

Monthly Conflict Incident Tracker

Abia State - April/May 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 Feb 2016-Apr 2016

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), February was the most lethal month during the period. However, January had the highest incidents of conflict risk and violence. In February, over a dozen Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) protesters were reportedly killed in a clash with security forces.

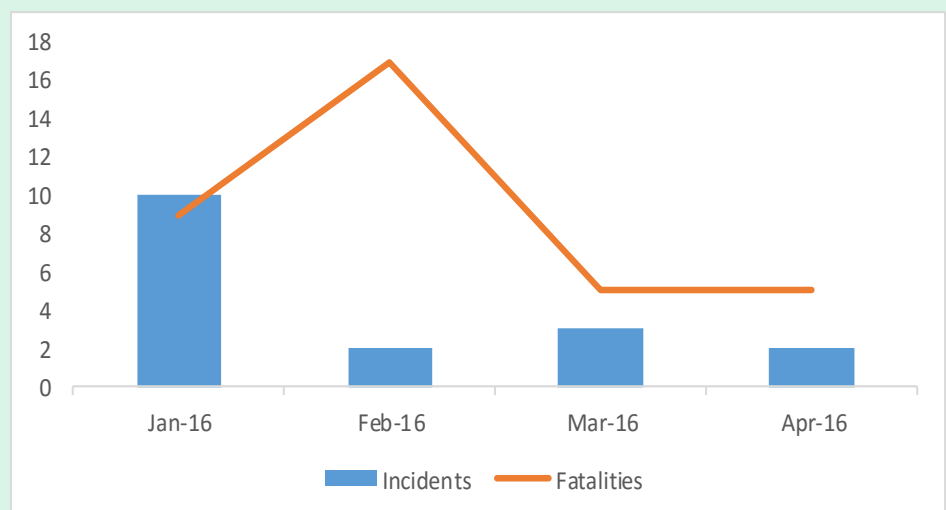
In March, a police officer, who was in charge of the Human Rights Desk in the LGA, was reportedly shot dead by suspected hired assassins in Aba North. It was also reported in April that five Hausa-Fulani commercial motorcyclists were reportedly abducted and murdered by kidnappers in Isuikwato. This incident led to ethno-sectarian finger-pointing and speculation as to motive.

Separately, in April, soldiers reportedly killed two kidnappers and rescued a kidnapped woman and her son in Osisioma Ngwa. Also, there was a reported shoot-out between gunmen and security agents in the convoy of the state governor in Aba.

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2016

Incidents of conflict risk and violence that were reported in May related to heightened inter-communal tensions. A clash with ethnic undertones reportedly led to the deaths of about a dozen Igbo and Hausa traders after a meat seller was killed in Aba. Also, three fatalities were reported during a conflict between Igbo and Hausa traders at the Ariaria International Market in Aba South after a man was stabbed and the suspected murderer was lynched.

Figure 1: Abia State Incidents and Fatalities



Reported incidents and fatalities from Jan –Apr 2016 in Abia State.

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

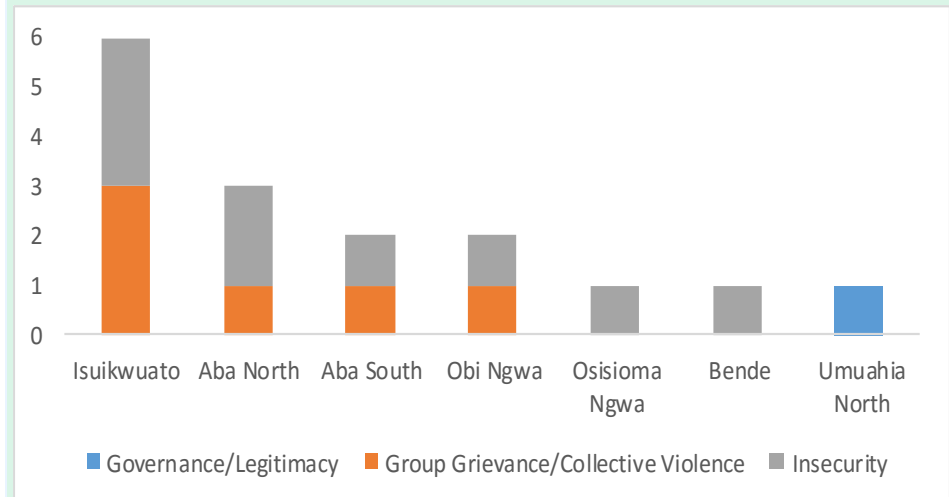
Prognosis

Although there has been a relative reduction in reported incidents of violence in the past three months, there has been a rise in conflict risk factors; especially inter-communal tensions. These tensions are evidenced in the context of pro-Biafran protests and subsequent clashes with the security services, as well as the reported revival of the Bakassi Vigilante Group. Also of concern are the potential tensions between Hausa-Fulani and IPOB supporters. These rising inter-communal tensions should be monitored by peace agents in the state as frustrations and protests can quickly gain momentum and turn violent.

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 (Feb - Apr 2016)



Reported incidents show the relative levels of violence and conflict risk by LGA during the last three months. 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 Feb - Apr 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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