

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Rivers 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 July. Issues reported during the period include cult violence, violent criminality, and sexual violence.

**Cult Violence:** In June, dozens of fatalities were reported in rival cult clashes in Emuoha and Ikwerre. In Emuoha, cultists reportedly attacked a police station, freed the detainees and killed up to a dozen people including security personnel. In July, four persons were reportedly killed by cult members in the Ogu community of Ogu/Bolo. A fatality was also reported during a clash between rival cult groups in Eleme. In August, thirteen cultists were reportedly killed in a clash between Icelanders and Degbam cult groups in Emuoha. Separately, four persons were killed in a cult clash in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni.

**Militancy:** In August, soldiers under the military's 'Operation Crocodile Smile' reportedly killed five militants and arrested twenty-three others in Ikwerre.

**Violent Criminality:** In August, an account officer from the Presidential Amnesty

Programme was reportedly killed along the expressway in Ahoada East. Separately, six robbers were reportedly shot dead by the police in Ahoada East. A prominent human rights lawyer and counsel to an APC chieftain in a murder case, was killed in Aluu in Ikwerre. In Obio/Akpor, three policemen were reportedly shot dead by kidnapers. Also in Obio/Akpor, a retired army officer was killed by gunmen. In Ikwerre, two lecturers with the University of Port Harcourt was reportedly kidnapped in two separate incidents.

**Rape/Child Abuse:** In August, several cases of rape/child abuse were reported in Etche, Obio/Akpor, and Port Harcourt. The victims were under-aged girls.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, September 2016

Incidents reported included cult violence, militancy, and communal tensions.

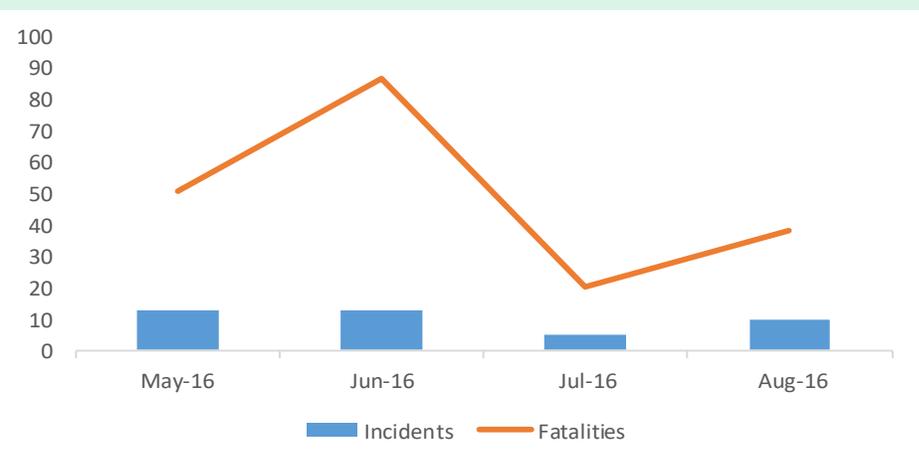
**Cult Violence:** Several cult clashes were reported in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni. In one incident, suspected members of the Greenlanders attacked two communities and killed six people. In another incident, six people were reported killed during a clash between rival cult groups. Separately, suspected cultists shot two policemen and killed a soldier in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni.

**Militancy:** Suspected members of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) reportedly destroyed an oil pipeline in Bonny.

**Kidnapping:** During the month, several kidnappings were reported in Port Harcourt, Ikwerre, Emuoha, and Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni. Fifteen oil workers were reported kidnapped by gunmen in Port Harcourt. Also, two nurses were reported kidnapped by gunmen who later demanded a ransom in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni.

**Communal Tensions:** There were tensions among residents following the state Governor's reported withdrawal of the

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from May-August 2016 in Rivers State.

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

certificate of recognition of a paramount ruler in Obio/Akpor.

**Other:** Gunmen in military uniforms reportedly burnt down the home of a former state House of Assembly member and an APC chieftain in Emuoha. Separately, a woman was reported murdered while asleep in her house in Obio/Akpor. Also, a drunk soldier reportedly stabbed a man to death in Obio/Akpor.

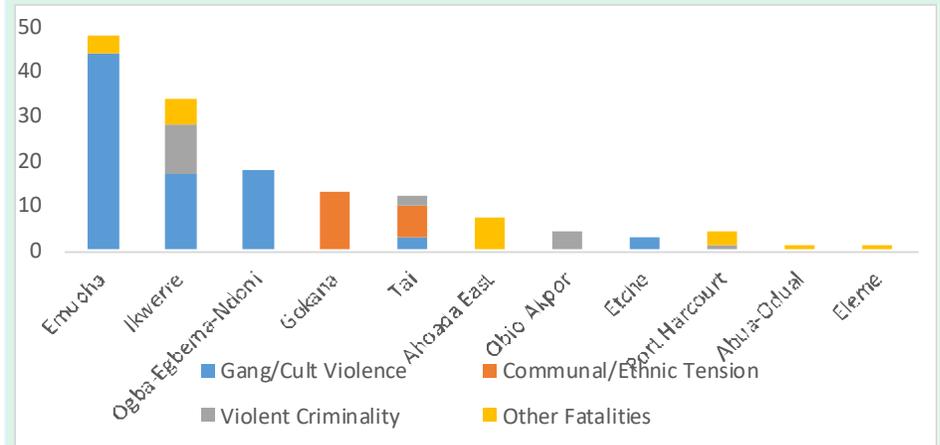
### Prognosis

There was a rise in conflict risk and violent fatalities in the state during the period, especially cult violence and criminality. The recurrent incidents of violent criminality and lethal cult clashes has the potential to exacerbate the current insecurity in the state. Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

### Questions for Peace Agents

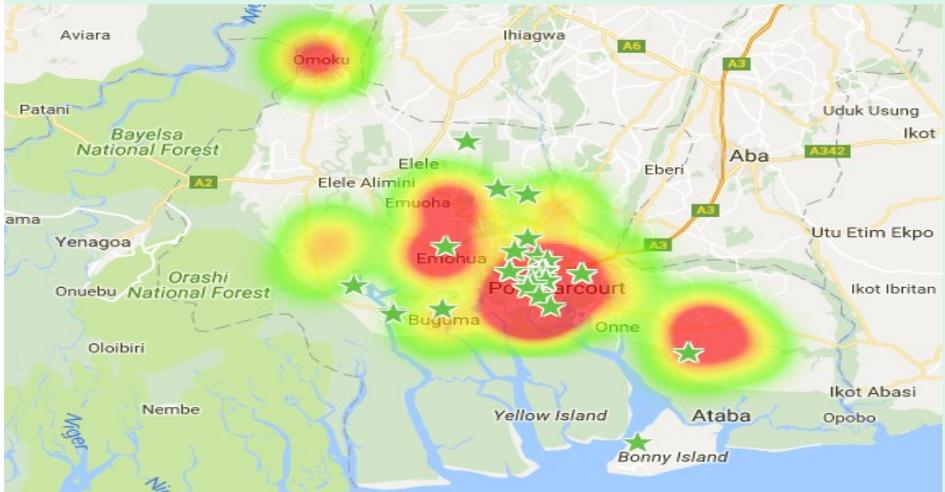
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 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 Rivers State this quarter shows that Emuoha followed by Ikwerre had the highest number of fatalities. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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



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