

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: October-November 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

August-October 2017

According to Peace Map data, (see Figure 1) there was a decrease in conflict risk and violent fatalities in Abia in October 2017. As indicated in the graph below, there was a spike in conflict risk and fatalities in the month of September. Reported conflict incidents during this period related mainly to separatism/ethnic tensions, and criminality.

Separatism/Military Crackdown: In August, the Nigerian Army declared the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) a terrorist organization and the police proscribed the group. The group was proscribed after it reportedly announced the formation of Biafra Security Services (BSS). The security outfit was allegedly formed to protect locals from attack by herdsmen. In September, the Nigerian Army started a special military operation code named 'Operation Python Dance' in response to the activities of supporters of IPOB. During the month, there were several reported clashes between the Nigerian Army and supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the state. In Umuahia North, five were

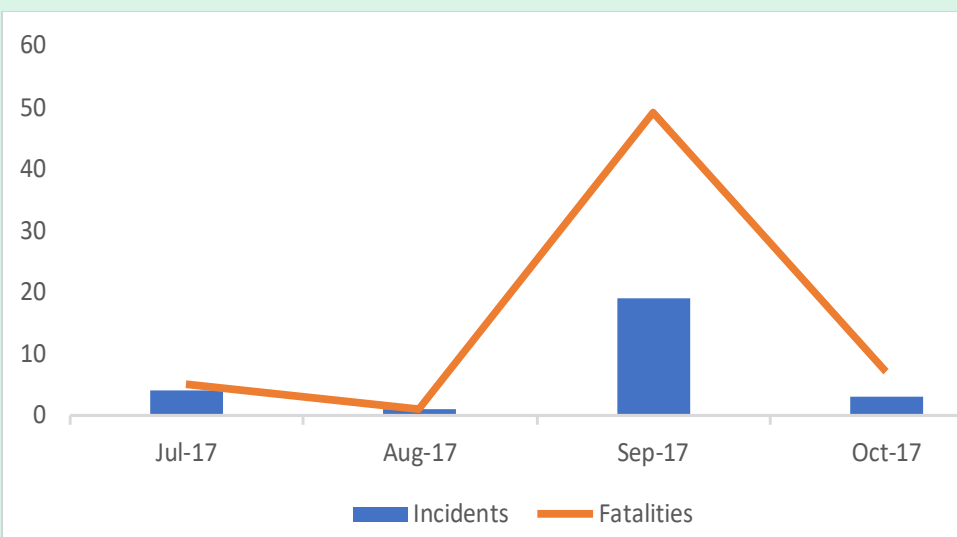
reportedly killed, several injured and property destroyed when soldiers invaded the home of IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kalu. In a separate incident in Umuahia North, 22 were reportedly killed in a clash between IPOB supporters and soldiers. In Aba North, a police station was reportedly set ablaze by IPOB supporters, killing one policeman. In Ukwu East, eight were reported killed and several others injured during a clash between IPOB supporters and soldiers.

Criminality: 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. In October, four members of a

vigilante group were reportedly killed by gunmen at a relaxation spot in Aba South LGA. Four others were injured during the attack.

Others: In August, a truck driver was reportedly shot dead by a policeman at a security checkpoint in Aba North. In September, a businessman was reportedly killed by cultists in Aba North. In October, a middle-aged man was reportedly killed by a mob due to a dispute involving a woman in Bende LGA. Separately, a mentally ill teenage boy reportedly killed his aged parents in their sleep in Isiala Ngwa North LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



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

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

Recent Issues or Incidents, November 2017

Reported incidents during this period related mainly to criminality.

Criminality: During the month, a cleric was reportedly abducted by kidnapers in Aba. The victim was later rescued by soldiers in Obingwa LGA. In a separate incident, a 25-year old male apprentice was reportedly stabbed to death by his 21-year old colleague during a disagreement in Aba North LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to criminality and clashes between supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and soldiers under the military exercise code-named ‘Operation Python Dance’ 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 (August – October 2017)

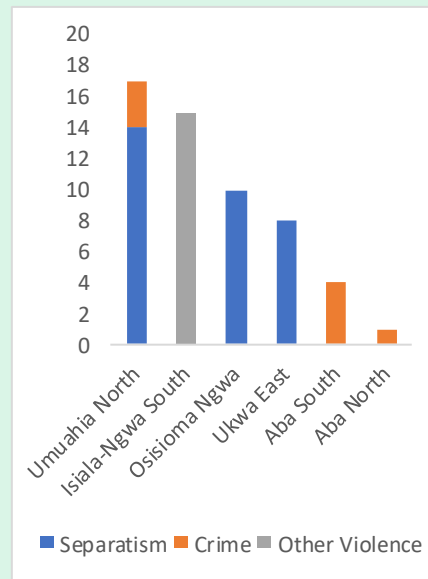
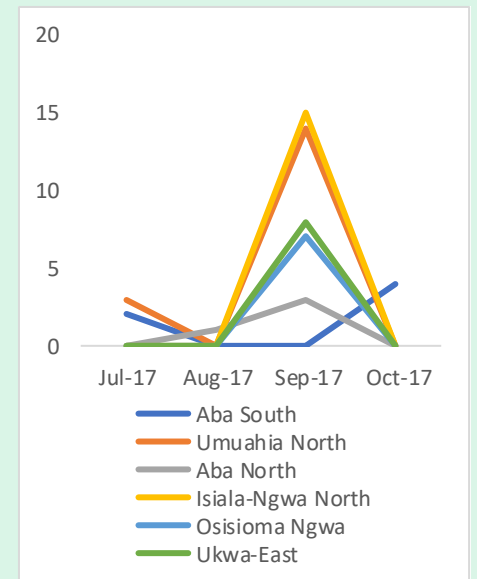
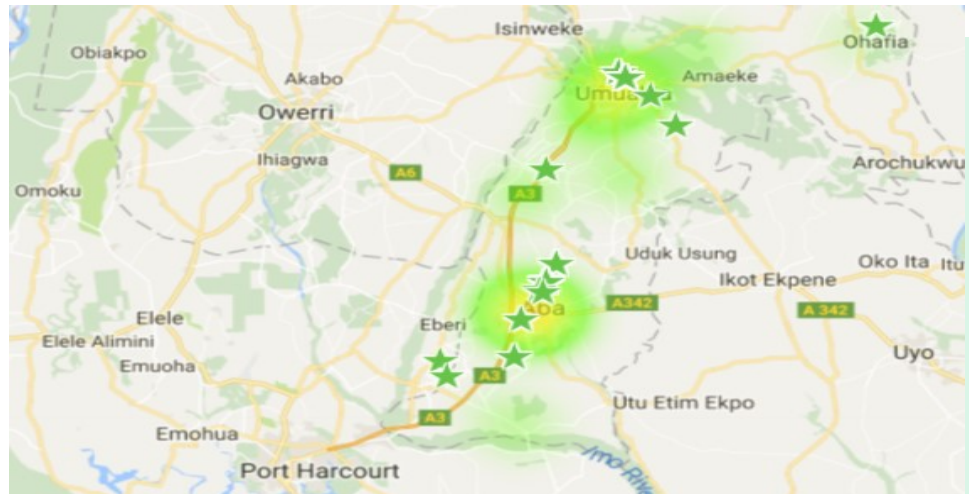


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (August – October 2017)



Reported fatalities show that Aba South and Umuahia 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 August-October 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