

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: June-July 2019

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

April-June 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 2), Abia was the least violent state in the Niger Delta during this period. Reported incidents in the state during this period related mainly to criminality, gang/cult violence, inter-communal conflict, violent protest, and labor strike.

Criminality: In April, a woman was reportedly robbed and killed by hoodlums at a Federal Housing Estate in Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA. Separately, a robber was reportedly killed and burned by a mob along Umule Road, Osisioma LGA. In May, an auto mechanic was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along Opobo road, Aba South LGA. Separately, gunmen who were operating in a tricycle reportedly attacked a sport betting center in Aba South LGA.

Cult Violence: In April, a young man was reportedly killed by cultists during a visit to his parents at Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA. Separately, a 29-year old male cultist who doubles as a serial killer reportedly killed a rival cult member in Aba Town, Aba North LGA. The victim was reportedly chased into a

church and killed in the presence of the congregation.

Communal Conflict: In April, a woman reportedly had her fingers cut off by herders at Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA. The woman was reportedly attacked after she asked the herders to move their cattle from the front of her shop.

Violent Protest/Riot: In May, there was a protest by some market women over the alleged imposition of a levy in Ahia Ukwu community, Umuahia South LGA. The levy was reportedly meant for the construction of uniform tables for traders in a market. In June, there was a violent protest by youths following the killing of a young man by a policeman in Afaraukwu community, Umuahia North LGA. The protesters burned a car belonging to the policeman.

Labor Strike: In June, teachers in public primary and secondary schools in the state embarked on a labor strike over issues relating to payment of salaries. Separately, there was a protest by some health workers in the state over payment of salaries in Umuahia North LGA. In another incident, some traders protested at a shopping center over the high-handedness of the leadership of the market in Umuahia, the state capital. The leadership of the market was alleged to have been using a vigilante group to harass the traders.

Recent Incidents or Issues, July 2019

Reported incidents during this period related mainly to communal conflict and criminality including kidnapping for ransom.

Figure 1: Incidents & Fatalities, Abia State

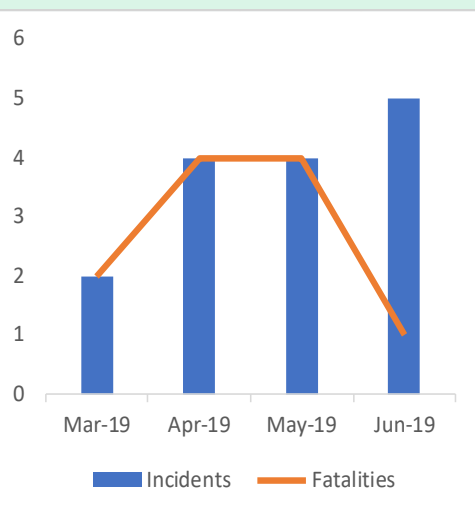
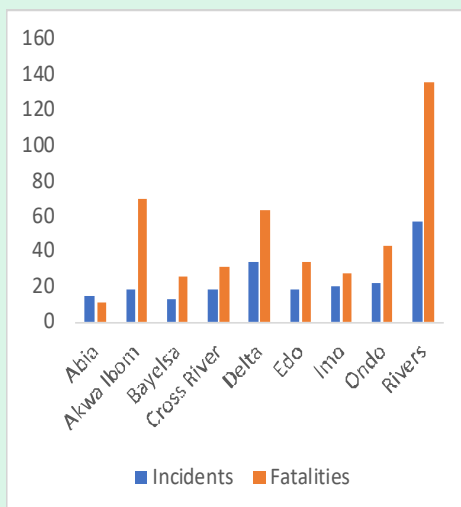


Figure 2: Incidents & Fatalities, Niger Delta (March - June 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from March – June 2019 in Abia State and regional trends.

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

Communal Conflict: A man was reportedly killed during a communal clash over a boundary dispute in Lokpanta community in Umunneochi LGA, Abia State. Youths from Lokpanta reportedly clashed with youths from a community in neighboring Ebonyi state over the ownership of a quarry site.

Criminality: A robber was reportedly killed during a gun battle with operatives of the Abia State Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Mgboko community, Obingwa LGA.

Kidnapping: A bureau de change operator was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen in Okpu-Umuobo community, Osisioma LGA. The kidnappers later demanded a 5-million naira ransom. Separately, the police reportedly rescued two kidnapped victims along New Umuahia Road in Aba North LGA.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and violence in Abia state during this period were driven mainly by criminality, cult violence, inter-communal tensions, labor strikes, and protests. Peace agents must continue to monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything 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 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (April - June 2019)

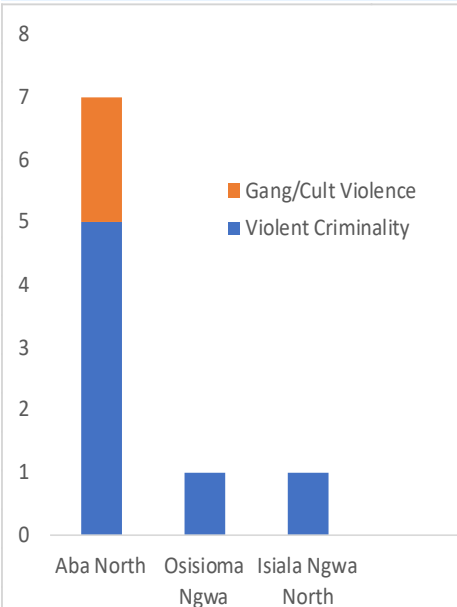
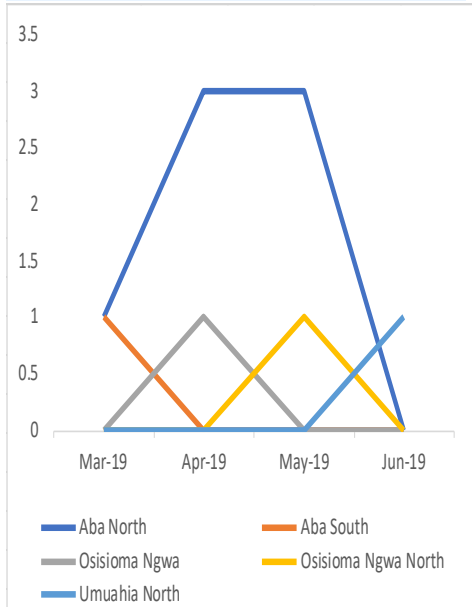
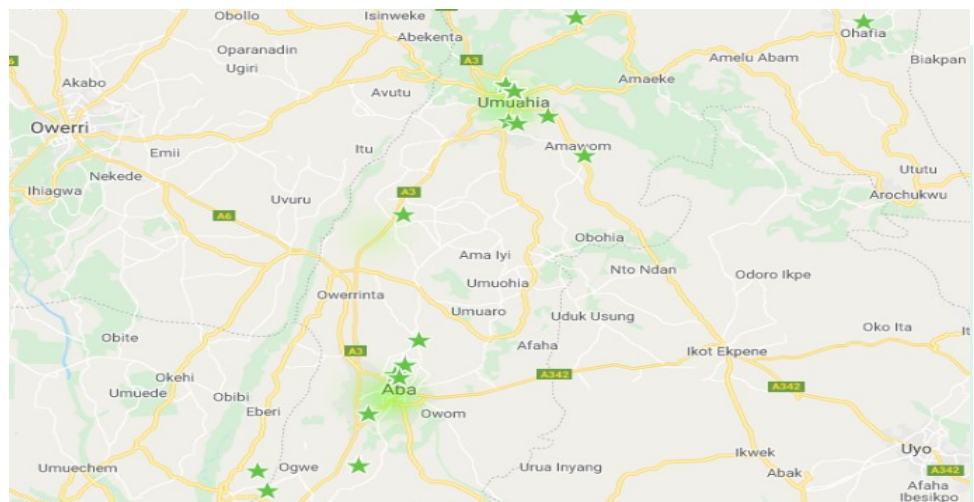


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported fatalities by Local Government Area (LGA) in Abia State this period show that Aba North had the most reported conflict fatalities. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Abia State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from April - June 2019 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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org