

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Rivers 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 (figure 1), August was the most non-lethal month in Rivers State in the last two years. However, incidents reported in the state during this period included communal tensions, gang/cult violence, militancy, kidnapping, and other criminal activities.

**Violent Criminality:** In August, 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. Also a soldier was reportedly killed by suspected cultists in Ahoada West LGA.

**Gang/Cult Violence:** 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 person was reported killed during a clash between herders and farmers in Oyigbo LGA.

**Kidnapping:** There was an increase in kidnappings in the last several months. In July, fourteen passengers who were travelling in a commercial bus were reportedly kidnapped at gunpoint in Emohua LGA. In Ikwerre, seven people including two executive members of the Rivers state chapter of the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) who were on a trip, were reportedly kidnapped. In August, a traditional ruler was reportedly killed by kidnappers in Ahoada West. Separately, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus with 15 passengers in Emohua.

**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 also 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.

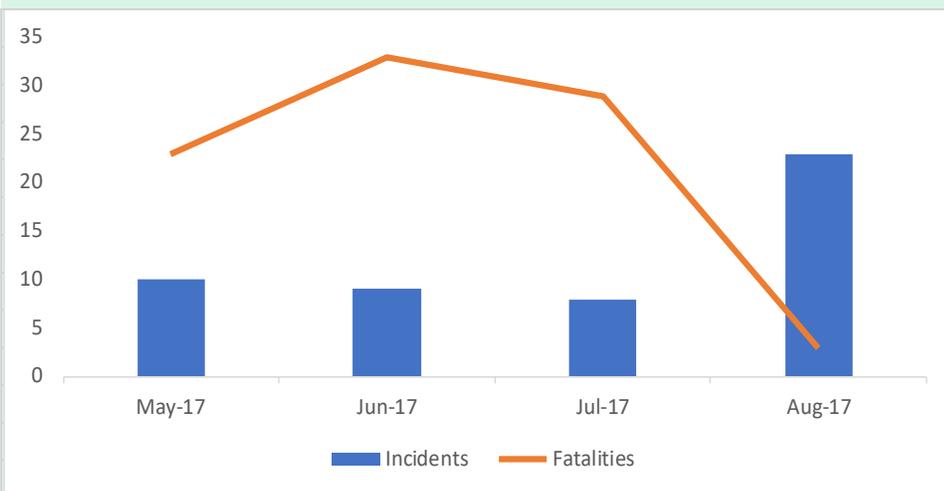
**Others:** In July, two sons of a traditional ruler were reportedly beheaded in Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, protesters reportedly barricaded the entrance to the premises of an oil company over compensation in Degema LGA. In August, villagers reportedly besieged a facility belonging to an oil demanding jobs and infrastructural developments in Akuku Toru LGA.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2017

Incidents during the month mainly related to criminality, communal/ethnic tensions, and protests.

**Criminality:** Three were reportedly shot dead by gunmen suspected to be cultists in Ikwerre LGA. Separately, a ward chairman of

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from May– August 2017 in Rivers State.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was reportedly killed in Obio/Akpor LGA. In another incident, security operatives reportedly engaged militants in a gun battle and rescued five kidnap victims in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA, including two soldiers and three civilians.

**Communal Tensions:** Three were reportedly killed during a clash involving supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), members of Hausa community and soldiers in Oyiibo LGA. A policeman was reportedly killed in a reprisal. Separately, tension was reportedly heightened following renewed leadership tussle in Andoni LGA.

**Others:** A man was reportedly killed by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Emohua. Separately, one was reportedly killed by soldiers during a protests against an oil company in Emohua.

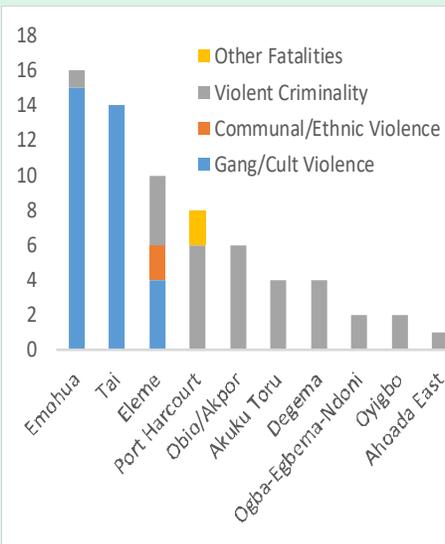
### Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, communal tensions, and insurgency/counterinsurgency. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

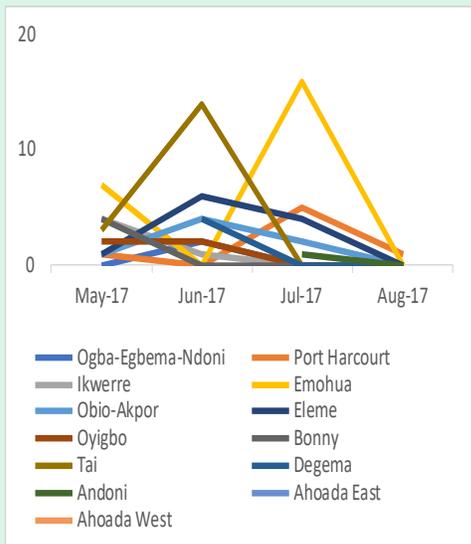
### Questions for Peace Agents

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 (June - August 2017)**

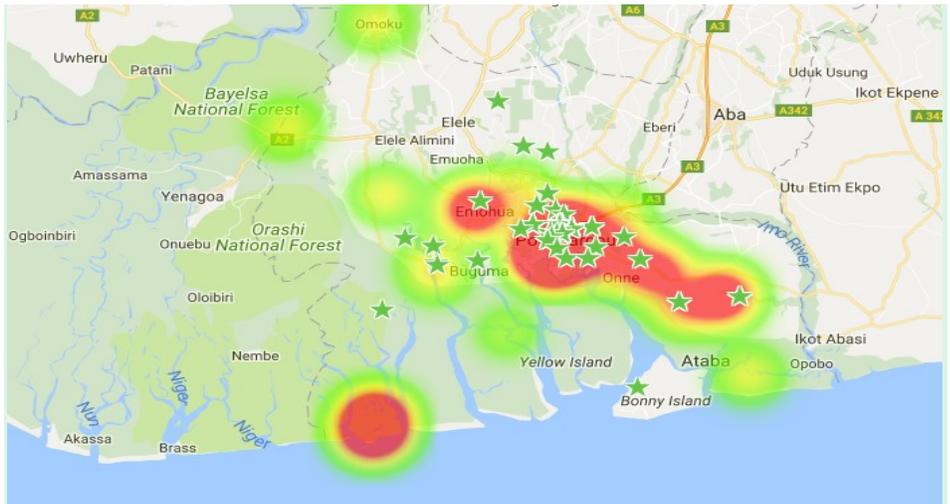


**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Emohua, followed by Tai 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

**Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State**



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from June–August 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](http://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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