

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: April-May 2017

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

February-April 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), reported incidents during this period related mainly to communal tensions, criminality, protests, and extrajudicial killing.

Communal Tensions: In March, a fatality was reported during a clash between herdsmen and farmers in Ozuitem community in Bende LGA. Crops and cattle were reportedly destroyed during the clash. In April, there was reported tension between herders and farmers over destruction of farmlands by grazing cattle in Ukwa East LGA.

Criminality: In February, soldiers reportedly arrested a robbery suspect at a checkpoint in Ukwa West LGA, and recovered arms and ammunition including 38 AK-47 rifles. Separately, four members of the Abia State Vigilante Services were reportedly killed by kidnappers in Aba. In March, the Information Communication Technology (ICT) center of the Abia state headquarters of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was reportedly burgled by robbers who stole sensitive election

documents. In April, two robbers were reportedly killed by the police during a robbery incident in a petrol station in Aba North LGA. Separately, the leader of a robbery gang that had killed a banker was reportedly killed by the police in Aba North.

Labor Strikes/Protests: In March, thousands of protesters from the five states of the South-East geopolitical area reportedly converged at Umuahia, the Abia LGA state capital for a rally to demand for 'Good Governance'. Separately, students of the College of Management Sciences (COLMAS) of the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, reportedly protested against a government policy that scrapped some courses in the college. In April, there was a reported protest over re-selling of allotted plots of lands in a government

housing estate in Umuahia North LGA.

Other Incidents: In March, a man was reportedly shot by a policeman at a security checkpoint in Aba. The policeman was arrested after the incident. In April, a 42-year old man reportedly died in police custody in Umuahia South LGA. Separately, a young man was reportedly arrested for beheading his mother for ritualistic purposes in Osisioma Ngwa LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2017

Reported incidents during the month included criminality, and protests.

Violent Criminality: During the month, eight members of the Abia State Vigilante Services were reportedly killed by robbers in Aba North. Separately, a businessman was

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



reportedly shot dead by robbers who made away with his five million Naira in Aba North. The victim was killed on his way to deposit the money in a bank. In another incident, a man was reportedly shot dead in his poultry farm in Umuahia South. The victim was allegedly killed for owing a former staff salaries.

Protests: There was a protest by supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Ohafia LGA. The protesters who were mostly women alleged intimidation and harassment by Nigerian soldiers.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period were mainly related to criminality, communal tensions, extra-judicial killings, and labor strikes/protests. Peace agents must continue to monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

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: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (February – April 2017)

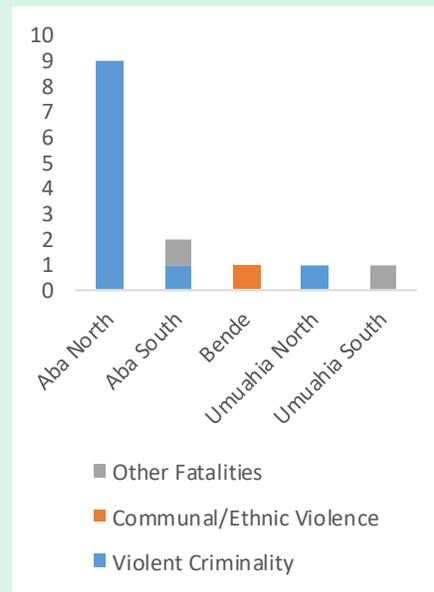
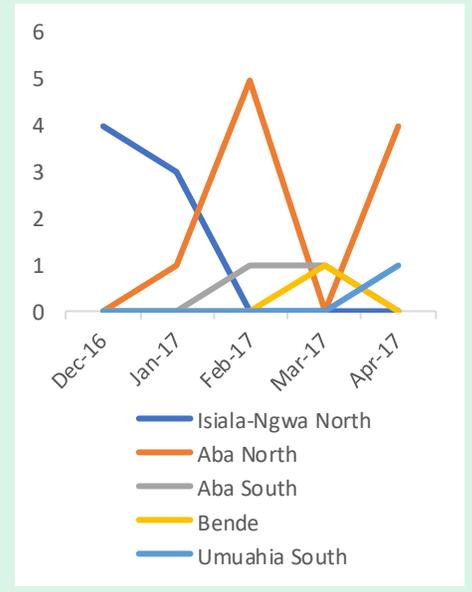
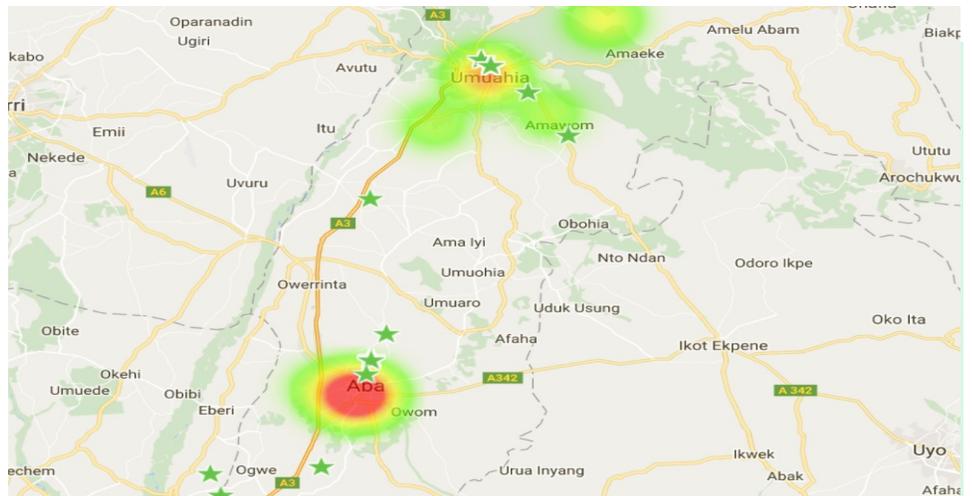


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (February – April 2017)



Reported fatalities show that Aba North had the most violent incidents during the last three months. Source (Figure 2): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 3): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Abia State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from February-April 2017 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

Contact Us



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator
Telephone: 08172401595
Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org