

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: July-August 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 May 2016-July 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), issues reported during the quarter were related mainly to inter-communal conflict, violent criminality, and protests.

Violent Criminality: In June, kidnappers reportedly shot dead two policemen and abducted two businessmen in Aba. Separately, the leader of a kidnapping syndicate was reportedly killed by police during a robbery in Aba. In July, a medical director at the state polytechnic was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Aba.

Inter-Communal Conflict: In May, several Igbo and Hausa traders were reportedly killed during inter-communal clashes sparked by the murder of a meat seller in Aba. Separately, three fatalities were reported during a conflict between Igbo and Hausa traders at the Ariaria International Market in Aba South.

Protests: In May, there was a protest march in response to the killing of two Igbo butchers, which was dispersed by soldiers. Separately, a number of pro-Biafra protests

took place, including one in Aba South on May 10th. There were also protests related to the 49th Anniversary of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) in Aba South and Umuahia North on May 30th. In July, there was a reported protest by a group of women in Umuahia, the state capital, over a court judgment that nullified the election of the incumbent state governor. In July, tricycle riders blocked the Aba- Ikot Ekpene road and protested alleged extortion by the police in the city.

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2016

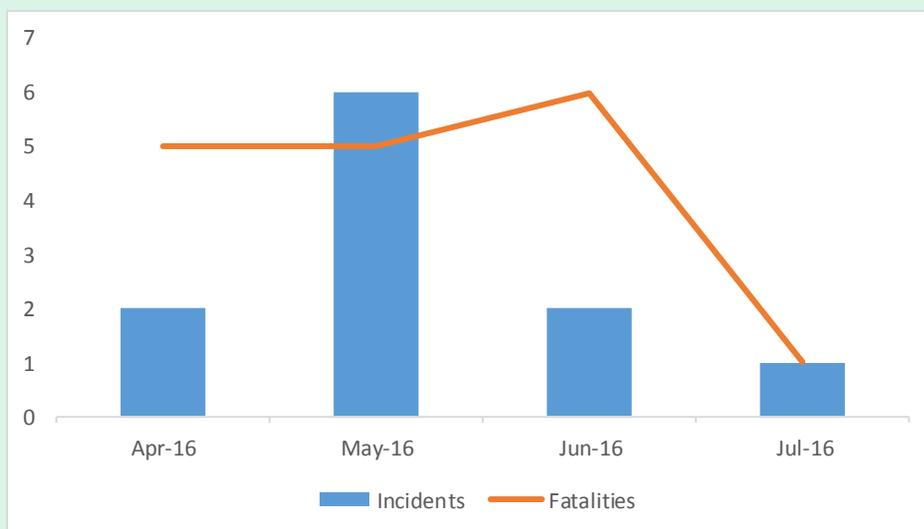
Incidents of conflict risk and violence that were reported in August included criminality, human trafficking and leadership tussle.

Kidnapping and Robbery: A team of policemen reportedly killed a member of a robbery gang that had earlier shot dead a barber in Aba North. Separately, a member of a robbery gang was reported shot dead by soldiers in Obi-Ngwa. In another incident, soldiers reportedly raided a kidnappers' hideout in Ugwunabgo, and killed a suspect.

Vigilante Violence: A woman was reportedly killed in a clash involving Members of the Abia Vigilante Service (AVS) at a restaurant in Aba North.

Child Trafficking: A 54-year old man and his wife were reported arrested by the police for child trafficking. Several pregnant girls were rescued from the 'baby factory' operated by the couple at the Ogbor-Hill in Aba North.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



Reported incidents and fatalities from April –July 2016 in Abia State.

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

Leadership Tussle: There were reported tensions among community leaders over the establishment of a town union in Owaza community in Ukwa West.

Protest: Abia State health workers reportedly protested the non-payment of their six months salaries by the state government by locking the gate leading into their premises.

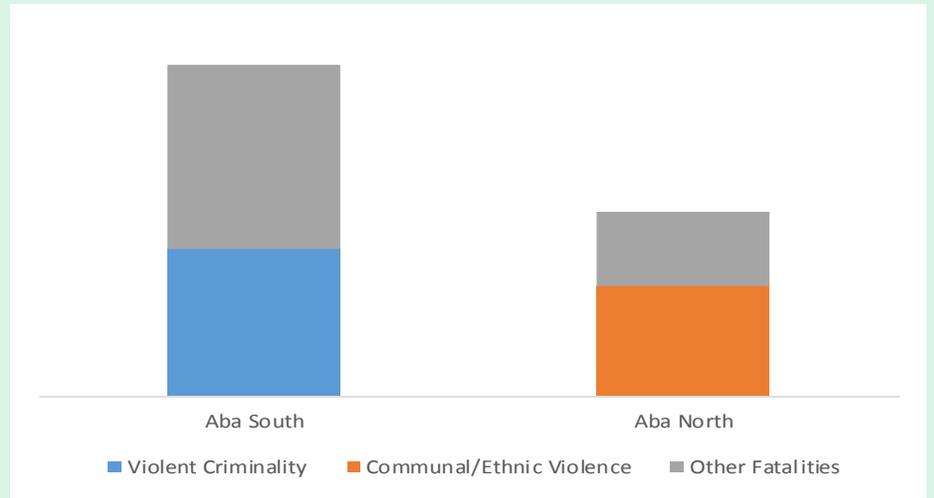
Prognosis

Although violence decreased in July, criminality has been elevated in the state during this period, including kidnapping and robbery. Communal tensions between Fulani-Hausa and Igbo groups was also a key driver of conflict during the quarter. Peace agents in the state should monitor the security situation in the state closely.

Questions for Peace Agents

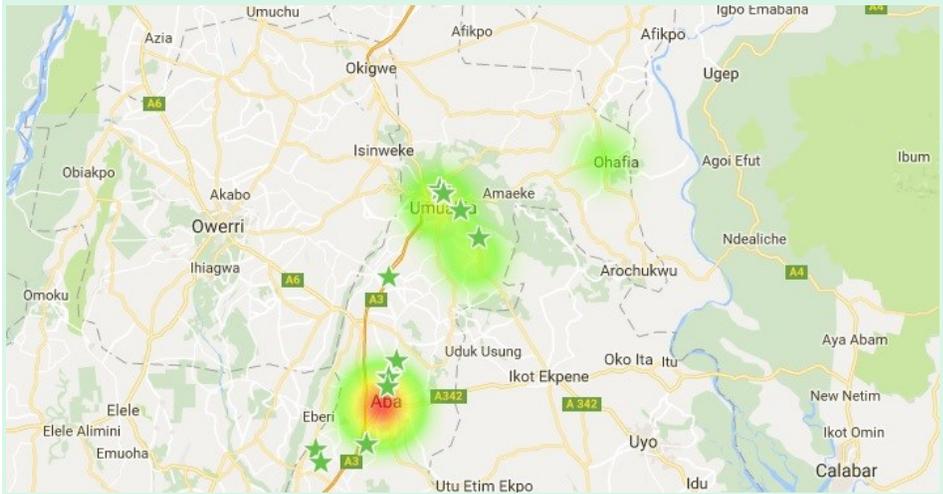
1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue or potential conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a top priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely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



Reported incidents show the relative levels of violence by LGA during the last three months. Source: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from May-July 2016 in Abia State; 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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