

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: August-September 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

June-August 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in lethal violence in the state in August. Incidents reported during this period included criminality, cult violence, and protests.

Violent Criminality: In June, robbers reportedly attacked an aide to a member of the Imo State House of Assembly and made away with the money he withdrew from the bank in Owerri Municipal. The robbers reportedly killed four including a motorized tricycle operator during the attack. Separately, one person was reportedly killed by robbers during an attack on a community in Oru West LGA. In another incident, a robber was reportedly killed by the police in Oru West. Also in Oru West, the police arrested a female robber. In July, five robbers and kidnappers were reportedly shot by police in Owerri West LGA. Separately, police also reportedly shot two robbers in Ideato North. In August, a businessman was reportedly arrested for

attempting to kill a woman for ritualistic purposes in Mbaitoli LGA.

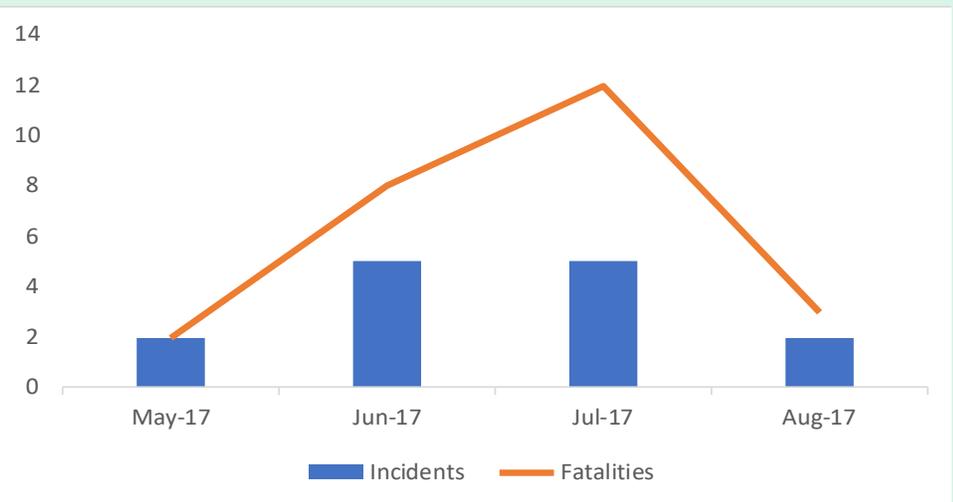
Gang/Cult Violence: In June, one person was reportedly killed by a cultist in Owerri West LGA. In July, cultists reportedly attacked a community and destroyed houses belonging to rival cult members in Owerri West. The attack was reportedly a reprisal for the killing of their members by the rival cult group.

Violent Protests: In August, a 10-year old boy was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by security operatives deployed to maintain order during a protest over the demolition and relocation of a market in Owerri Municipal. Plans by the state government to relocate the market from the city center in order to decongest the area

has been resisted by traders and indigenes who regarded the market as their ancestral heritage. The situation escalated, leading to the death of the 10-year old boy and violent protests in which two more people were killed. Three residents were also shot and injured, and vehicles destroyed as traders and youths clashed with security operatives.

Others: In June, a murder suspect was reportedly killed by a mob in Ideato South LGA. Separately, a member of a street gang was reportedly killed by some youths in Owerri West. In retaliation, a house belonging to the father of one of those allegedly involved in the killing was set ablaze. In July, a 35-year old man reportedly beheaded a man at a funeral ceremony in Ihitte/Uboma LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



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

Recent Incidents or Issues, September 2017

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality and communal tensions.

Criminality: A Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Orlu LGA. The body of the victim was later dumped in a bush. Separately, a 16-year old illegal arms dealer was reportedly arrested by the police in Owerri. A large stack of weapons were recovered from the suspect, who reportedly supplies arms and ammunition to robbers and kidnappers in the state.

Communal Tensions: A traditional ruler was reportedly attacked by youths over a leadership tussle in Isiala Mbanu LGA.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality and communal tensions. 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 (June - August 2017)

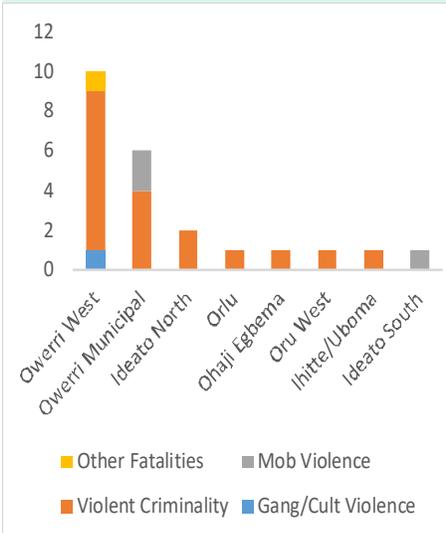
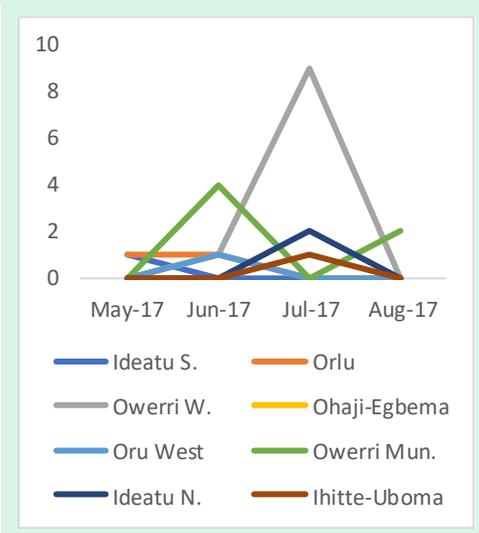
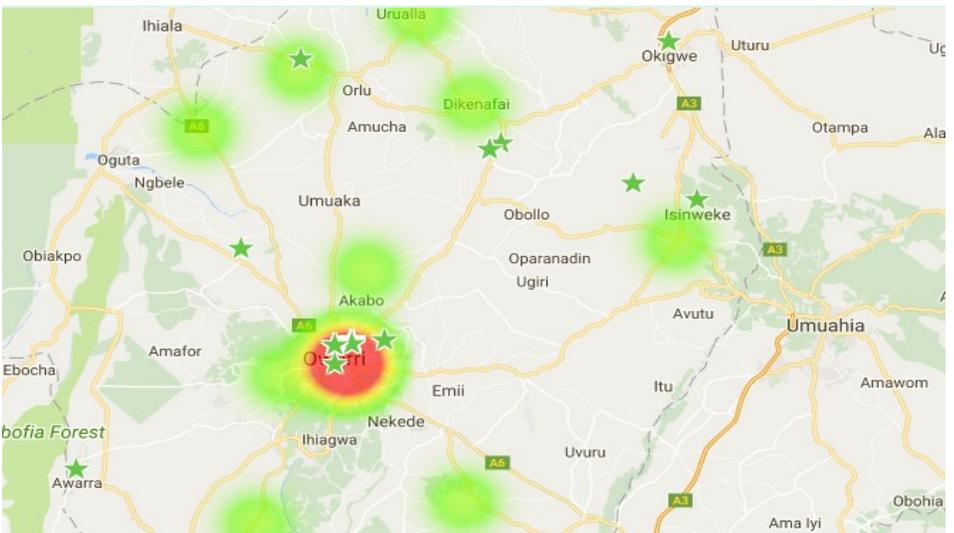


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri West, followed by Owerri Municipal 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 June–August 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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