

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: September-October 2017

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

July-September 2017

According to Peace Map data, (see Figure 1) there was a spike in conflict risk and violent fatalities in Abia in September 2017. As indicated in the graph below, violence in the state had been decreasing before the spike in the month of September. Reported conflict incidents during this period related mainly to separatism/ethnic tensions, criminality, and violence affecting women.

Separatism/Military Crackdown: In August, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) reportedly announced the formation of Biafra Security Services (BSS). The security outfit was allegedly formed to protect locals from attack by herdsmen. The police later declared the security outfit illegal. In September, the Nigerian Army started a special military operation code named 'Operation Python Dance' in response to the activities of supporters of IPOB. During the month, there were several reported clashes between the Nigerian Army and supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the state. In Umuahia North, five were reportedly killed, several injured and property destroyed when soldiers invaded

the home of IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kalu. In a separate incident in Umuahia North, 22 were reportedly killed in a clash between IPOB supporters and soldiers. In Aba North, a police station was reportedly set ablaze by IPOB supporters, killing one policeman. In Ukwa East, eight were reported killed and several others injured during a clash between IPOB supporters and soldiers.

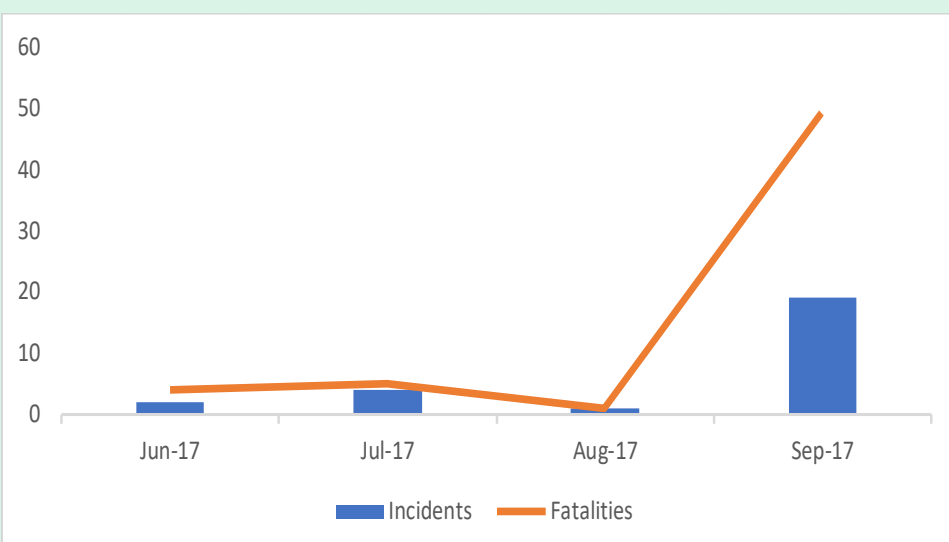
Criminality: In July, four kidnappers were reportedly killed by the police in Isiala-Ngwa South LGA. Separately, a 76-year old commercial tricycle operator was reportedly killed by a university student in Umuahia North. Robbers reportedly attacked a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) lodge in Ummuneochi LGA, beat up corps members and robbed them. In August, a robbery suspect was reportedly arrested by the

police at a traffic control post in Aba. A bullet proof vest and ammunitions were recovered from the suspect. Separately, the police reportedly prevented an attempted kidnapping in Aba South.

Criminality had significant impact on Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the state during the period. In July, a woman was reportedly killed by her boyfriend over an unwanted pregnancy in Aba South. Another woman was reportedly killed in a separate incident.

Others: In August, a truck driver was reportedly shot dead by a policeman at a security checkpoint in Aba North. In September, a businessman was reportedly killed by cultists in Aba North.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



Reported incidents and fatalities from June –September 2017 in Abia State.

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

Recent Incidents or Issues, October 2017

Reported incidents during the month related mainly to separatism and crackdown by public security forces.

Criminality: Four members of a vigilante group were reportedly killed by gunmen at a relaxation spot in Aba South LGA. Four others were injured during the attack.

Others: A middle-aged man was reportedly killed by a mob for having sexual relations with a married woman in Bende LGA. Separately, a mentally ill teenage boy reportedly killed his aged parents in their sleep in Isiala Ngwa North LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to criminality and clashes between supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and soldiers under the military exercise code-named 'Operation Python Dance' in the state. Peace agents must continue to monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

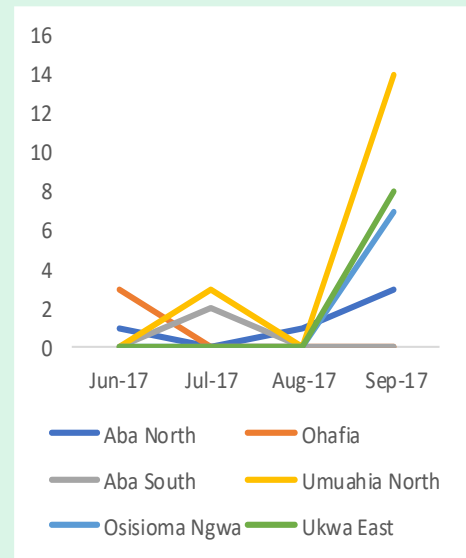
Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue 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 (July – September 2017)

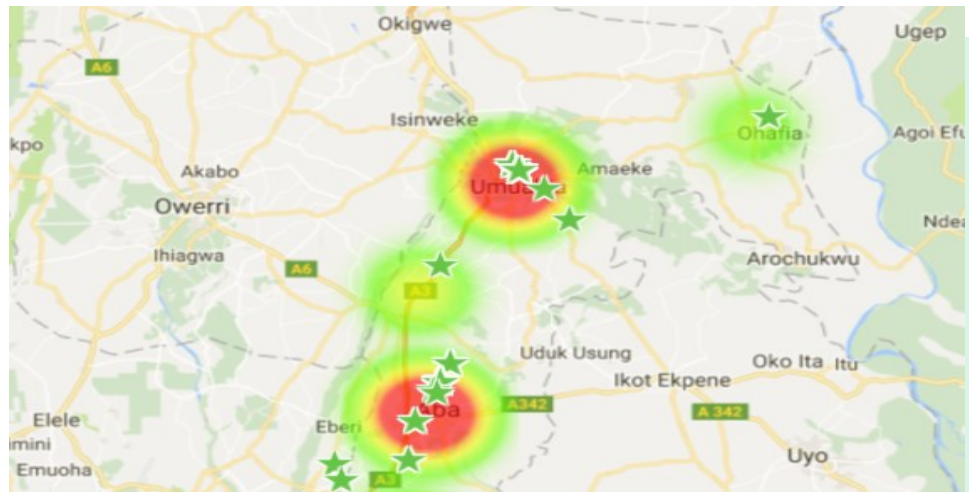


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (July – September 2017)



Reported fatalities show that Umuahia North and Osisioma Ngwa had the most violent incidents during the last three months. 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 Abia State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from July-september 2017 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

Contact Us



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