

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers 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 Rivers state in February 2018. Incidents reported during this period included communal tensions, gang/cult violence, militancy, and other criminal activities.

Violent Criminality: In December, four gunmen who were disguised as operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) were reportedly killed by operatives of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS) in Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, soldiers reportedly killed three robbers who attempted to steal army uniforms from a military base in Emuhua LGA. In Port Harcourt, two policemen were reportedly killed by hoodlums, while they were patrolling the area. Also, in Port Harcourt, a policeman was reportedly killed by gunmen. A vigilante was also shot during the incident.

In January, gunmen reportedly attacked a community and killed 22 residents who were returning from a cross-over night church service in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. The attack was believed to be targeted at members of community vigilante group who destroyed a house belonging to the mother of a prominent criminal in the area. Separately, the police reportedly raided a hotel used by robbers as a hideout, and killed four suspects in Oyigbo LGA. In another incident, four hoodlums were

reportedly killed by members of the Ogba/Egbema/Ondoni (ONELGA) Security Planning Advisory Committee (OSPAC) in Ahoada West LGA. In February, the police reportedly arrested members of a gang of kidnapers that recently abducted the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a company in the state. The suspects included the son of a police officer and the driver of the abducted CEO.

Criminality during the period involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG). For example, in January, a 19-year old girl was reportedly killed and her body dumped in a septic tank in Port Harcourt.

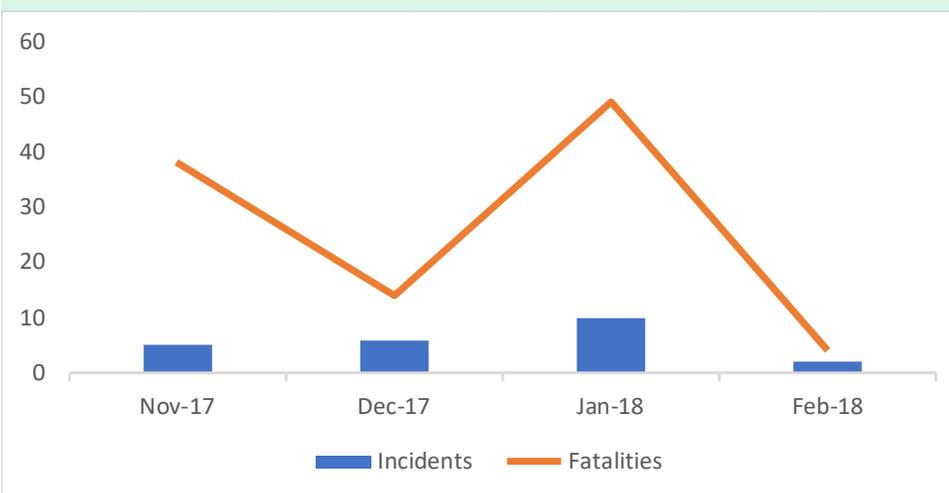
Militancy/Cult Violence: In January, seven people were reported killed during a gun battle between members of two rival cult groups in Andoni LGA.

Communal Tensions: In January, four persons were killed during a clash between Gwara and Gwure communities in Khana LGA. The clash reportedly resulted from a misunderstanding over a young girl Gwara that was allegedly abducted and raped by some Gwure youths.

Protest: In February, there was a protest at the reception center of the Port Harcourt International Airport by a group of Nigerians who have just been evacuated from Libya by the Nigerian government. The returnees protested over poor welfare at the center where they are camped, and delay by their various state government to evacuate them.

Others: In December, a man and a girl were reportedly killed by a fire caused by an explosion in Port Harcourt. The explosion occurred while the victims were filling their stove with adulterated kerosene. In a separate incident, a 6-year old boy was killed in an inferno in Port Harcourt. The boy died while his mother was asleep. In January, a day-old baby that was reportedly dumped in a refuse bin in front of a church by the mother was found dead in Port Harcourt. In February, an aircraft belonging to a local airline reportedly skidded off the runway while landing at the Port Harcourt International Airport. The incident is believed to have been caused by strong wind and storm as a result of heavy rainfall.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2017 – February 2018 in Rivers State.

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

Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2018

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

Communal Tensions: There was a peaceful protest by residents of about six communities over the destruction of the land and poor amenities in their communities in Tai LGA. The protesters marched to the Rivers State Government House, calling on the Federal government to rebuild their land that was destroyed over 24 years ago.

Protests: Youths protested against a noodle manufacturing company over issues relating to employment in Choba community, Obio/Akpor LGA. The protesting youths accused the company of casualization of workers, and threatened to shut down a factoring belonging to the company in the area.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, militancy, communal tensions, and protests. 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 (December 2017 - February 2018)

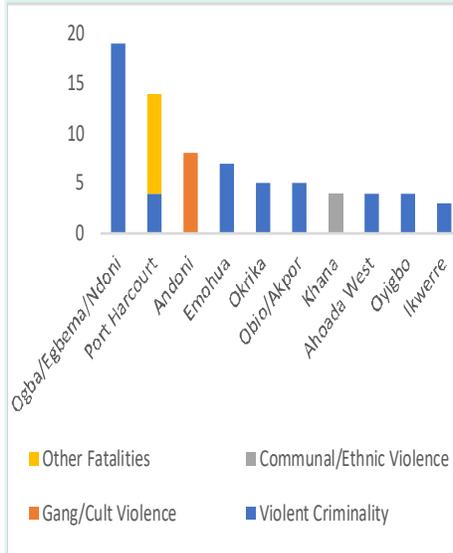
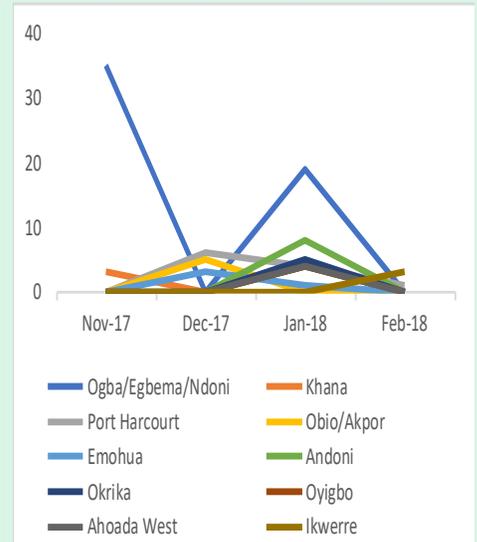
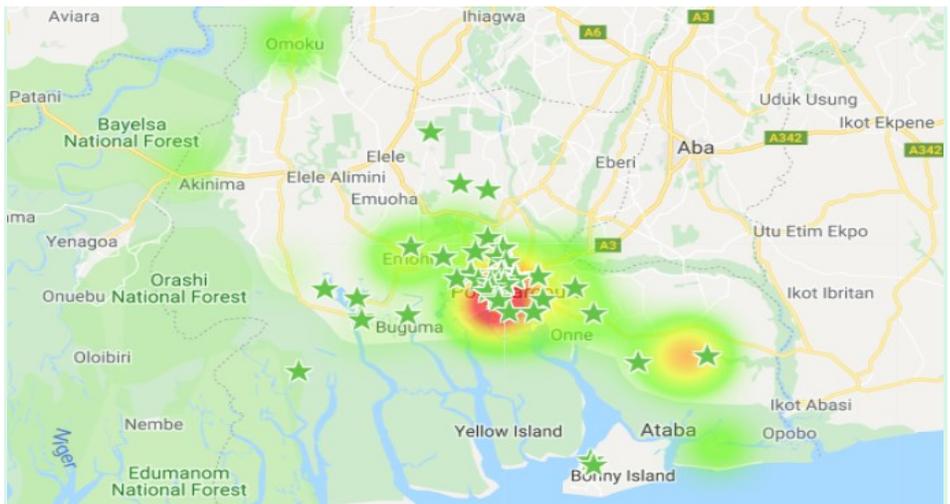


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, followed by Port Harcourt 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 December 2017–February 2018 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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