

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Imo State: February-March 2018

### 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 Dec 2017-Feb 2018

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in violent fatalities in Imo State in February 2018. Incidents reported in the state during this period included criminality, communal and political tensions.

**Violent Criminality:** In January, three kidnappers were reportedly killed in a gun battle with operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Njaba LGA. Separately, six hoodlums were reportedly killed during a shootout with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. In February, a 95-year old man and his 13-year old granddaughter were reportedly kidnapped in Owerri West LGA. It is believed that the victims are kidnapped for a ransom because five of the old man's children reside outside Nigeria. Separately, operatives of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) reportedly arrested five suspects for illegal oil bunkering and vandalism in Oru West LGA. A truck load with petroleum products was recovered from the suspects. Also, in February, many criminals in the state

reportedly accepted amnesty offered to them by the state government and surrendered their arms in Owerri, the state capital. Some of the criminals included those that escaped from neighboring Rivers state after they were declared wanted by the government for crimes committed in the state.

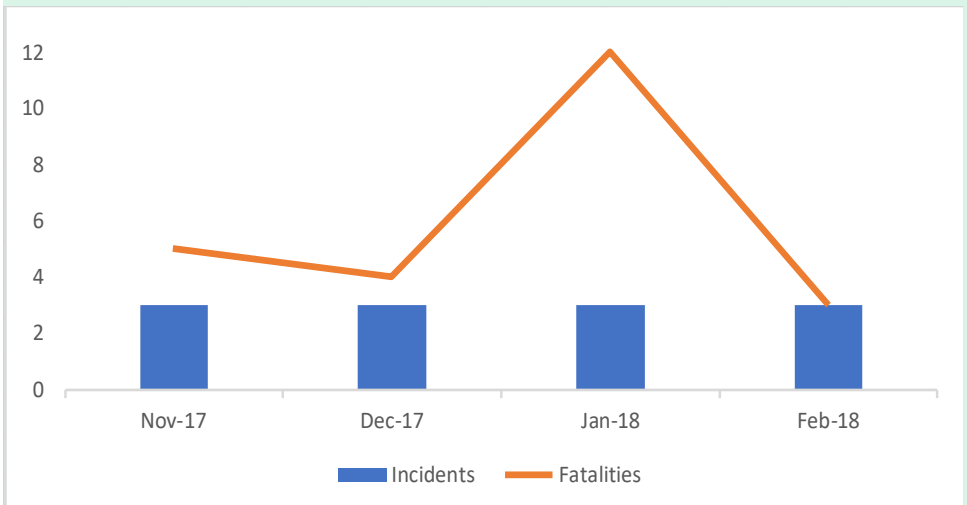
**Communal Tensions:** In January, two people, including a female octogenarian, were reportedly killed in a clash between two masquerade groups during a festival in Oguta LGA. Members of a masquerade cult attacked masquerades from another village to avenge their colleague's death during a masquerade festival.

Communal violence and criminality during this period also involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG). In February, for

instance, a 13-year old girl was kidnapped in Owerri West LGA. Separately, hundred of women protested at the Imo State Police Headquarters in Owerri, the state capital, over insecurity in their community. The protesters complained of incessant kidnappings in their community in Okigwe LGA.

**Others:** In December, four members of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) were reportedly killed during a clash between two factions of the group in Unuimo LGA. Separately, there was tension in the state following the reported suspension of the Majority Leader of the Imo State House of Assembly in Owerri, the state capital. In January, the official residence of the Imo state deputy governor in Owerri, the state

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2017 – February 2018 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

capital, was reportedly razed by fire.

## Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2018

Incidents during the month related mainly to human trafficking and protests.

**Child Trafficking:** Two women reportedly stole a 5-year old girl and sold her to a 45-year old woman for three hundred and fifty thousand Naira in Owerri Municipal LGA.

**Protests:** There was a protest by residents of several communities in Okigwe LGA over incessant attacks by herdsmen in the area. The protesters called on the state governor to direct the Bureau for Peace and Conflict Resolution to investigate the activities of herdsmen in the LGA and their relationship with host communities.

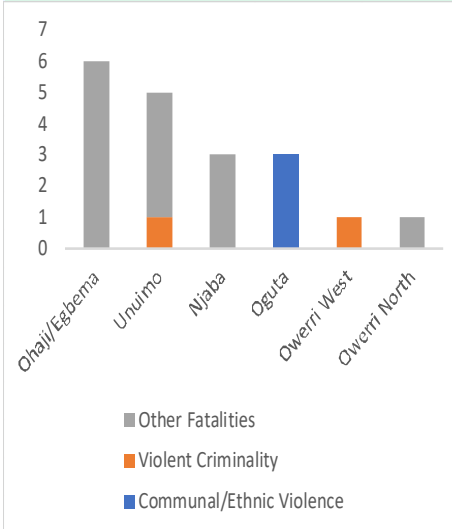
## Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, communal tensions, protests, and child trafficking. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

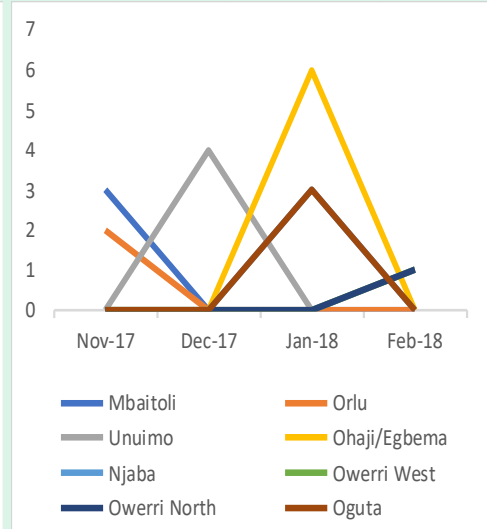
## Questions for Peace Agents

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 (December 2017 - February 2018)**

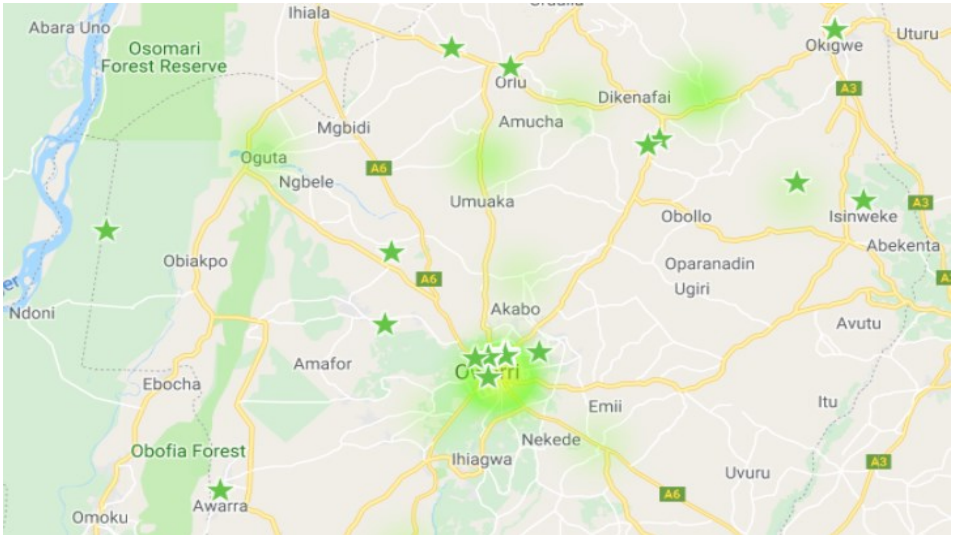


**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Ohaji/Egbema, followed by Unuimo 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from December 2017–February 2018 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](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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