

Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

Imo 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), there was a rise in conflict risk and violence in Imo, with March 2016 as the most violent month during this period. Incidents reported included protests, inter-communal conflict, cult violence, sexual violence and violent criminality.

Protests: In April, there was a reported protest by women over persistent incidents of rape and the killing of women in Ehime-Mbano. Separately, there was a reported protest by youths in the state capital over the selection of the director of the state oil community development commission in Owerri, the state capital.

Cult Violence: In March, 10 people, including three security guards of an oil company, were reportedly killed during a clash

between rival cult groups in Ohaji/Egbema. In April, a 26-year old man was reported killed in a cult war between Debam and Deywell confraternities in Ohaji/Egbema.

Inter-communal Conflict: In March, a man was reported killed by a traditional ruler and two accomplices over a land dispute in Ohaji/Egbema. In April, four fatalities were reported in a clash between two communities over the killing of a boy by cultists from a community in Owerri West.

Violent Criminality: In April, robbers

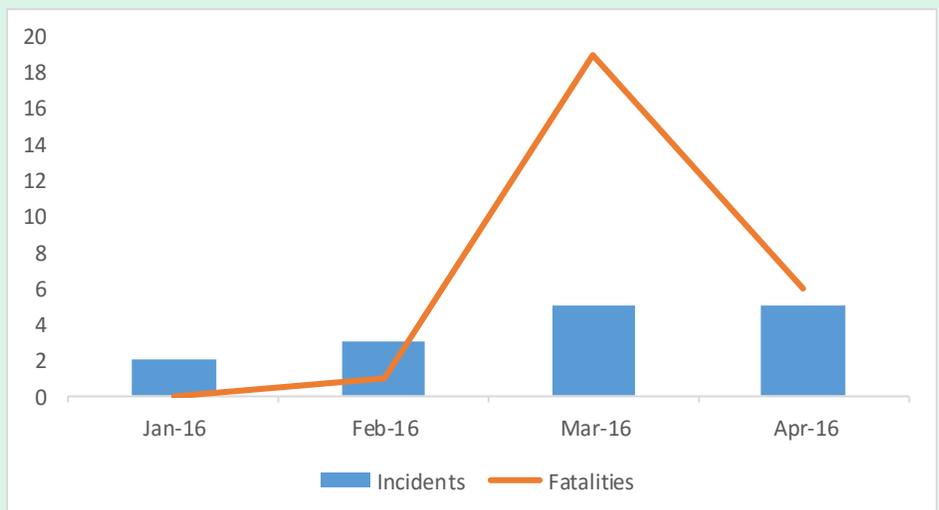
reportedly killed two policemen and made away with their guns in Ohaji/Egbema. Also in April, the chairman of the state chapter of the National Association of Traders (NATS) was reported assassinated in Owerri West.

Sexual Violence: A woman was reported raped and strangled to death in her farm in Ehime-Mbano.

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2016

Incidents reported in May were mainly

Figure 1: Imo State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from Jan-Apr 2016 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

related to protests. During the month, the state chapter of the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) shut down all courts in the state in protest over non-payment of salaries and allowances by the state government. There was also a reported protest by the staff of the Federal Medical Center in Owerri, calling for the removal of the medical director over alleged financial misappropriation and abuse of staff.

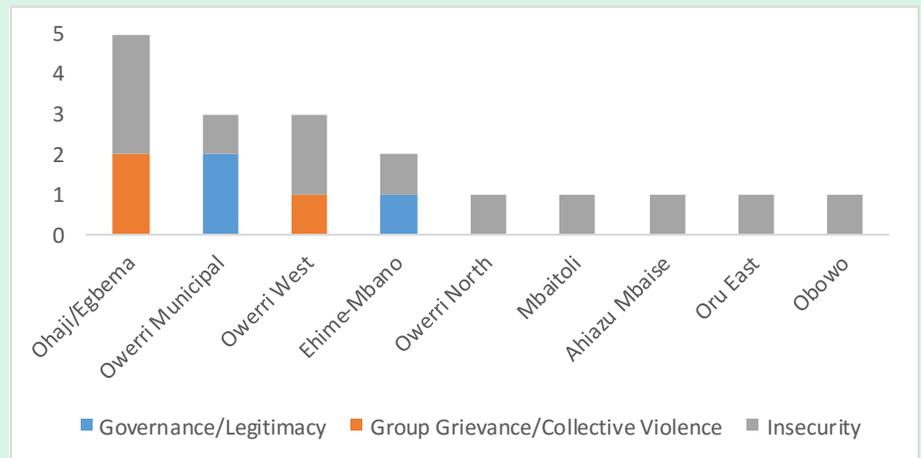
Prognosis

Issue of conflict risk and violence in Imo have lately involved protests, communal conflict, cult violence and criminality. Peace agents must continue to monitor the situation to prevent escalation of violence.

Questions for Peace Agents

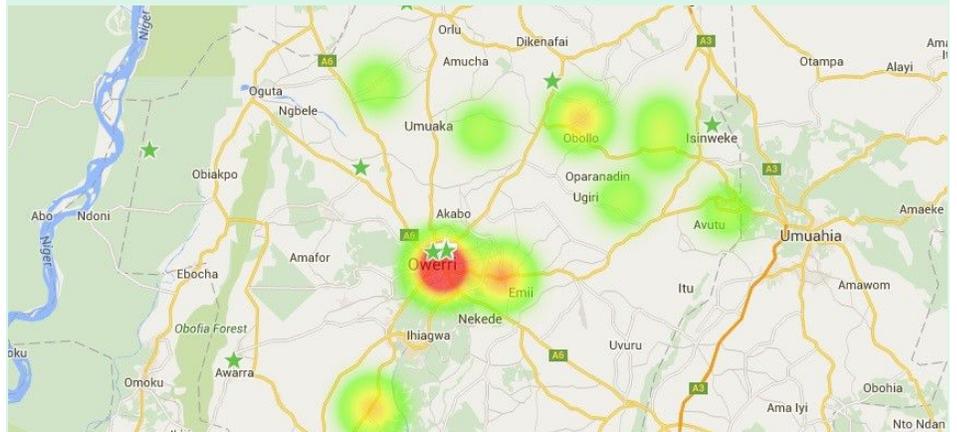
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a top priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the 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 Imo State shows that Ohaji/Egbema had the highest level of violence and conflict risk in the state. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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



Heatmap shows concentration of incidents reported from Feb–Apr 2016 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