

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: July-August 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 May-July 2017

According to Peace Map data (figure 1), incidents of conflict risk and violence reported in the state during this period included communal tensions, gang/cult violence, militancy, kidnapping, and other criminal activities.

Violent Criminality: In June, police reportedly killed four kidnapers and rescued nine victims in Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF) code-named 'Operation Delta Safe' reportedly killed two kidnapers and rescued a victim in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. In another incident, operatives of the JTF reportedly killed four pirates and recovered several weapons in Degema LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence: In June, a couple and their stepson were burnt to death by a group of cultists in Eleme LGA. Separately, 14 were killed and six kidnapped during a clash between Deywell and Degbam cult groups in Tai LGA. In July, members of Degbam cult group reportedly attacked a village and beheaded four suspected members of Icelanders cult group in Emohua LGA. Separately, members of the Icelanders

reportedly attacked a community in suspected reprisal and killed eight in Emohua. In another incident, suspected cultists reportedly shot sporadically and killed one in Andoni LGA.

Communal Tensions: In June, two were reported killed during a clash between Hausa traders and youths over payment of dues at a motor park in Onne, Eleme LGA. Separately, one was reported killed during a clash between herders and farmers in Oyigbo LGA.

Kidnapping: In July, fourteen passengers who were travelling in a commercial bus were reportedly kidnapped at gunpoint in Emohua LGA. Separately, seven including two executive members of the Rivers state chapter of the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) who were on a trip from Abuja to Port Harcourt, were reportedly kidnapped in Ikwerre.

Militants vs Soldiers: In July, four militants were reportedly killed in a gun duel with soldiers during an attack on a military

houseboat in Akuku-Toru LGA. A civilian was reportedly killed during the confrontation. In a suspected reprisal, soldiers reportedly attacked Tuma community, Akuku-Toru LGA, destroyed 15 houses and left several persons with varying degrees of injuries

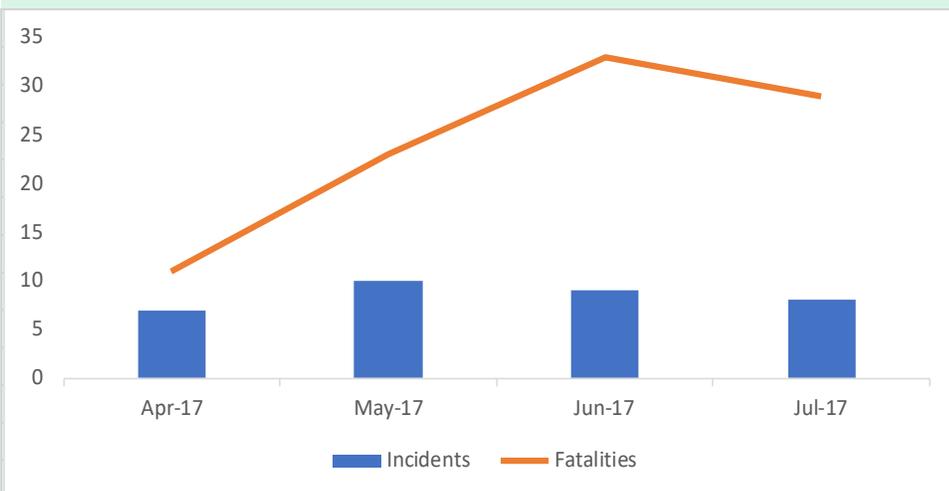
Others: In June, a woman was reportedly killed by her 29-year old boyfriend in Ikwerre LGA. In July, two sons of a traditional ruler were reportedly beheaded in Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, protesters reportedly barricaded the entrance to the premises of an oil company over compensation in Bakana Community, Degema LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to kidnapping, violent criminality, and protests.

Kidnapping: A traditional ruler was reportedly killed by kidnapers in Ahoada West. The victim was shot dead for resisting being taken away by his assailants.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



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

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

Separately, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus with 15 passengers in Emohua.

Other Criminality: A pastor was reportedly abducted and beheaded by a suspected cannibal in Ahoada East. Separately, an 8-year old girl was reportedly kidnapped, raped and killed for ritualistic purposes by her cousin in Port Harcourt. The suspect was caught with the mutilated corpse of the victim. The suspect was arrested but later escaped, sparking off protests by residents. Separately, a soldier was reportedly killed by suspected cultists in Ahoada West LGA.

Protests: During the month, villagers reportedly besieged a facility belonging to an international oil and gas company demanding jobs and infrastructural developments in Akuku Toru LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to cult violence, violent criminality, kidnapping, 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 (May - July 2017)

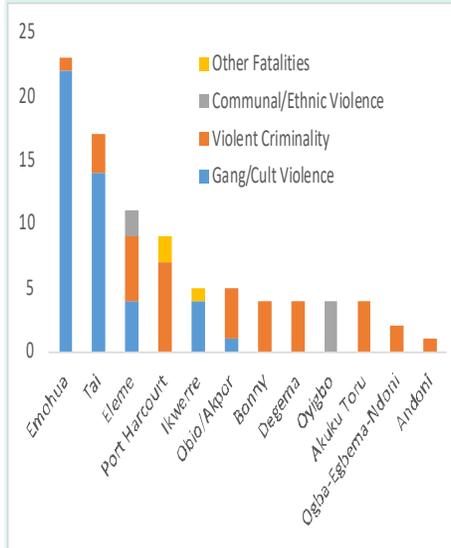
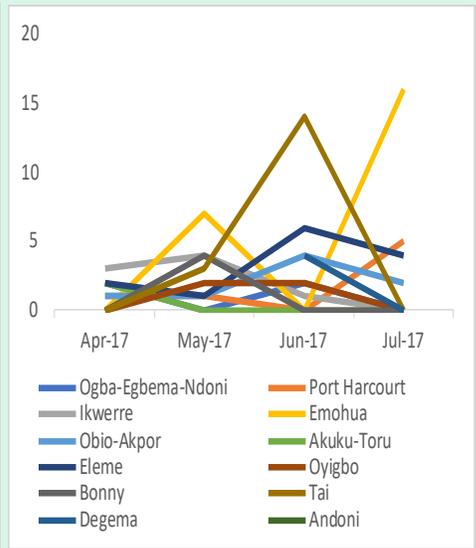
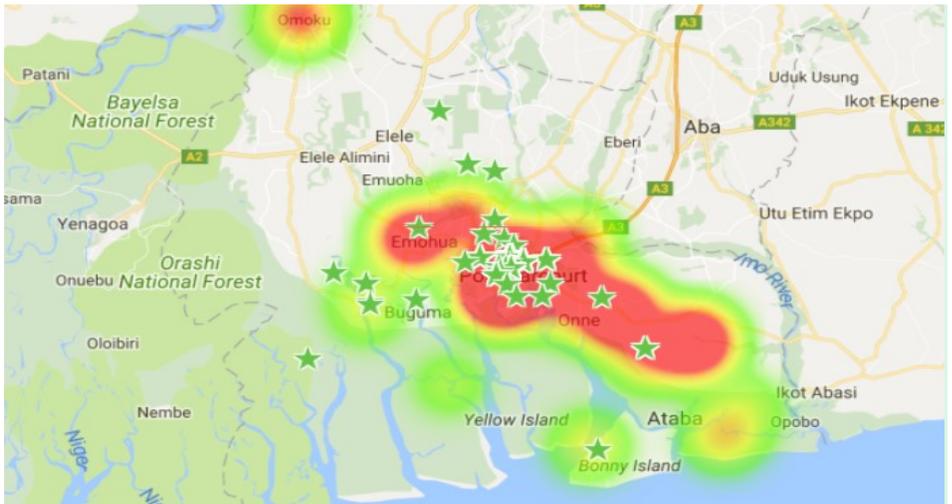


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Tai, followed by Emohua and Eleme 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 May–July 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