

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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 (figure 1), there was an increase in lethal violence in October. As the graph below indicates, there has been a rise in conflict risk and violent fatalities in the state since August 2017. Incidents reported during this period included communal tensions, gang/cult violence, militancy, kidnapping, and other criminal activities.

Violent Criminality: In August, a soldier was reportedly killed by suspected cultists in Ahoada West LGA. Separately, a pastor was reportedly abducted and beheaded in Ahoada East. In September, three were reportedly shot dead by suspected 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 October, 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.

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 August, a traditional ruler was reportedly killed by kidnappers in Ahoada West. Separately, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus with 15 passengers in Emohua.

Others: In September, a man was reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Emohua.

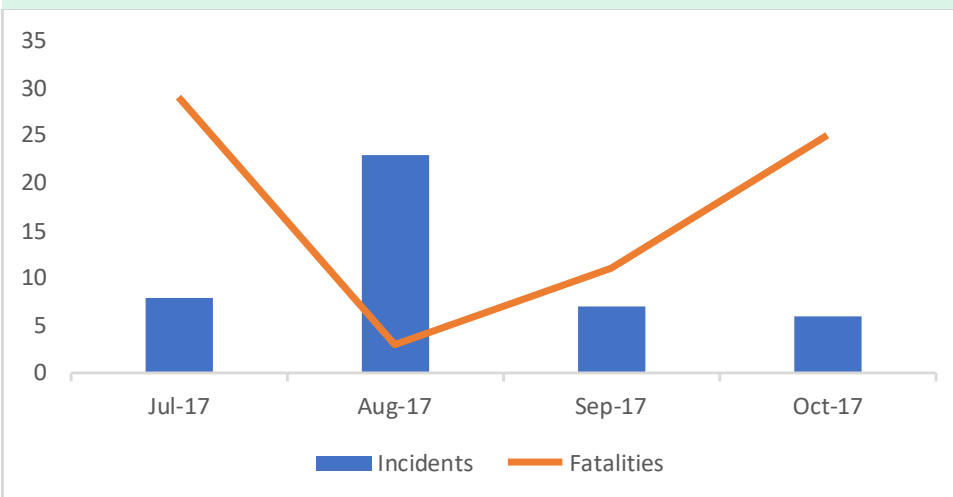
Separately, one was reportedly killed by soldiers during a protests against an oil company in Emohua. In October, a youth was reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Obio/Akpor LGA. The security operatives killed the victim while they were trying to arrest some members of a vigilante group in the area.

Recent Incidents or Issues, November 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to militancy, cult violence and other criminal activities

Militancy/Cult Violence: 10 were reportedly killed during a gun battle between militants and a vigilante group in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. The vigilante group ambushed the militants who were fleeing the area and engaged them in a gun battle. Separately,

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from July– October 2017 in Rivers State.

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

security forces reportedly shot dead six militants who double as cultists in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. Security forces raided the hideout of the militants following the killing of three members of a local vigilante group by the militants. In a related incident, soldiers raided the house of a militant who doubles as a kidnapper and assassin in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. During the raid, 10 human skulls and five corpses were discovered in the house.

Others: Three youths were reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Khana LGA. The youths were killed when they attempted stopping the security personnel from escorting locally refined petroleum products through their community.

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 (August - October 2017)

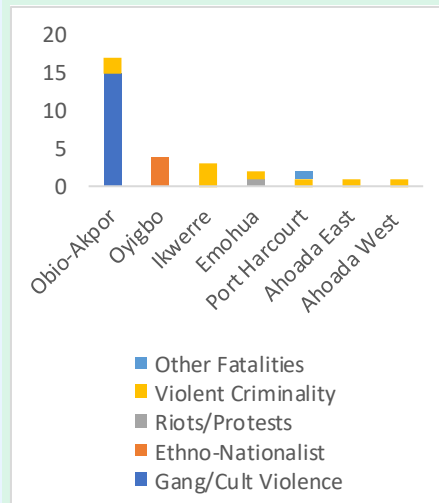
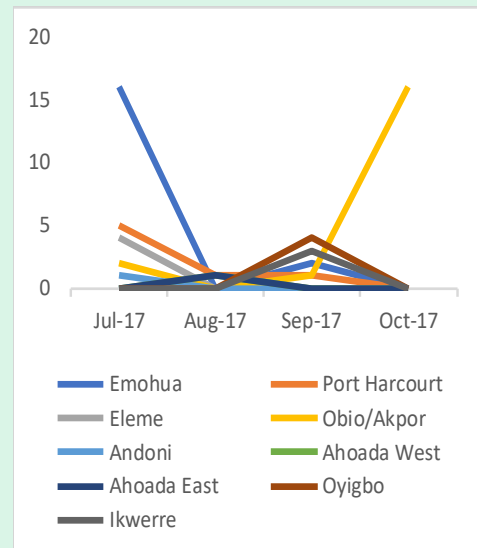
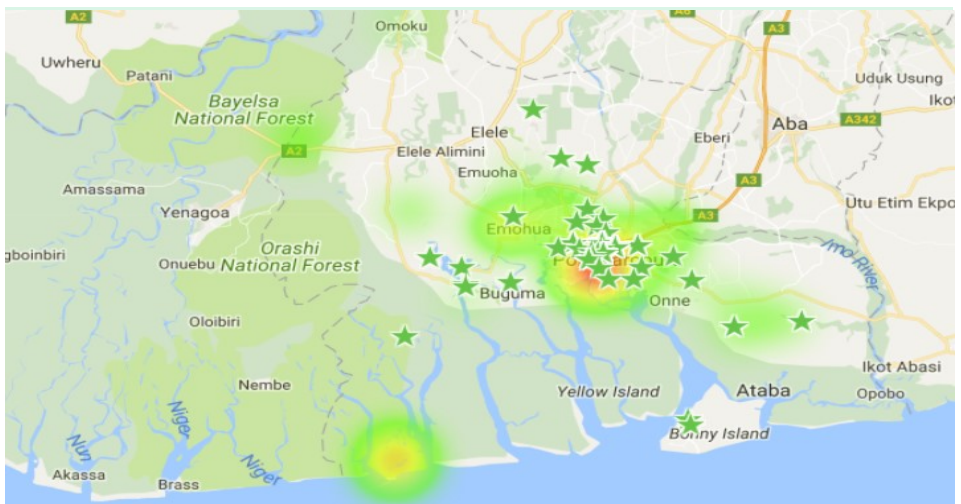


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Obio/Akpor, 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

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from August–October 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

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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