

LRA Crisis Tracker May 2016 Overview



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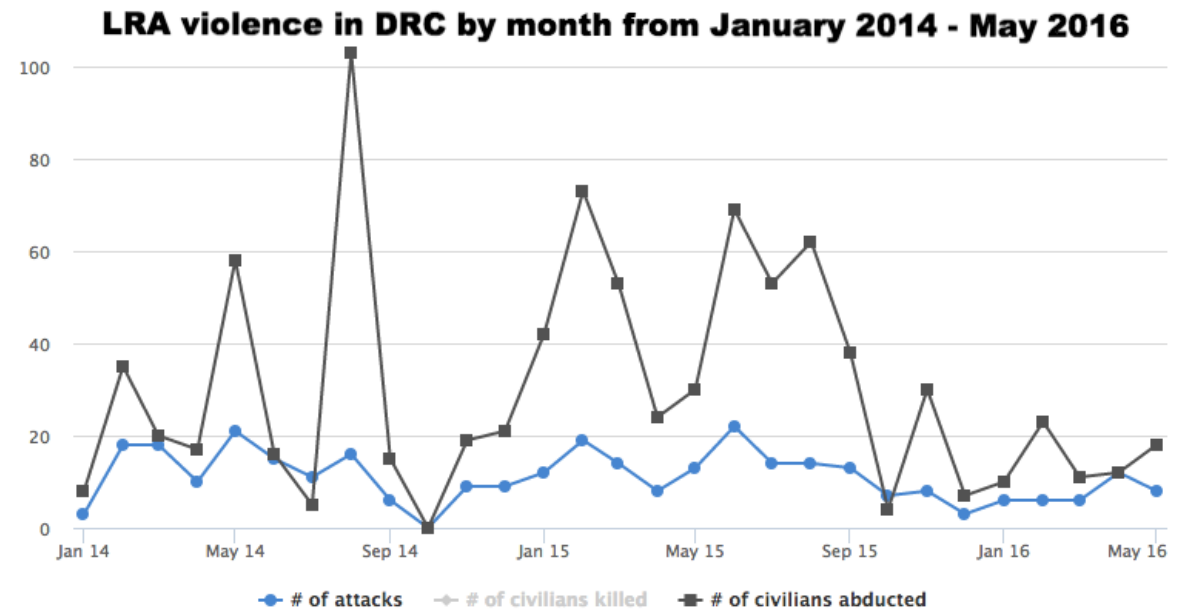
Overview

The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible for 13 attacks on civilians in May 2016 in which they abducted 25 people, the second-lowest monthly total so far in 2016. There were eight LRA attacks in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), concentrated near Garamba National Park. The five LRA attacks in eastern Central African Republic (CAR) in May 2016 targeted civilians on or near communities along the Bangassou-Obo axis.

LRA continues to target civilians near DRC’s Garamba National Park

After months of inactivity near Garamba National Park, LRA attacks and abductions rose there in April 2016. This pattern continued into May, with three attacks to the northwest of the park near the towns of Duru and Bitima and two attacks south of the park near Sambia.

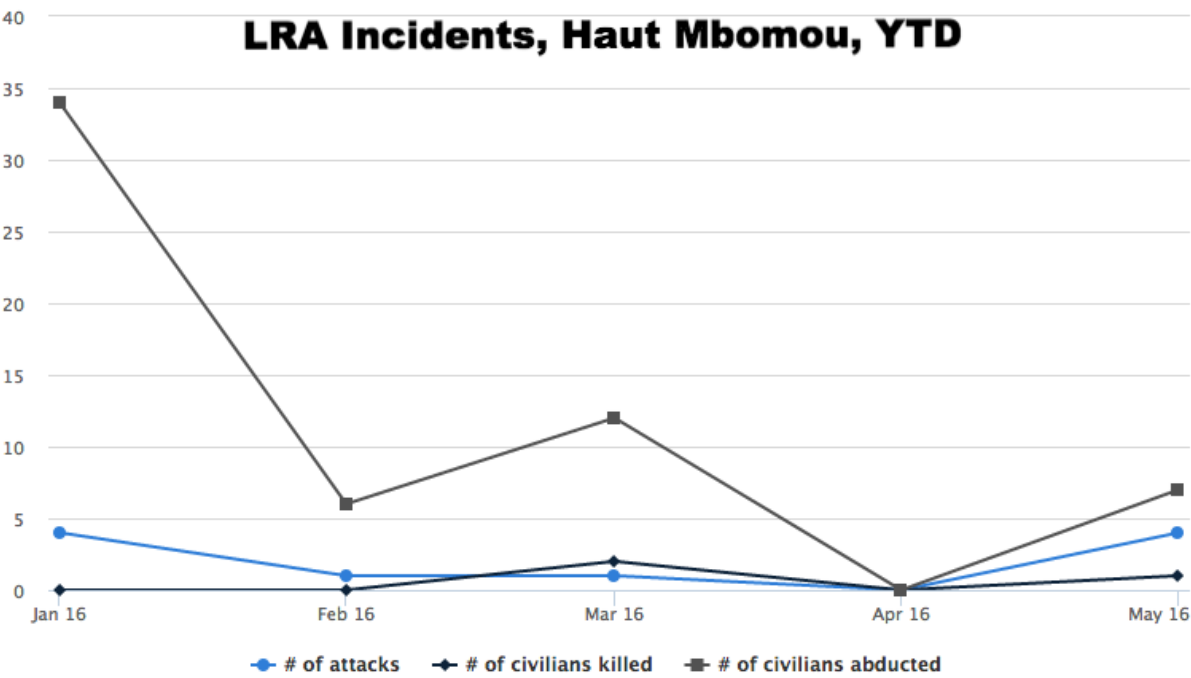
In neighboring Bas Uele province, three LRA attacks near the town of Banda were reported in May 2016, the first attacks in the province since February 2016. On May 6, LRA forces abducted two women and a baby near Banda, keeping them in captivity for two days. On May 20, an LRA group abducted eight adults from a field six kilometers northeast of Banda, all of whom escaped the next day. On May 31, LRA forces abducted seven people, all of whom were released after three days in captivity.



LRA violence in eastern CAR continues to decline

LRA forces abducted 232 people in eastern CAR between January and February 2016 in a series of raids that targeted communities primarily in Haute Kotto prefecture. Ugandan LRA combatants who defected in March 2016 reported that this spike in violence was conducted after Joseph Kony ordered LRA groups operating there to collect supplies and abduct young children who he intended to be trained and integrated into the rebel group.

LRA attacks then dropped significantly in eastern CAR, with a total of 39 people abducted from March–May 2016. During this period, LRA forces committed only two attacks in Haute Kotto and did not abduct civilians in either attack. Instead, LRA attacks since March have been concentrated in Mbomou and Haut Mbomou prefectures, which border DRC. All five LRA attacks in eastern CAR in May 2016 took place in these two prefectures, all of them within 75 kilometers of the border. As discussed in the April 2016 monthly report, some of the LRA attacks in CAR along the border with DRC have likely been perpetrated by an LRA splinter group led by Achaye Doctor that is operating independently of Kony.



Programmatic Updates

Invisible Children coordinated a forum between community partners in the Central African Republic engaged in the facilitation of dialogue, community resilience, and LRA defection. Representatives from Obo, Mboki, Djemah and Rafai were present and exchanged ideas on increasing community participation in local protection initiatives and utilizing community structures built to respond to the LRA threat for additional community threats, internal and external.

The reunification of 2 LRA abductees in Bria was coordinated during the month of May alongside MINUSCA with support of Invisible Children’s local community partners in Bria.



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