

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Imo State: August-September 2016

### 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 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a rise in violence and conflict fatalities in August 2016. Key incidents reported during the quarter included militancy, cult violence, criminality, political tensions, and communal violence.

**Communal Violence:** In August, seven persons were reportedly killed during a clash between Hausa community and the host Akokwa community in Ideato North. Three people were killed in a reprisal attack by the host community following the murder of two young women. In Ohaji/Egbema, about ten persons were reportedly shot dead during a leadership tussle.

**Violent Criminality:** In August, a couple were reportedly murdered by assassins who then kidnapped three children of the victims in Unuimo LGA. Separately, two students of the Imo state polytechnic were reportedly robbed and killed in their hostel in Ohaji/Egbema.

**Cult Violence:** in August, a 5-year old child was reportedly burnt to death by suspected members of Iceland cult group, who were allegedly looking for a police informant in Ohaji/Egbema. Separately, a group of cultists from the Iceland and Degbam group invaded a community in Ohaji/Egbema, killed one person, injured many, and burnt several houses. In Owerri North, a male graduate of the Imo state university was reportedly killed by cultists.

**Political Tensions:** In July, a shoot-out was reported between supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) during a re-run of the State House of Assembly elections in Oru East.

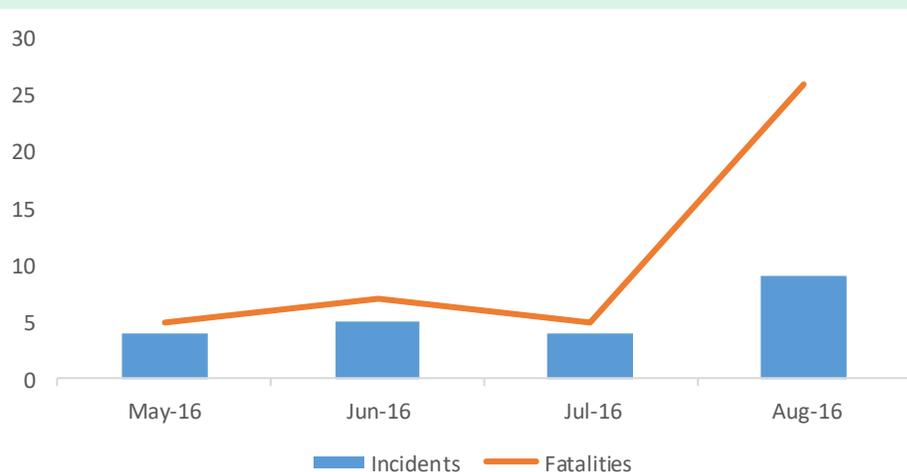
### Recent Incidents or Issues, September 2016

Incidents in September included militancy, cult violence, and a leadership tussles.

**Militancy:** A fatality was reported during a clash between a militant group and operatives of the Imo Security Network (ISN) in Ohaji/Egbema. The militants later attacked a government premises and reportedly destroyed several vehicles and buildings.

**Cult Violence:** A student of the Imo state university was reportedly killed by suspected rival cult gangs in Owerri North.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from May-August 2016 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

**Leadership Tussle:** There was a protest by traditional title holders over a lingering kingship tussle in Ngor Okpala. Separately, a fatality was reported during a youth riot over the selection of a traditional ruler in Ehime-Mbano.

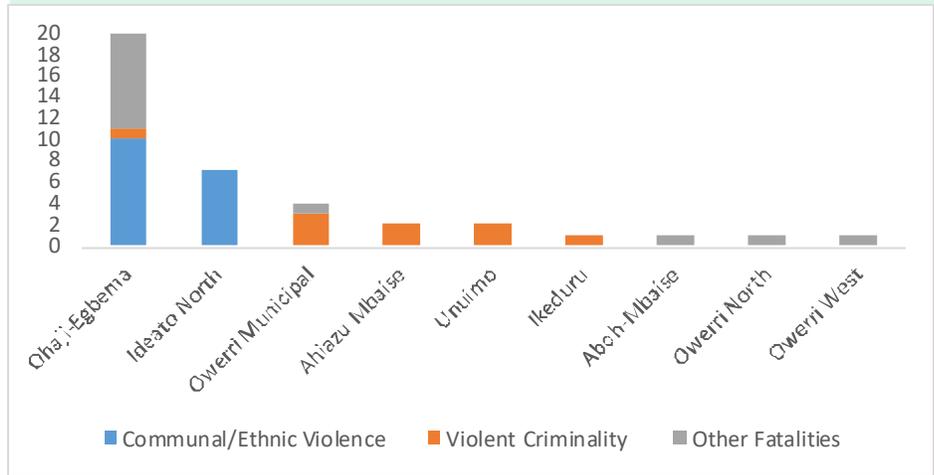
## Prognosis

Violence was elevated in the state in August, driven mainly by violent criminality and cult clashes. In the context of the recent state government amnesty program for militants, Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation and respond appropriately.

## Questions for Peace Agents

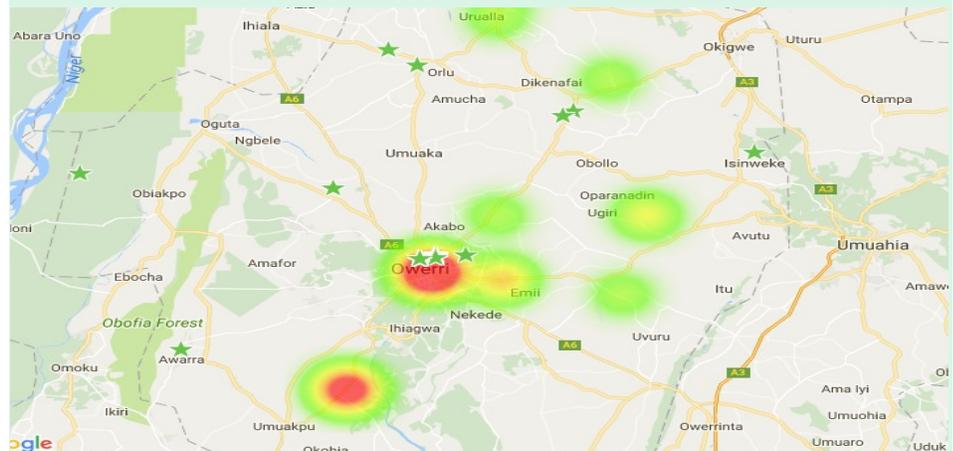
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 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 2016)**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Ohaji/Egbema had the highest level of violence and conflict risk in the state. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the

**Figure 3: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Imo State**



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from June–August 2016 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: [afeno@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afeno@pindfoundation.org)