

Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

Abia State - March 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

Dec 2015-Feb 2016

Most fatalities during this period were associated with pro-Biafra protests. According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), February was the most lethal of the last three months. In January, several fatalities were reported in Aba when police allegedly opened fire on members of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), who were protesting the arrest of a popular pro-Biafran radio commentator. Then in February, multiple IPOB protesters were reported shot dead by the police during a rally in Aba South. In Ukwu West, security forces reportedly shot at IPOB members who gathered to pray at a public school, killing several. In an unrelated incident, the traditional ruler of Ikeala

Ahiaba community in Obingwa was reported assassinated on February 23.

Recent Incidents or Issues, March 2016

Incidents reported in March included murder, vigilante/mob violence, cult-related violence, robbery, and assassination.

Murder: In Umuovo in Umuahia South, an 86-year old man and his 70-year old wife were reported murdered by suspected armed robbers who allegedly broke into their house at night to rob them.

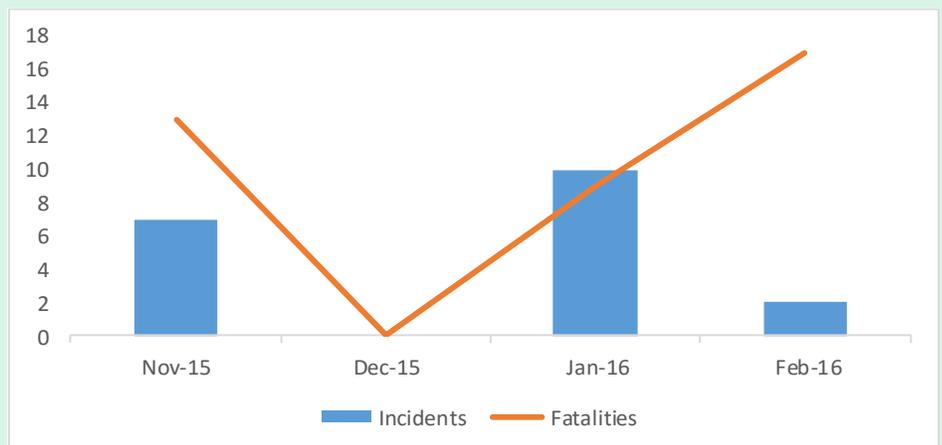
In Aba North, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), who is in charge of the Human Rights Desk in the Local Government Area (LGA), was reportedly shot dead by suspected hired assassins.

Cult Violence: Two students were reported killed in a series of clashes and reprisal attacks between members of rival cult groups, Burkina Faso and the Mafia, at Abia State University Uturu, in Isuikwato LGA.

Prognosis

In March there was a lull in the protests and clashes associated with the pro-Biafra

Figure 1: Abia State Incidents and Fatalities



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

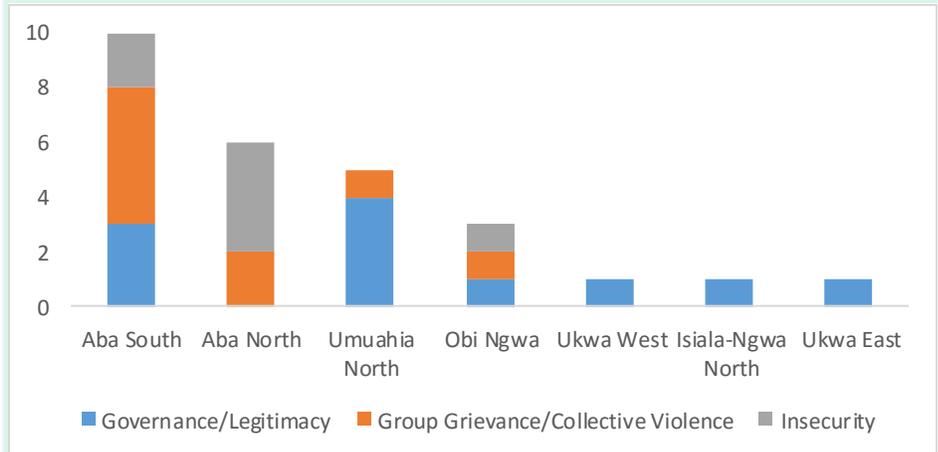
Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

movement. However, there has reportedly been a rise in gang violence and criminality in the state since January 2016, including several shootings and kidnappings. Also, now that the government has begun enforcing a ban on touting, peace actors should strive to ensure that youth do not resort to other criminal activities.

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?

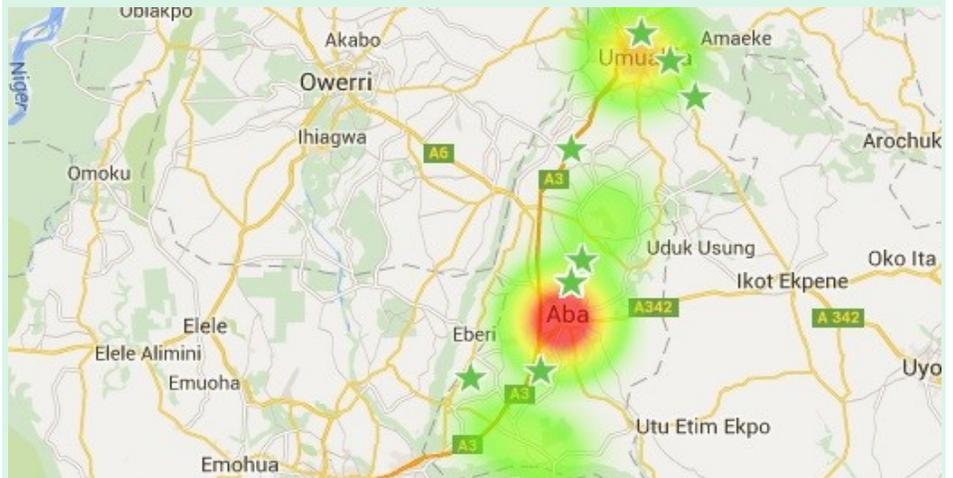
Figure 2: Trends in Conflict by LGA (Dec 2015 - Feb 2016)



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA), in Abia State this quarter show that Aba South, Aba North, and Obi Ngwa had the most incidents of violence and conflict risk.

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 Dec 2015 –Feb 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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