

Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

Abia State - February 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 Nov 2015-Jan 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents of lethal violence occurred in November 2015 and January 2016. In both months, protests and agitations by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) were held after a popular radio commentator was jailed. Several protests turned violent and, in one case, at least six fatalities were reported when police allegedly opened fire on a demonstrating crowd in mid-January. In addition, protests over disputed governorship elections also occurred in January, although no fatalities were reported. Other incidents included vigilante/mob violence, kidnappings, and clashes between security agents and criminals.

Recent Incidents or Issues, February 2016

Pro-Biafran protests, which escalated in January 2016, continued into February, with violent clashes between security agencies and demonstrators.

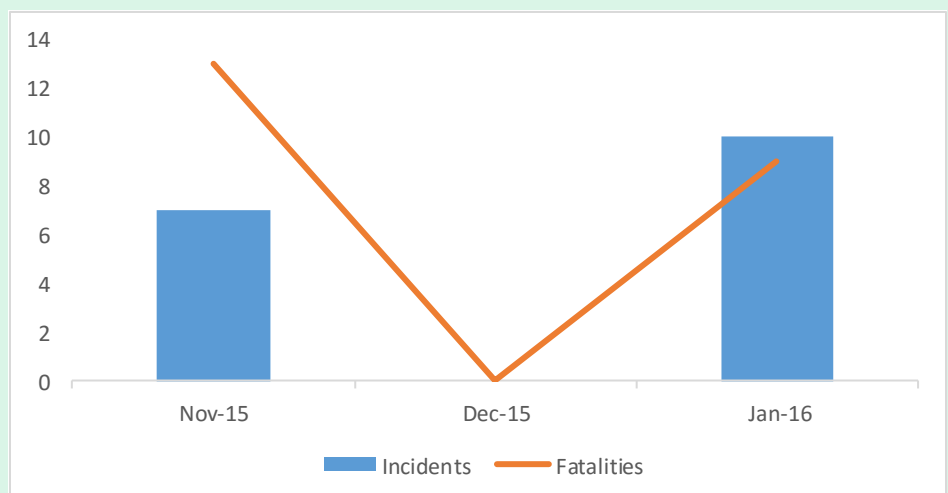
Ethno-nationalism: In Aba South, six pro-Biafran protesters were reportedly shot dead in early February by the police during a rally by IPOB members. Separately, in Ukwu West, a combined team of soldiers, Navy and Police shot at IPOB members who gathered

for prayers, reportedly killing 22 people and injuring over 30 others.

Assassinations: In Obingwa, the traditional ruler of Ikeala Ahiaba community was reported killed on February 23.

Soldiers and Police Clash: In Umuahia, soldiers reportedly clashed with a team of policemen who manhandled an Army Captain after a traffic incident.

Figure 1: Abia State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from November 2015-January 2016 in Abia State.

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

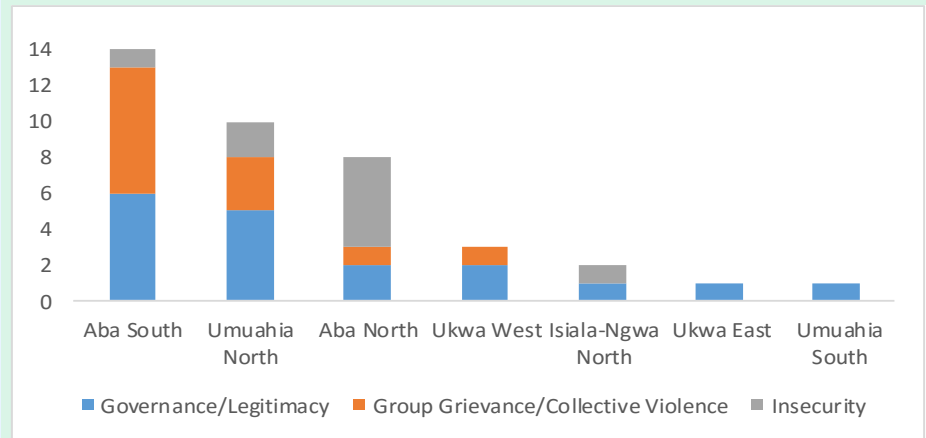
Prognosis

There has been a rise in conflict risk and violence in Abia State since January 2016. Pro-Biafra protests have increased in Aba South and Umuahia North following the arrest and detention of Nnamdi Kanu, the Director of Radio Biafra. State security agents have indicated that they are prepared to respond if future pro-Biafran processions, rallies, or protests are not restricted to certain streets.

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: Trends in Conflict by LGA (Nov 2015-Jan 2016)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Abia State shows that Aba South and Umuahia North had the most incidents across the three indicators.

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

Figure 3: Heatmap of Incidents and Peace Agents in Abia State



Heatmap shows concentration of incidents reported from Nov 2015-Jan 2016 in Abia; 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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