

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: October-November 2019

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 August-October 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 2), Rivers State had the highest number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during this period, based on reported fatalities. Reported incidents included cult violence, criminality including kidnapping for ransom, and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Cult Violence: In August, cultists reportedly attacked a community, killed five residents and destroyed several houses in Okwale community, Khana LGA. Separately, a student of the University of Port Harcourt was reportedly killed by cultists in a reprisal attack in Choba town, Obio/Akpor LGA. In another incident, the leader of a vigilante group was reportedly killed by cultists in Rumuchuakara community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In October, three people were reportedly killed and several houses burned during clashes between members of two rival cult groups in Ulakwo, Igbodo and Mba communities in Etche LGA.

Violent Criminality: In August, several people were reported killed in a series of incidents involving communal and criminal violence. Gunmen reportedly attacked a community, killed four residents and destroyed the palace of a traditional ruler in

Taaba, Khana LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed six people and destroyed the residence of a local council chairman in Opuoko community, Khana LGA. In another incident, gunmen attacked and killed six people in Azorgwu, Omarihu and Obete communities in Oyigbo LGA. In a separate incident, two people were reportedly killed during sporadic shooting by gunmen in Bangha community, Khana LGA.

In October, the police reportedly killed a prominent kidnapper in Port Harcourt LGA. The suspect allegedly was responsible for the hijacking of commercial busses and abduction of passengers along major roads in the state. Separately, a kidnapping suspect was reportedly killed in a shootout with the police in Bori, Khana LGA.

Kidnapping: In September, gunmen reportedly abducted five travelers in Elele community, Ikwerre LGA. In October, gunmen reportedly abducted two police officers in Ngo community, Andoni LGA.

Separately, gunmen reportedly attacked a community and abducted two residents in Bonny LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls were reported during this period. In August, for instance, a girl was reportedly strangled by her male partner in a hotel at D-line, Port Harcourt LGA. In September, the police reportedly arrested a suspected killer and rescued a female victim in a hotel at Mile 4, Obio/Akpor LGA. In a related development, there was a protest by women groups in Port Harcourt LGA over the killing of women by serial killers in hotel rooms in the state.

Recent Incidents, November 2019

Reported incidents during the month mainly related to criminality including piracy and kidnapping for ransom.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State

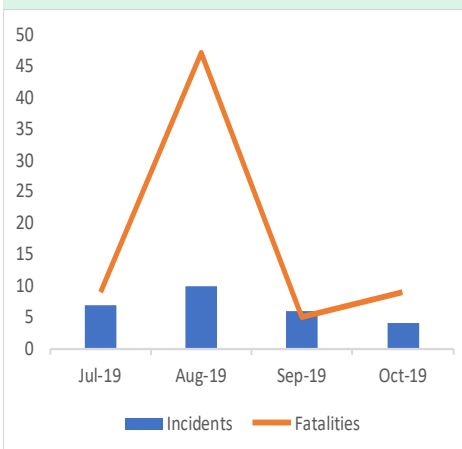
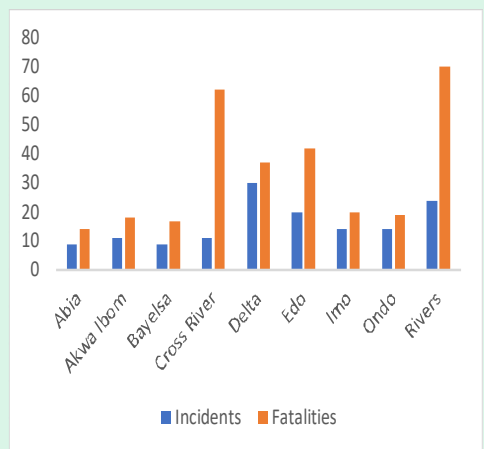


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (July - October 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from July – October 2019 in Rivers State and regional trends. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Violent Criminality: During the month, some hoodlums suspected to be cultists who double as militants reportedly attacked the palace of a traditional ruler and destroyed vehicles in Elele community, Ikwerre LGA. The monarch was allegedly attacked because of his stand against cultism and criminality in the community.

Piracy: Pirates reportedly attacked a passenger boat and killed two persons along the waterways in Bille community, Degema LGA.

Kidnapping: Four officers of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) were reportedly abducted by gunmen along Bonny River in Bonny LGA.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers State during this period were driven mainly by cult violence, criminality including piracy and kidnapping for ransom, and other Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents must monitor the security 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 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (August - October 2019)

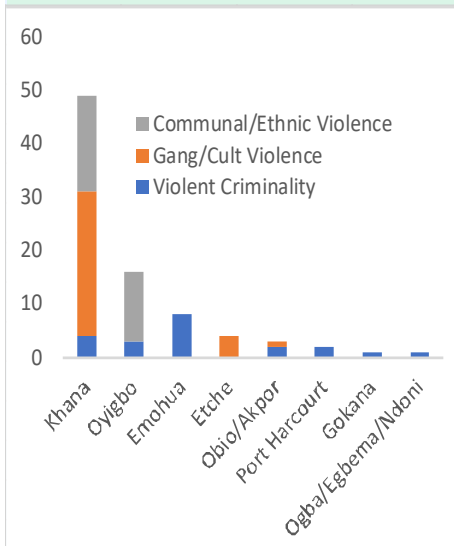
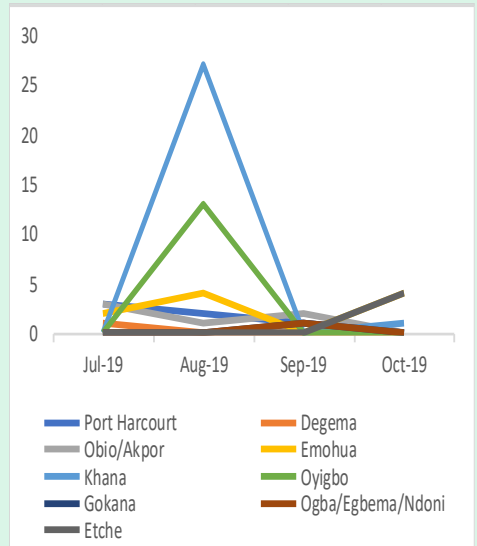
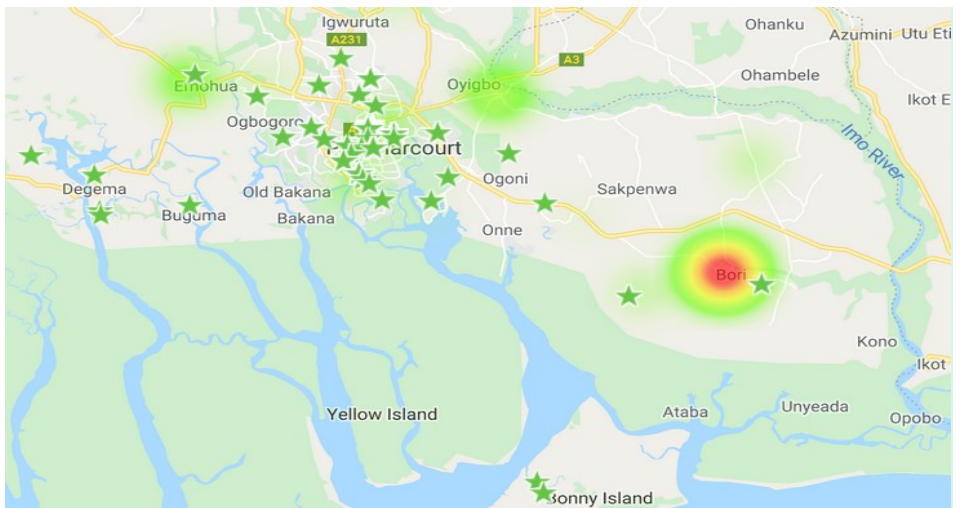


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this period shows that Khana had the highest number of lethal conflict. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from August – October 2019 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



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