

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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 (figure 1), there was a rise in lethal violence in January. Incidents reported during the period included cult violence, political tensions, protests and criminality.

Violent Criminality: In February, a policeman was reportedly shot dead by robbers during an attempted bank robbery in Obio/Akpor. In March, a representative of a courier service for an online retailer was reportedly killed by clients in Obio/Akpor. Separately, robbers intercepted a bullion van, killed a policeman and escaped with large sum of money in Ikwerre LGA. In another incident, robbers attacked a businessman in Ahoada East and escaped with his money. In April, several cult-related violent incidents were reported. In Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, a cult leader, who was recently granted amnesty by the state government, was reportedly killed in a cult clash. Also in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, two were reportedly killed by cultists. In Ikwerre, two were reportedly killed in a rival cult clash between Icelander and Deygbam groups. In Emuoha, five were reportedly killed in a clash between Icelanders and Degbam. In Obio/Akpor, one

was killed in a rival cult clash. In Eleme, two were shot dead by cultists.

Kidnapping: In March, one person was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Obio/Akpor. Separately, the police raided a forest used by kidnapers as hideout in Emuoha, rescued three victims, and arrested two suspects. In April, a lecturer at the Federal Collage of Education was reportedly kidnapped along with his daughter from his residence in Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni.

Gang/Cult Violence: In March, cultists reportedly killed two people and abducted another in Emuoha. In another incident, the house of a cultist was reportedly burned down by a rival cult group in Port Harcourt. In April, two soldiers were reportedly shot dead by pirates in Akuku-Toru. Three other soldiers sustained injuries during the encounter. Separately, a youth leader and chieftain of the All Progressive Congress (APC) was reportedly assassinated in his home in Eleme. The killing led to a protest by youths who burned down many houses. In

another incident, the manger of an international oil facility was reportedly assassinated in his office in Port Harcourt.

Political Tensions/Violence: In February, officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were reportedly assaulted by thugs during the February 25, 2017 supplementary rerun elections in Etche LGA.

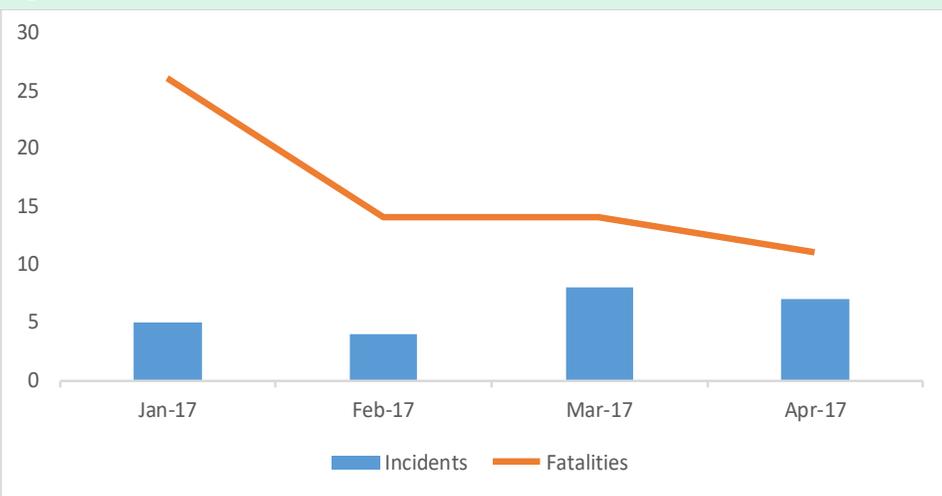
Protests: In March, there was a reported protest at the office of an oil company over the arrest of a community leader who allegedly shut down several oil wells in Port Harcourt.

Other Incidents: In February, several people were reportedly killed by fire caused by a gas pipeline explosion in Emuoha LGA. .

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to violent criminality, cult violence, and

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from January-April 2017 in Rivers State.

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

communal tensions.

Violent Criminality: During the month, four were reportedly killed by gunmen in Bonny LGA. Separately, two were reportedly killed by gunmen in Tai LGA. In another incident, a clergy man was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ahoada West LGA.

Cult Violence: Eight were reportedly killed during a clash between Degbam and Icelanders cult groups at different locations in Emohua LGA. In Ikwerre, five were reportedly killed in rival cult clashes. In Obio/Akpor, a cult leader was reportedly beheaded by a rival group. In Tai, a prominent member of Degbam cult group was reportedly shot dead by soldiers.

Communal Tensions: A chief was reportedly assassinated in Mgboshimini community, Obio/Akpor LGA. The incident sparked off violent protests leading to the death of a youth and burning of houses.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period are mainly related to criminality, communal tensions, political and cult violence. Peace Agents should 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 (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 (February - April 2017)

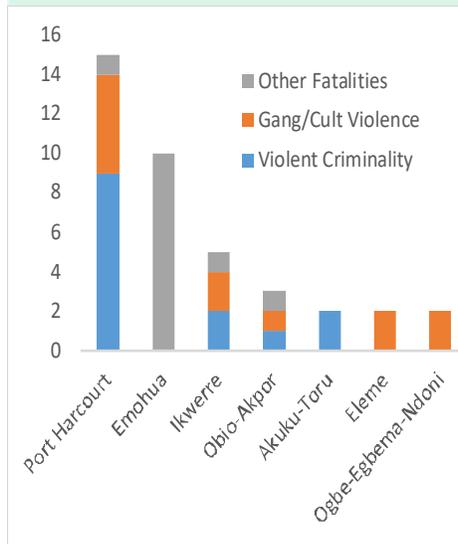
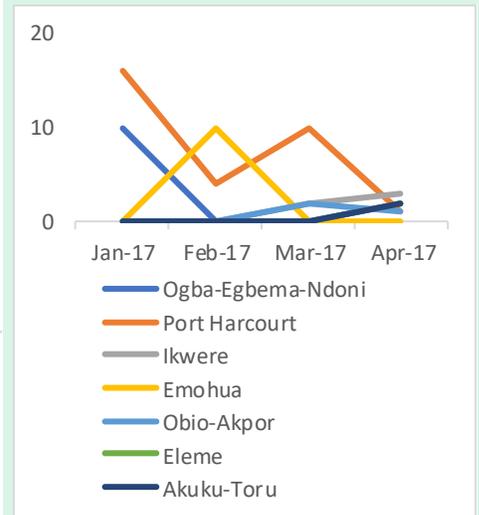
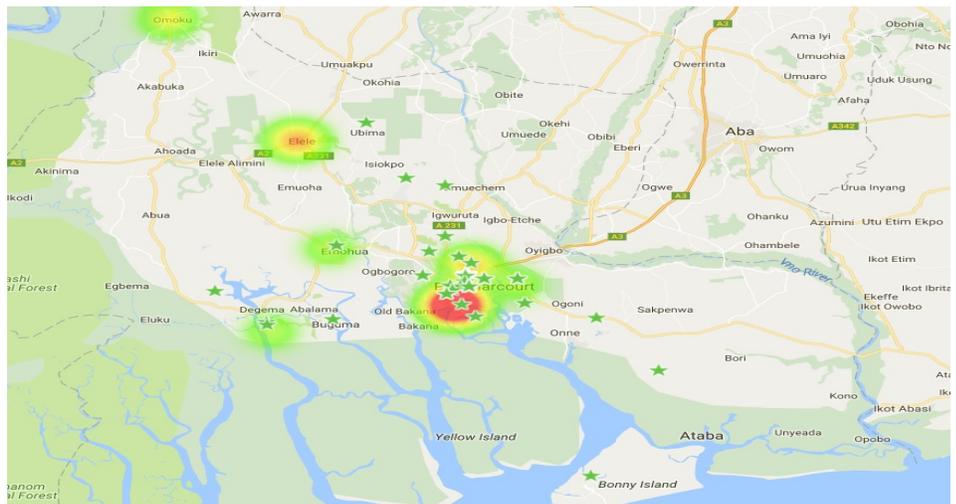


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Port Harcourt LGA 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 February–April 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org