

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: October-November 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 August-October 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was an increase in conflict risk and violent fatalities in Imo state in October 2017. Incidents reported during this period included criminality, cult violence, protests, domestic violence, and child trafficking.

Violent Criminality: In August, a businessman was reportedly arrested for attempting to kill a woman for ritualistic purposes in Mbatoli LGA. In September, a Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Orlu LGA. Separately, a 16-year old illegal arms dealer was reportedly arrested by the police in Owerri. A large cache of weapons were recovered from the suspect, who reportedly supplies arms and ammunition to robbers and kidnappers in the state. In October, a 23-year old member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was killed by gunmen in Owerri Municipal. Separately, a man was stabbed to death by his landlord during a disagreement in Owerri North. Criminality during this period also involved violence

affecting women and girls (VAWG). In October, for instance, the corpse of a 63-year old woman was discovered in a forest in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The forest is reportedly a hideout for kidnappers and cultists.

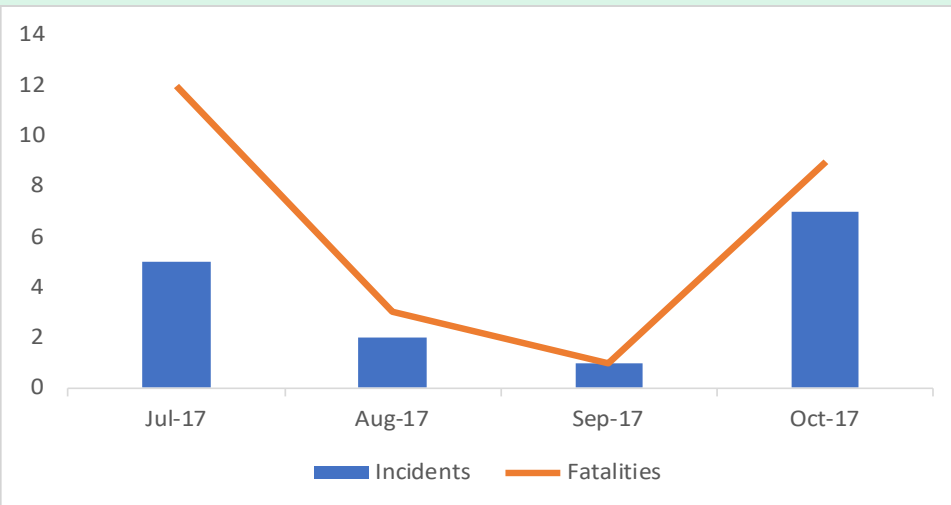
Gang/Cult Violence: In October, a 24-year old commercial motorcyclist was reportedly killed and buried in a forest by members of Iceland cult group in Ohaji/Egbema. The corpse of the victim was later exhumed by the police. Separately, two cultists who are involved in kidnapping were reportedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

Domestic Violence/Child Trafficking: In October, a man was killed by his wife in Mbatoli LGA. The woman reportedly poured acid on the victim. In Ikeduru LGA, the police reportedly arrested a couple for stealing and

selling two children. The children were allegedly sold for one million Naira.

Violent Protests: In August, a 10-year old boy was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by security operatives deployed to maintain order during a protest over the demolition and relocation of a market in Owerri Municipal. The death of the 10-year old boy escalated the situation causing the death of two protesters. Three residents were also shot and injured, and vehicles destroyed as traders and youths clashed with security operatives in the state capital. In September, a traditional ruler was reportedly attacked by youths over a leadership tussle in Isiala Mbano LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from July– October 2017 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Recent Incidents or Issues, November 2017

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality.

Criminality: Two robbers were reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Mbatoli LGA. Two other suspects escaped with gunshot injuries. Separately, the police reportedly killed two robbers during a shootout in Orlu LGA. The robbers were robbing residents in a community when they were attacked by the police.

Other: A young man was reportedly shot dead by a traditional ruler during a disagreement in Mbatoli LGA. The incident led to a protest by youths who burned down an oil mill and vehicles.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, and child trafficking. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

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 priority for you?
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 (August - October 2017)

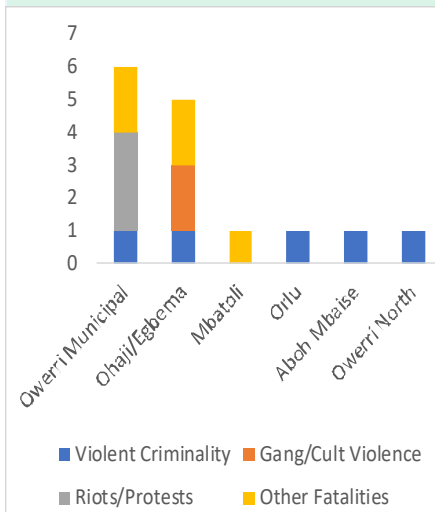
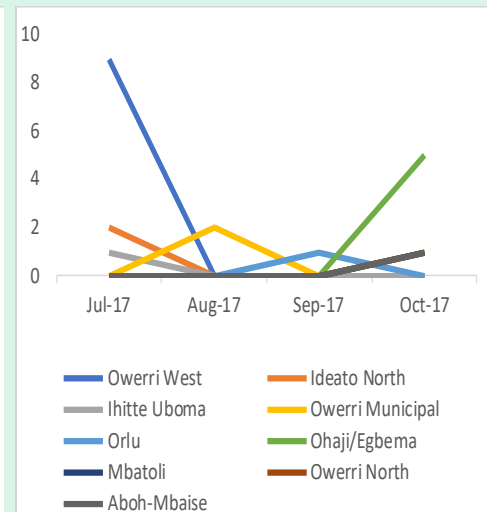
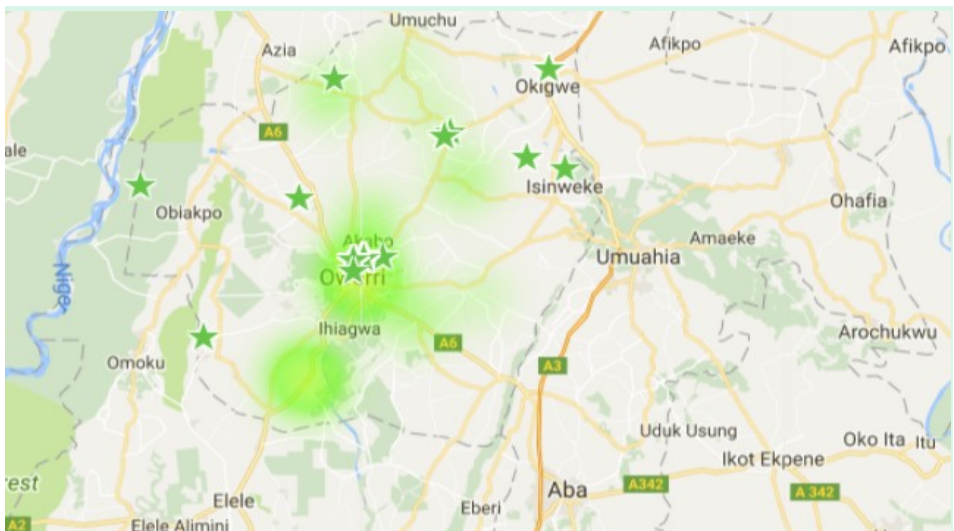


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (August - October 2017)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri Municipal, followed by Ohaji/Egbema had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state. 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

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from August–October 2017 in Imo State, 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org