

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: July-August 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

May-July 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 violent criminality, kidnapping for ransom, inter-communal conflict, and violent protest.

Violent Criminality: In May, gunmen operating in a tricycle reportedly attacked a sport betting center in Aba South LGA. In July, a robber was reportedly killed during a gun battle with operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Mgboko community, Obi Ngwa LGA.

Kidnapping: In May, an auto mechanic was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along Opobo road, Aba South LGA. In July, 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.

Communal Conflict: In July, a man was reportedly killed during a communal clash

over a boundary dispute in Lokpanta community in Umunneochi LGA. Youths from Lokpanta reportedly clashed with youths from a community in neighboring Ebonyi state over the ownership of a quarry site.

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 reported 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, some traders protested at a shopping center over 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. Separately, there was a protest by some health workers in the state over payment of salaries in Umuahia North LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, August 2019

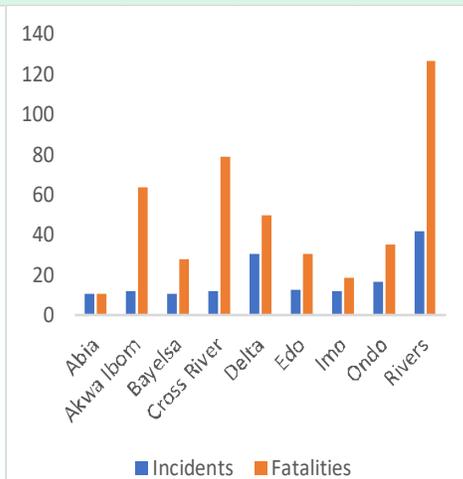
Reported incidents during this period related mainly to communal conflict and criminality.

Communal Conflict: During the month, a market and some farmlands were reportedly attacked by armed men during a conflict over a land dispute between Amaba and Ovim communities in Isuikwuato LGA. Public security forces were later deployed to the area to address the conflict.

Figure 1: Incidents & Fatalities, Abia State



Figure 2: Incidents & Fatalities, Niger Delta (April - July 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from April – July 2019 in Abia State and regional trends.

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

Criminality: A policeman was reportedly killed during a gun battle between operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and some kidnapers in Aro Ngwa community, Osisioma LGA.

Others: A commercial motorcyclist (Okada Rider) was reportedly shot dead by a soldier at a security checkpoint in Ohanze Isiahia town, Obi Ngwa LGA. The motorcyclist was allegedly shot for refusing to pay 100 naira demanded by the security operatives at the checkpoint. The incident sparked off a violent protest by youths in the area. The youths reportedly set fire on a military patrol van during the protest.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and violence in Abia state during this period were driven mainly by criminality including kidnaping for ransom, inter-communal conflict, and violent 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 (May - July 2019)

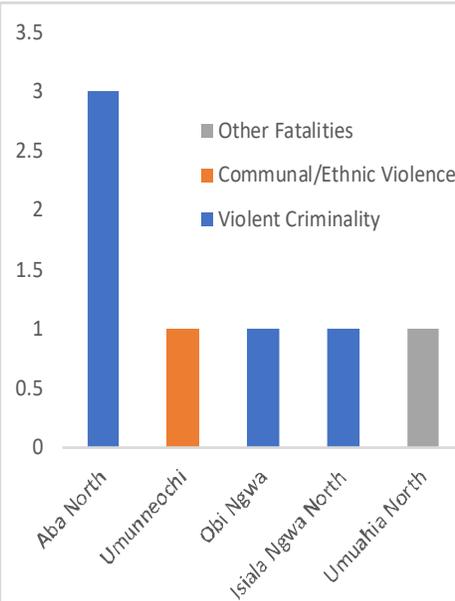
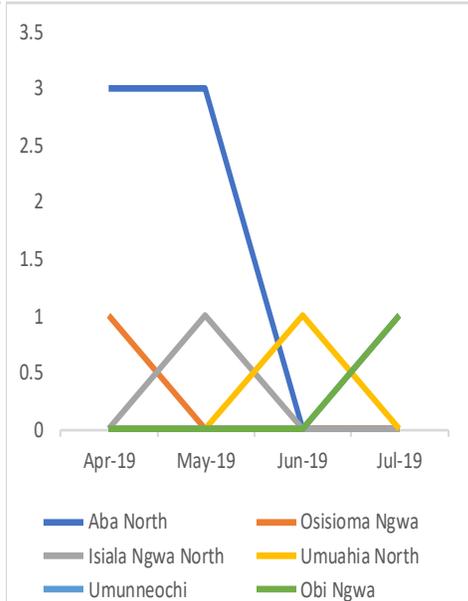
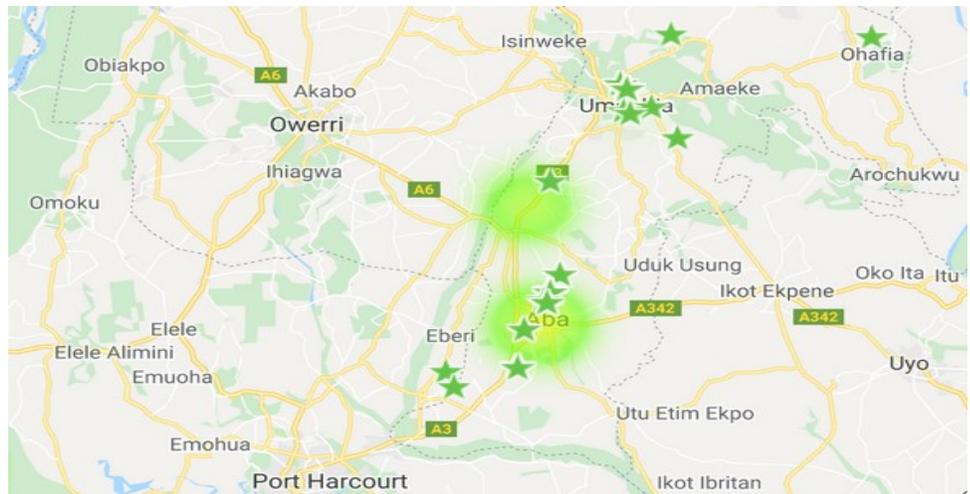


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



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 May- July 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



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