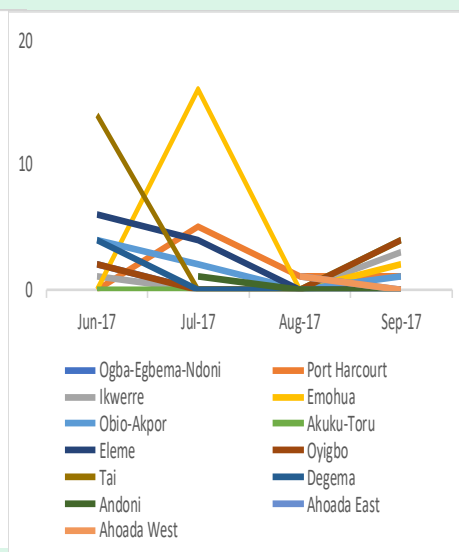
## Questions for Peace Agents

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 2: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (July - September 2017)**

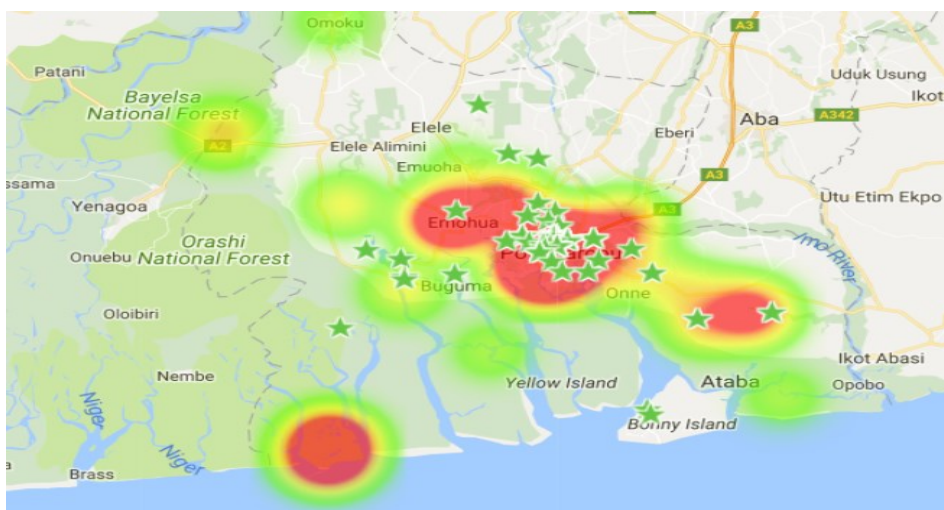


**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Emohua, followed by Port Harcourt had the highest number of reported fatalities. Source (Figure 2): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 3): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

**Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State**



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from July–September 2017 in Rivers; 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



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