

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: August-September 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

June-August 2017

According to Peace Map data, reported conflict incidents during this period related mainly to separatism/ethnic tensions, criminality, child trafficking, and violence affecting women. As indicated in the graph below, violence in Abia had been decreasing before the spike in the month of September.

Separatism/Ethnic Tensions: In August, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) reportedly announced the formation of Biafra Security Services (BSS). The security outfit was allegedly formed to protect locals from attack by herdsmen. The police later declared the security outfit illegal.

Criminality: In July, four kidnapers were reportedly killed by police in Isiala-Ngwa South LGA. Separately, a 76-year old commercial tricycle operator was reportedly killed by a university student in Umuahia North. Robbers reportedly attacked a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) lodge in Ummuneochi LGA, beat up corps members and robbed them. In August, a robbery suspect was reportedly arrested by the police at a traffic control post in Aba. A bullet

proof vest and ammunitions were recovered from the suspect. Separately, the police reportedly prevented an attempted kidnapping in Aba South.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In July, a woman was reportedly killed by her boyfriend over an unwanted pregnancy in Aba South. Another woman was reportedly killed in a separate incident.

Child Trafficking: In June, a 28-year old commercial motorcyclist and father of three was reportedly arrested by the police for selling his niece for a hundred and fifty thousand Naira in Isiala-Ngwa North LGA. The suspect reportedly sold the child to raise money for the upkeep of his family.

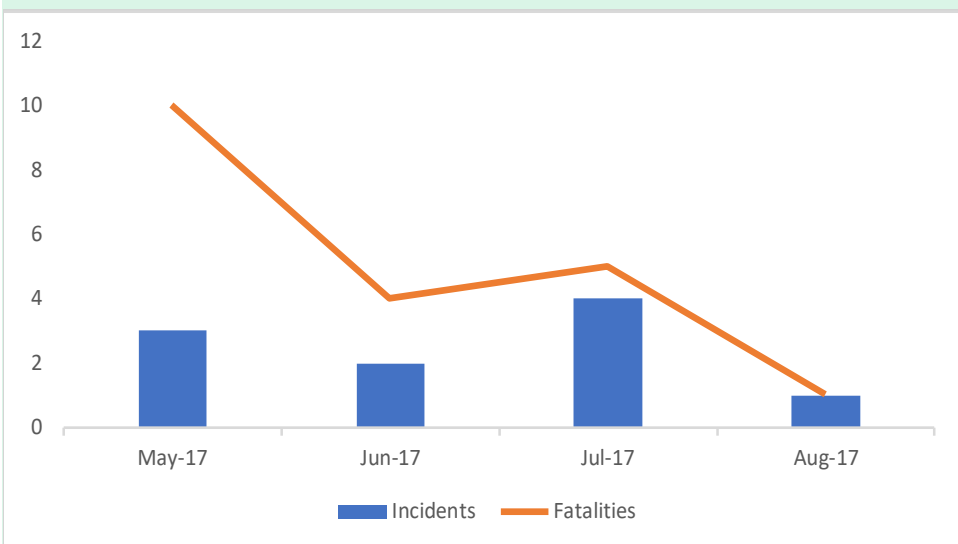
Others: In August, a truck driver was reportedly shot dead by a policeman at a security checkpoint in Aba North.

Recent Incidents or Issues, September 2017

Reported incidents during the month related mainly to separatism and crackdown by public security forces.

Separatism/Military Crackdown: During the month, the Nigerian Army started a special military exercise code named 'Operation Python Dance' reportedly to respond to the activities of the supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the state. The exercise resulted in series of violent clashes between soldiers and IPOB supporters. In Umuahia North, five were reportedly killed, several injured and property destroyed when soldiers invaded the home of IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kalu. In a separate incident in

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



Reported incidents and fatalities from May –July 2017 in Abia State.

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

Umuahia North, 22 were reportedly killed in a clash between IPOB supporters and soldiers. In Aba North, a police station was reportedly set ablaze by IPOB supporters, killing one policeman. In Ukwia East, eight were reported killed and several others injured during a clash between IPOB supporters and soldiers. Following the series of violent clashes, the state government declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the state.

Cult Violence: A businessman was reportedly killed by cultists in Aba North.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to clashes between supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and soldiers under the military exercise code-named ‘Operation Python Dance’ in the state. The military exercise and its aftermath has heightened communal, ethnic, religious and political tensions, and exacerbated the security situation in the state. 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 (June – August 2017)

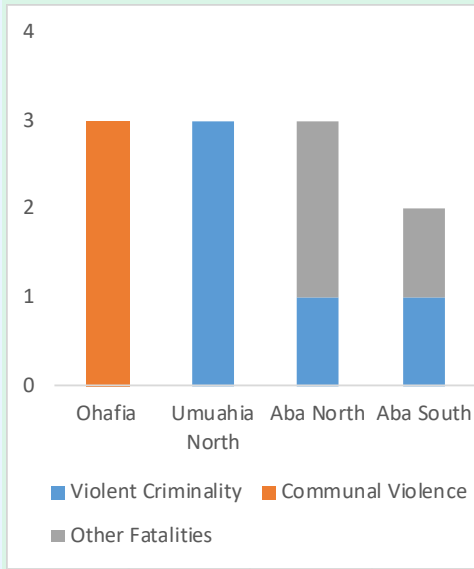
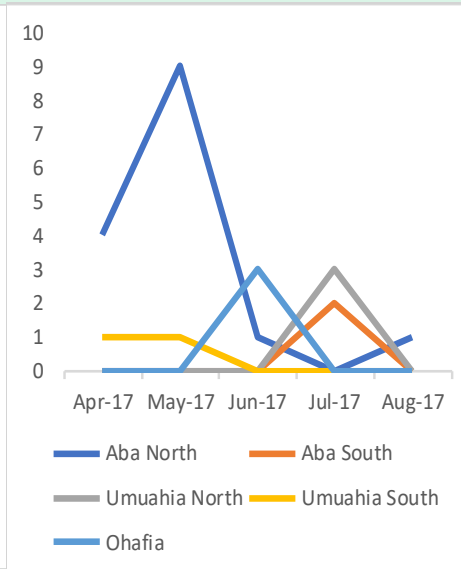
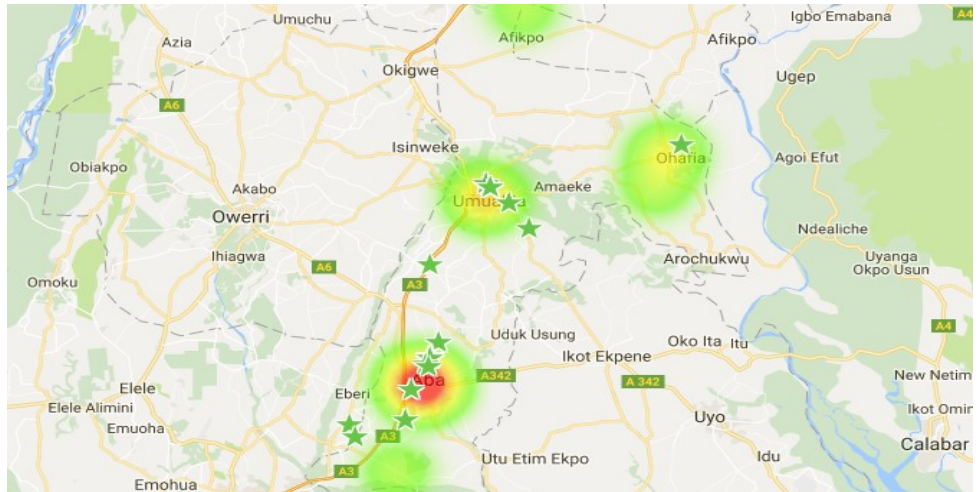


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (June – August 2017)



Reported fatalities show that Ohafia, Umuahia North and 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 June-August 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



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