

# Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

## Rivers State - April/May 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 Feb 2016-Apr 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), March (the month of the rerun legislative elections) had the highest levels of conflict risk and fatalities during the period, with criminality, cult violence and political tension as the main sources of violence.

**Political Tension:** Before and after the March re-run elections, dozens were reportedly killed across all three senatorial districts. In Rivers Southeast, ethnic sentiments were heightened when Ogoni youths protested what they perceived to be polarizing rhetoric by the governor. Cultists such as the Icelanders were reportedly employed as thugs to intimidate opposition party members and supporters. Other incidents included the killing of a former member of the State House of Assembly in Obio/Akpor. In April, an APC chieftain who was also a lecturer in the state polytechnic at Bori, was reportedly shot dead in Gokana. During the March re-run elections, a staff of the Independent National Electoral

Commission (INEC) was reportedly killed in Ikwerre. Also, members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were reported killed in Akuku-Toru and Ahoada West LGAs, as well as several fatalities reported in Port Harcourt, Tai and Abua/Odual LGAs.

**Cult Violence:** About a dozen fatalities were reported when cultists attacked two communities in Ahoada East. In a separate incident, seven people were reported killed when cultists attacked two communities in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. In Emuoha, six fatalities were reported in a supremacy battle between Degbam and Icelanders cult groups.

**Militancy:** Clashes between the military and ex-militants reportedly killed several in Gokana. Militants also reportedly attacked a police station in Andoni.

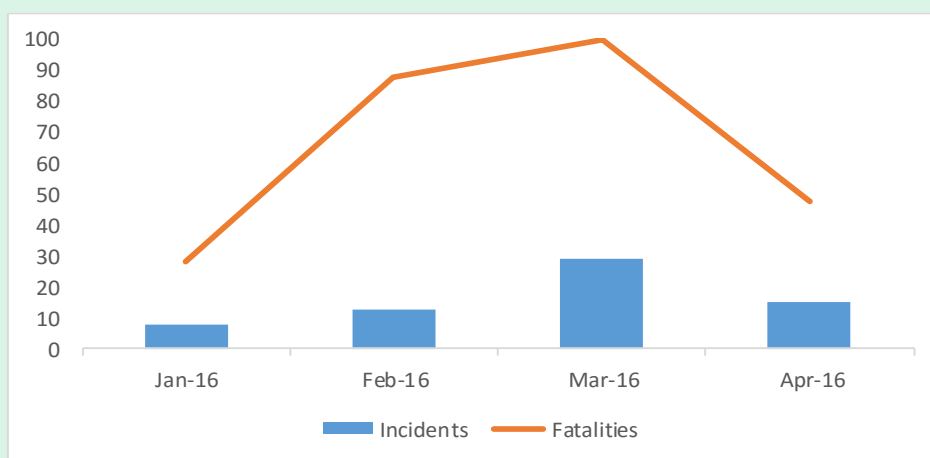
**Communal Violence:** In addition to several reports of suspected cultists other unknown gunmen attacking communities in Abua/Odual, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, Andoni, Ikwerre, Ahoada West, and Ahoada East, and Khana, there was a clash reported between Nwebiara and Barako communities in Gokana that reportedly killed about six in February.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2016

Incidents reported in May included cult violence, crude oil theft and violent criminality.

**Cult Violence:** Cultists reportedly attacked two communities in Ahoada East and killed over 10 people suspected to be rival cult

Figure 1: Rivers State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from January - April 2016 in Rivers State.

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

members. Separately, a 26-year old student of the state's Polytechnic was reported shot dead by suspected cultists in Emuoha.

**Crude Oil Theft:** Operatives of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) reportedly engaged crude oil thieves in a gun battle and destroyed over 10 illegal oil refining sites in Gokana and Ogu/Bolo LGAs.

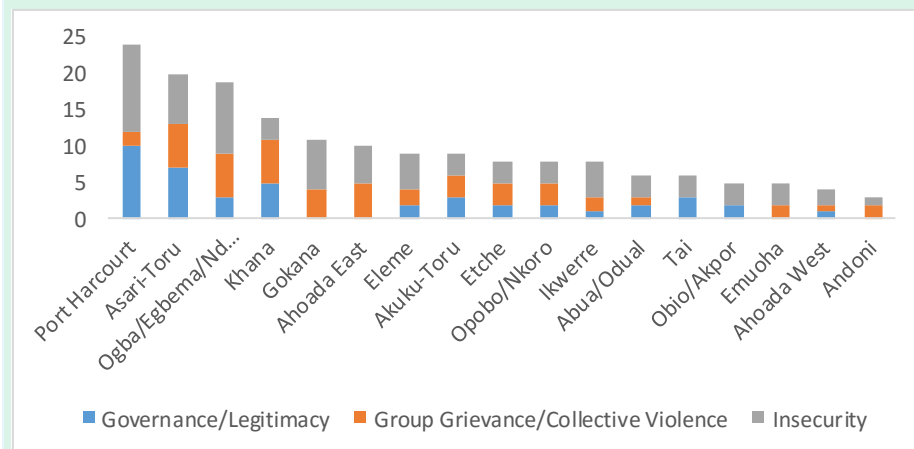
**Violent Criminality:** A naval officer and an enlisted member were reported abducted in Emuoha. Separately, two robbers were reported killed by police in Port Harcourt.

## Prognosis

Peace actors should monitor conflict dynamics closely in the context of tensions being generated by the inconclusive March 19 legislative re-run elections, and the rise in general criminality.

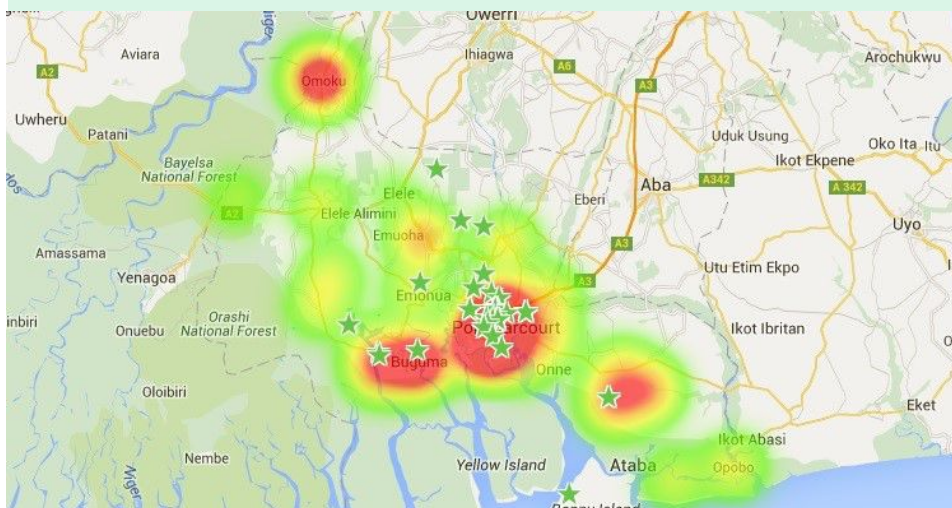
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a top priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the 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 (Feb - Apr 2016)**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA), in Rivers State this quarter shows that Port Harcourt, Asari-Toru and Ogbia/Egbema/Ndoni had the most incidents of conflict risk and violence during the period. 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 Rivers State**



Heatmap shows concentration of incidents reported from Feb–Apr 2016 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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