

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: April-May 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 February-April 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents reported during this period included criminality, cult violence, political tensions, and protests.

Violent Criminality: In February, four people were reportedly killed by robbers at a bank in Owerri North. In March, the police reported arrested fifty suspects for robbery, kidnapping, cultism, vandalism and human trafficking in the state. In April, two youth leaders were reportedly killed by gunmen at a drinking spot in Isiala Mbano. Separately, robbers reportedly killed a man along with his wife and son in their residence in Owerri Municipal. In another incident, four people, including a 30-year old banker, were reportedly shot dead by robbers at an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) point in Okigwe. Also in Okigwe, robbers reportedly shot dead a policeman and made away with his car. Separately, a robber was reportedly killed by the police in Okigwe. In Isiala Mbano, a kidnapper was reportedly killed in a shootout with the police during a rescue operation.

Cult Violence: In March, a male student of the Imo State university (IMSU) was reportedly shot dead by cultists. The incident was believed to be related to rival cult violence in the university.

Political Violence: In February, an electoral official was reportedly assaulted and kidnapped by political thugs in Owerri North. Some of the thugs were later arrested by security operatives.

Accidental Weapons Discharges: In April, a physically challenged man was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by an officer of the Imo Security Network in Orlu. In a similar incident, an officer of the Imo Security Network was reported to have accidentally shot dead his colleague during a peacekeeping mission in Oru West.

Protests: In February, students of the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO) reportedly protested over fees in Owerri Municipal. The protest turned violent and some of the students were reportedly tear gassed and arrested by the police. In March, sacked local government workers reportedly protested over unpaid salaries in Owerri.

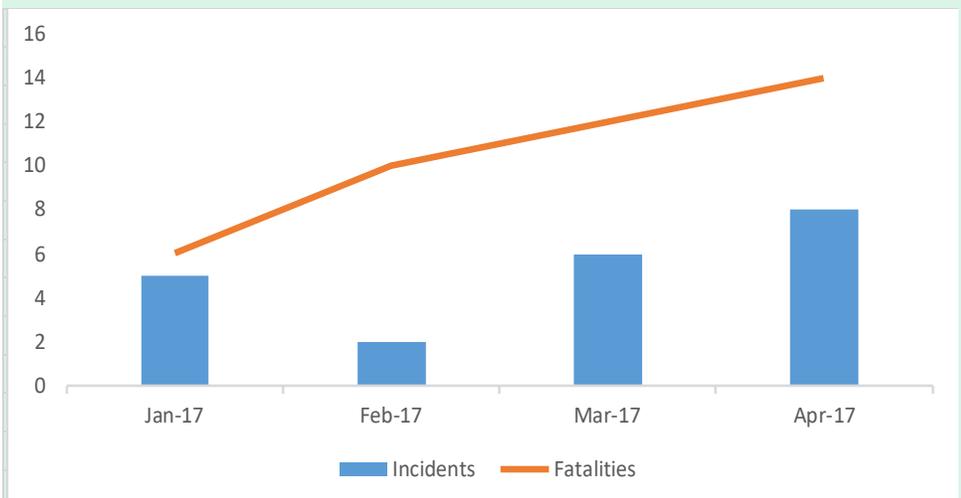
Other: In March, a policeman reportedly shot dead a 16-year old boy and wounded three others in Isiala Mbano.

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2017

Reported incidents included communal tensions and criminality.

Communal Tensions: During the month, a

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



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

young man was reportedly killed by a mob in Ideato South LGA. The killing sparked off reprisal leading to the burning of houses including a community town hall. Separately, there was a reported protest over the selection of a traditional ruler in Ihiagwa community, Owerri West LGA.

Criminality: The police reportedly rescued three kidnap victims and arrested seven suspects in Owerri West LGA. The police confronted the kidnapers in a forest they use as hideout.

Other: A passerby was reportedly shot dead by a policeman in Orlu LGA. The incident happened during a clash between three brothers over the leadership of a motor park.

Prognosis

Incidents reported during the period were mainly related to communal tensions, criminality, cult violence, protests, and accidental discharges by security forces. 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 (February - April 2017)

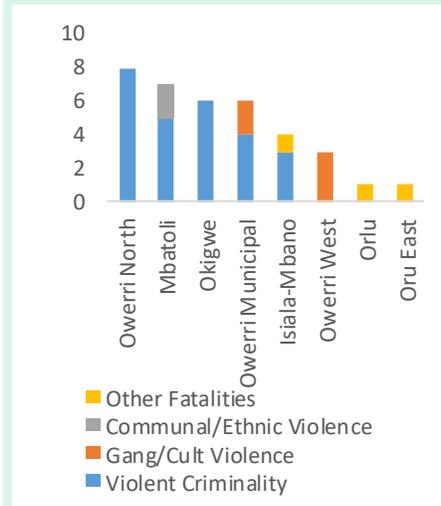
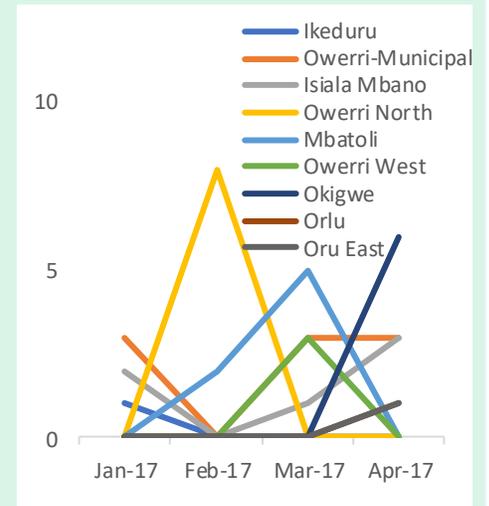
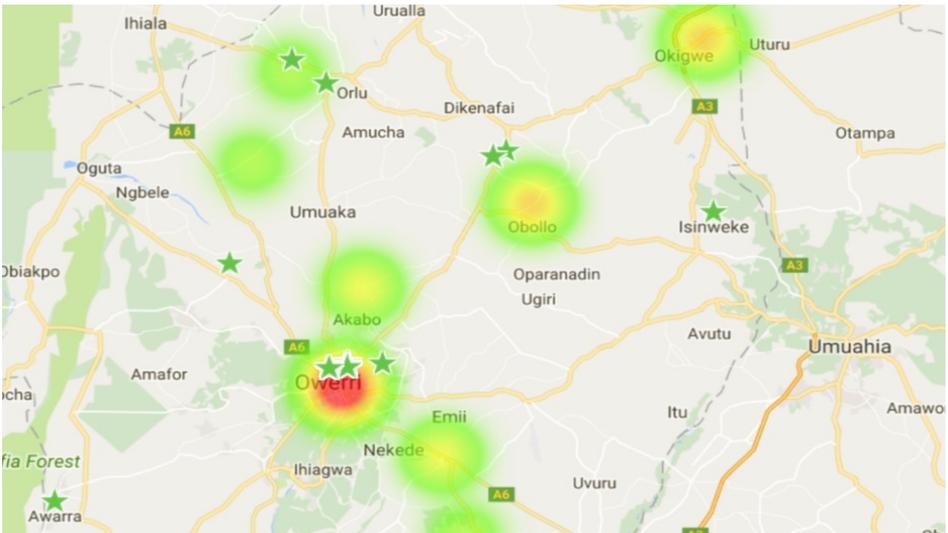


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri North, followed by Mbatoli 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 February–April 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



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