

**Kogi State University, Anyigba**

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# A Report on Benue Valley Conflict Assessment, Kogi State of Nigeria

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# **A REPORT ON BENUE-VALLEY CONFLICT ASSESSMENT, KOGI STATE OF NIGERIA.**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Background information on the people of Kogi State**

Kogi State is one of the six states in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. It has a total of twenty one Local Governments distributed into three Senatorial Districts namely, Central, Eastern and Western Senatorial Districts. The Central Senatorial District is made up of Okene, Okehi, Adavi, Ajaokuta and Ogori-Magongo Local Government Areas. The Eastern Senatorial District comprises of Ankpa, Bassa, Idah, Omala, Ibaji, Ofu, Igalamela Odolu, Dekina, Olamaboro Local Government Areas while the Western Senatorial Districts is made up of Kogi, Ijumu, Lokoja, Yagba West, Yagba East, Mopa and Kabba Local Government Areas. There are about 21 district ethnic groups in the state. There are however three prominent ethnic groups in the state. They are the Ebira majority of them are in the Central Senatorial District. The Igala in the Eastern Senatorial District and the Okun in the Western Senatorial District.

The dominant ethnic groups in the state namely Ebira, Igala and the Okuns have a long history of being together. The Ebira and the Igala groups among such groups as the Idoma, the Tivs in Benue State and the Jukuns of Taraba State are classified as the “Pagan” tribes in colonial records. They were said to have migrated from the Kwararafa Kingdom into their present locations. Historical records indicated that the Ebiras at a given period settled among the Igalas at Idah before migrating to their present settlement. The two ethnic groups share cultural and linguistic values. The duo exhibit common characteristics in terms of staple food consumed and masquerade festivities. Economic transactions among the people are deeply entrenched and inter-ethnic marriage is common.

The colonial administration brought the three distinct ethnic groups under the Northern Regional Government, between 1897 and 1921 as Kabba

province. The 1975 state creation exercise excised and located the Igala group in Benue state while the Ebira and the Okuns were located to Kwara State. In another state creation exercise in 1991, the Igala group was excised from Benue state and merged with the Ebira and Okun people excised from Kwara State to constitute the newly created Kogi State.

Since the creation of the state in 1999, the Igala group using the 1963 census figures as its reference point has maintained that it constitutes the majority in the state with a higher percentage of 63.4880 as against the Ebira 41.5226 and the Okun 18.0039.

The National Population Commission in 1991 however reversed the 1963 population census figures by stating that the Igala group constitutes 46.6 percent with a population of 982,876 as against 53.6 percent for the other areas. The 1991 figures indicated that Kogi Central had a population of 822,032 and Kogi West 399,738.

The Igala group however maintained that since there is no evidence that there has been any natural disaster that could have reduced its population since 1963, the percentage difference in population figures of the 1963 census couldn't be altered.

The controversy surrounding the actual population figures of the different groups that constitute the state has been a major bone of contention between them. Specifically the Okuns, Ajayi (1997:28) observed, have always expressed reservations about their merger with the other ethnic groups for several reasons. First of which is their numerical strength as they constitute only about 14 percent of the total population of the state. Second, the Okuns also contend that as a cultural and linguistic entity, they have no shared values with other ethnic groups in the state. Third, the Okuns also emphasize their ideological difference with the other ethnic groups, whereas, the Ebira and the Igala always identified with the political parties of the core north, the Okuns have consistently aligned to parties in the South West. Fourth, is that the Okuns are predominantly Christians as opposed to the Muslim dominated Ebira and Igala groups. Fifth, the Okuns believe that they had a far closer historical, political, traditional, linguistic, and cultural links with other Yorubas from Ekiti and Kwara States. Arising from these arguments, the Okuns were strongly opposed to their inclusion in the Kogi State project.

The major ethnic groups cannot be said to be homogenous, as there exist minority groups within the larger groups that often express reservation about their status. These minority groups include the Bassa-Komo, Bassa-Nge, Ogori-Magongo, the Oworo, Nupe, Koto, Kogi and the Fulani among others. These minority groups often allege that they are being marginalized by the major groups. Apart from the alleged marginalization of the Ebira and the Okun groups by the Igala, other minority groups also allege that they are marginalized. According to Mvendiya et al (2001, 114) the Bassa-Komo and the Bassa-Nge allege being marginalized by the Igala, the Ogori-Magongo by the Ebira, Gana Gana and Kakanda by the Oworo. The Owe speaking group also alleges marginalization by both the Kabba and Bunu groups. Even the Igala allege marginalization by the Federal Government. Although a major outbreak of violence among the dominant ethnic groups has not occurred, the state has witnessed heated moments and tension has been raised to palpable levels as a result of allegation of marginalization. Intra state boundary conflicts are common in the state. Intra state boundary conflicts that has been violent enough to attract state and national attention as documented in Mvendiya et al (2001) include, the Ijemu Ayan Odolu community of Kabba/Bunu Local Government that is involved in a boundary dispute with Ogidi Ijumu in Ijumu Local Government (LGA), the Ejigba Community in Yagba West Local Government and Isanlu in Bassa Local Government Areas. Adavi and Okehi Local Government Areas are in conflict over a stretch of land between Itakpe and Ememe Bridge. Dekina Local Government and Ofu LGA are in dispute over Ukawupuda. The Gaude community in Bassa Local Government accused the Edinocose community in Kogi Local Government Area of land encroachment thereby resulting in conflict. There is also a dispute over a farmland and a fish pound between Iziho community in Lokoja Local Government and Ikumo community of Kogi Local Government that is yet to be amicably resolved. Abda and Abache districts both in Ankpa Local Government area are in dispute and Mozun district both of Bassa Local Government area among others.

The data on Table 1 indicates that despite the plural nature of the state; inter ethnic conflict is not prevalent although as already indicated mutual distrust among the three dominant ethnic groups is pronounced.

## **METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

The study was conducted in the 21 local Government areas of Kogi State. The in-dept interview method was adapted to elicit detailed response from interviews on the Central theme of study i.e. conflicts in the locations examined, causes of the conflicts and interventions and responses from Governmental and non-governmental organizations. As much as people the target population subjected to interview were those identified as stakeholders in the conflicts and community members of the areas in conflict.

**THE STRUCTURAL BASIS OF CONFLICT IN KOGI STATE**  
**Table 1: Conflicts in Kogi State – Parties, Issues, Location and Current status**

<b>NAME OF CONFLICT</b>	<b>PARTIES</b>	<b>TYPES AND ISSUES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Ogori Mangongo L.G. Administrative Conflict	Intra Party conflict Chairman of the LGA Matthew Dada Keyi/State House of Assembly Majority Leader Albert Adefina Sodje	Political Control of Ogori Mangongo LGA, Appointments Priledges. Control of party machinery, Age long rivalry between Ogoris and Magongo over perceived humiliation of Magongos by Ogoris	Ogori Mangongo LGA	Partially transformed with the return to Office of the suspended Chairman Matthew Dada keyi
Ogori/Ekpe – Edo Settlers in Edo state	Ogori indigenes/Ekpe – Edo Settlers	Ownership of Land	Epe	Partially transformed but potentially volatile
Ajaokuta LGA Conflict I	House of Representative Member Ado Okino/ RT General Salihu Ibrahim	Who occupies the seat of chairman of Ajaokuta Local Government Area	Ajaokuta	Partially transformed but potentially volatile
Ajaokuta LG Conflict II	Ebira/Igala	Ownership of Ajaokuta and who occupies the chieftancy stool of Onu Ajaokuta	Ajaokuta	Partially transformed but potentially volatile
Adavi Conflict I	Ajoko and Otumi subclans of uka clan	Masquarade festivities chieftancy disputes political control of ogaminana Ownership of Zango cattle market	Ogaminana – Inorere and Idanuha wards	Partially transformed but capable of erupting again  Transformed with the relocation of the market.
Adavi Conflict II	Upopurete and Aniku subclans of Adavi local Government	Choice of occupant of clan chief (Asema) of Upopuvete	Ipaku	Transformed
Okene/Adavi Conflict I	Okengwe and Adavi Eba	Political control		Transformed

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Okene/Adavi conflict II	Adavi Eba and Okengwe districts	clan	Osoma in Adavi Eba	Transformed
Okene Conflict I	Attah family/Ebira	Choice of occupant of traditional ruler of Ebira land (Ohinoyi of Ebiraland)	Okene	Partially transformed but capable of erupting again
Okene Conflict II	Agada/omoye clans	Political control of party machinery	Okene	Transformed but has potential to re-occur
Okene Conflict III	A sect of the muslim group/Traditionalists	Which religion should be dominant in Ebiraland	Okene	Transformed but re-occurring
Okene Conflict IV	Senator A.T. Ahmed/Public office holders	Political control of Ebiraland	Okene	Re-occurring
Okene Conflict V	Senator A.T Ahmed/Deputy Governor Philip Salau	Political control of Ebiraland (power shift/power retain)	Okene (Ozuwayu/Iruvuchebe)	Re-occurring
Okene Conflict VI	Omoye/Clans	Clan	Obehira	Transformed but has potential to re-occur
Okehi Conflict	Emani/Ohi-onwa clans	Traditional title of Obobanyi and chairmanship of the Okehi traditional council	Ihima	On-going
Lokoja Conflict I	Mayaki/community	Imposition of traditional rulership of Ibwa	Ibwa	Dormant but unresolved
Lokoja Conflict II	Governor Abubakar Audu/Community	Imposition of traditional rulership of Kakanda	Kakanda	Re-occurring, unresolved
Ijumu Conflict II	Community/nomadic Fulani settlers	Grazing on farmland	Otun	Transformed as Fulani migrated to other areas

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Yagba East LGA Conflict	Some Chiefs/Community	Prosperity of the chiefs in the face of adversity and poverty of the community	Ejuku	Transformed as chiefs were forced out of the village
Kogi local Govt. Conflict 1	Ohimege/Inda family of kontonkarfi (Inda family is made up of Asumehi, Aruwa, Ogepa, Okejakpo, Ibeni and Isanayina ruling families)	Introduction of a new ruling house	Osuku	Transformed as the new ruling house has been sacked by the villagers
Kogi local Govt. Conflict II	Ohimege and two contestants for the vacant traditional tool of the ruler of Ahoko/Community	Traditional rulership of Ahoko	Ahoko	Unresolved as the traditional council nominee cannot visit the village whereas the community appointed chief is not on payroll of Govt.
Kabba-Bunnu LGA conflict	A faction of the PDP /chairman of Kabba Bunu Dada	Chairmanship of Kabba Bunu LGA	Kabba	Transformed
Ijumu LGA Conflict II	Nomadic Fulani/farmers	Grazing land	Egbeda-Egga	Transformed
Bassa LGA Conflict	The suspended chairman Mr. Bako Shigaba who is also the brother to the slain chairman-Luke Shigaba/ and Hon Isaac Jimba and Barrister Ibrahim Musa Abdullahi	Political control of Bassa LGA Political patronage Appointments Political Control of the Bassa people among the major ethnic groups in the Area i.e. Bassa Nge, Bassa Kamo and Igbirra mozum	Onyedega	Unresolved and potentially volatile



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Bassa LGA conflict II	Bassa farmers and fishermen/Fulani cattle rearers	Grazing land	Bassa Nge, Mozum & Bassa Komo areas	Re-occurring
Ankpa LGA conflict I	Mr. Dan Kadiri Yunusa/Air Marshal Isaac Alfa (Rtd)	Political control of Ankpa LGA	Ankpa	Unresolved, potentially volatile
Ankpa LGA conflict II	Ejeh of Ankpa, Late Col. Hassan Yakubu/Attah Igala	Autonomy for the stool of Ejeh Ankpa traditional council from the influence of Attah Igala	Ankpa	Transformed but capable of erupting again.
Ankpa LGA III	Ankpa area traditional council and the communities of Ankpa and Ojoku	Who occupies the stool of Onu of Ankpa and Onu of Ojoku	Ankpa and Ojoku	Transformed
Ankpa LGA conflict IV	Farmers/Fulani herdsmen	Grazing land	Ogodo, Onupi, Ogbagbala	Re-occurring
Ankpa LGA conflict V	Police/community members especially “Okada” riders	Extortion of money by the police	Ankpa	Re-occurring
Dekina LGA Conflict I	Police/civil populace	Extortion of money by the police	Anyigba	Re-occurring
Dekina LGA Conflict II	PDP leadership in the state/community members	Imposition of candidates by the party	Dekina LGA	Transformed but has the potential to re-occur
Dekina LGA III	Dekina LGA/Ankpa LGA	Ownership of Owojo farmland	Owojo	Unresolved has the potential to re-occur
Dekina LGA Conflict IV	Dekina LGA/Bassa LGA	Ownership of okukuleje farmland	Okukuleje	Unresolved.

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Igalamela/Odolu LGA conflict I	Igalamela who are of Igala extraction and Odolu people who are of Igbo extraction	Political control Igalamela/Odolu LGA. Political appointments Creation of wards in favour of Odolu. Provision of social amenities in favour of Igalamela Headship of the Local Government	Ajaka	Dormant but issues unresolved
Igalamela/Odolu LGA conflict II	Igalamela Odolu community /Igbo people of Enugu State	Ownership of Ugwaka-Olla land in Odolu district	Ohute	On-going
Igalamela/Odolu LGA conflict III	Igalamela Odolu LGA/Ofu local Government	Ownership of Angba (Oil was discovered in the area)	Angba	Unresolved and potentially violent
Igalamela/Odolu LGA conflict IV	Affa in Ibaji LGA/Ugbonoji in Igalamela/Odolu LGA	Control of forest reserve situated between the two communities	Ugbonoji	Transformed but unresolved
Igalamela/Odolu LGA conflict V	Farmers/Fulani cattle rearers	Destruction of farmlands by Fulani cattle and pollution of sources of drinking water.	Ogbogbo Odolu Okpakpata	Re-occurring. Has potential for violence
Ibaji LGA conflict I	Mr. Simeon Achba for mer Deputy Speaker Kogi State House of Assembly/Chairman Ibaji LGA Manassah Ebwuaba	Political control of Ibaji LGA Imposition of chairmanship candidate by the state Govt	Ibaji, Onyedega	Unresolved. Has potential for violent conflict
Ibaji LGA conflict II	Obale people of Ibaji and Agulere people of Anambra	Ownership of an oil well in Ibaji land	Ibaji, Anocha	Re-occurring

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Ibaji LGA conflict III	Omabo/Uchuchu communities in LGA	Control over farmland and fishponds	Omabo/Uchuchu	Re-occurring
Ibaji LGA conflict IV	Farmers/Fulani herdsmen	Grazing land	Ibaji	Re-occurring
Ofu LGA conflict I	Ofu LGA/Dekina LGA The Gago of Ajogidibeje officials of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) from Ofu and Dekina LGA	Boundary dispute	Ajogidibeji (a sprawling settlement located on the Itobe-Anyiga)	Dormant has potential for violent conflict
Idah LGA conflicts I	People considered to be non-indigenes of Idah-Senator (Dr) Ahmadu Ali, Chief Paul Achimugu/ Late Stephen Achema and his supporters an indigene	Political control of Idah LGA	Idah	Re-occurring
Idah LGA conflict II	Idah LGA/Etsako East LGA	Control over Ake Island	Ake Land	Transformed
Olamaboro LGA conflict I	Chairman of Olamaboro-Hon David Adegbe LGA/secretary Hon. Charles Akowe and Vice Chairman Olamaboro LGA. Barr. Isaac Ekpa. Chieftains of the PDP in the Area	Political leadership and administration of the local Government.	Okpo	Re-occurring

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Olamaboro LGA conflict II	The Ohiemi and Idu sub-ruling houses of Onyuka ruling clan in Imane	Imposition of chief Odah Ojiji Imane	Imane	Re-occurring since 1995 and has potential for violent conflict.
Omala LGA conflict I	Omala LGA/Bassa LGA (Bassa Komo community)	Ownership and control of Iyede (a mineral rich and tourist attraction)	Iyede	On-going
Omala LGA conflict II	Okada operators/the police in Abjukolo	Extortion by police officers	Abejukolo	Re-occurring
Omala LGA conflict III	Farmers/Fulani	Destruction of farmlands ponds/streams	Opada and Icheke villages	Re-occurring

The major source of conflict as revealed in the table, includes the desire to exercise political control over the communities, chieftaincy matters, land matters and conflict between Fulani herds men and farmers over grazing land %.

<b>SOURCE OF CONFLICTS</b>	<b>NO. OF OCCURRENCES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
1. Political control over the communities	17	32.08
2. Chieftancy matters	15	28.30
3. Land matters	13	24.53
4. Conflict between Fulani herds men and farmers over grazing of land	8	15.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

Jega (2002:36) had argued that the Nigerian state as is the case with all post colonial state has become crisis ridden as it has largely failed to meet and satisfy the yearnings of its people. Capitalist rent seeking, patrimonialism and prebendalism have been identified as the major characteristics of the Post-Colonial Nigerian state, as the state is sometimes referred to as a “rogue state”. The state controls the economic resources in the society thus, resulting in the fierce contest for control of the state apparatus. This is evidenced in cut throat competition by politicians to install their preferred candidates into party positions, and political offices.

Vaughan (199:311) contends that the effect of the harsh reality of state formation in post-colonial Africa is that apparatus of governance has begun to crumble before it has been fully consolidated. The economic crisis now prevalent in Africa states has further compounded the crisis of political authority. These developments may have accentuated the reliance of the political elite and local dwellers on traditional institutions and practices. The apparent limitation of modern state structures to exercise effective participation and control at the grassroots has inevitably enhanced the status of paramount chiefs who are still relied upon by the state to ensure mass support and control at the grassroots. The traditional rulers on their part mobilize primordial sentiments-specifically ethnicity and ev 12 ethnic identifies to maintain their grip on the people at the grassroots. Despite the limited powers of the traditional rulers in the formal state structure, they have remained important actors in governance at the federal,

state and local levels. In an effort to entrench the position of the dominant elite groups through informal social and political networks, the traditional rulers are being effectively incorporated into the Nigerian state power structure by successive governments. Governments have consistently accorded special privilege to traditional rulers by seeking their advice on important national issues, appointing them as chancellors of federal universities, encouraging their appointment as chairman of both foreign and national commercial ventures among other favours (Vaughan: 1991:319).

Given these developments, the position of the paramount ruler in most societies has become highly contentious among elites because it creates access to state power. Conflicts arising from the struggle over who occupies the paramount rulership of most communities have also become conflictual.

Further to that so much value is attached to the traditional institution and it therefore becomes a major source of conflict where traditional processes are compromised in the appointment of traditional rulers

Conflict between the Fulani herd men and local farmers is prevalent in the state, yet the issues are unresolved as grazing land and water spots are central to the economic survival of both the herd men and the farming communities. As Otite and Albert (ed) 1993:3 and Osaghea et al, (2001:11) pointed out, the pursuit of access to a variety of limited resources which include chieftaincy position, power and status, grasslands, markets, water spots for animals, rival claims to land, government policies, leadership of political parties etc by individuals differentiated by different categories in defined socio-physical environments gives rise to conflict. The prevalence of conflicts arising from the struggle for access to grazing land poses a major challenge to governance and has become area that requires intervention. The Federal Government policy on reservation areas designated as grazing lands is yet to be implemented in the state.

Economically viable lands are also a major source of conflict between communities in the state and even between some communities in the state and neighbouring states.

**Table 2 Key Violent conflicts in Kogi State and Their Triggers**

<b>Name of Conflict</b>	<b>Trigger</b>
Ogori Magongo LGA conflict	Submission of the list of delegates from the LGA to the PDP national Convention. Two different list of delegates was sent to the PDP National Headquarters 2005
Ogori Vs Ekpe-Edo community of Edo state	Clashes that was well escalated with the killing of Dr. Onudare from Ogori Federal Peace reconciliation committees visit.
Tussle over who occupies the chairmanship position of Ajaokuta LGA	The result of the election to the Federal Hose of Representatives where Hon. Ado Okino decamped from ANPP to the PDP and won the election in 2003
Ihima conflict in Okehi LGA	At a gathering of the Ihima community, somebody stood up to challenge the introduction of Obobanyi of Ihima and contended that he should only be referred to as Obobanyi of Emaru
Okene conflicts	Most of the conflicts here are triggered off at any social or political gathering where the different factions of the PDP meet.
Omoye clan in Okene LGA conflict	Triggered by the abusive songs from a traditional singer
Kabba-Bunu LGA conflict, April 2004	Annoucement of Dada as chairman of Kabba-Bunu LGA
Egbeda-Egga in Ijumu LGA conflict	An Egbeda farmer had his two hands chopped off in his farm by a Fulani herdman
Otun in Ijumu LGA conflict	A farmer was alledged to have invoked the god of thunder that killed 75 cattle that destroyed his farmland and the Fulani retaliated by macheting him
Ejuku in Yagba East LGA conflict	In 2003, rumours went round that some people that died and were physically buried were discovered to be working mysteriously in some chiefs farms. The chiefs were alledged to be reaping bumper harvests while other villages had very poor harvests.
Ahoko village in Kogi LGA conflict	The tradition of the community was by passed as the deputy to the village head was not appointed to succeed him as the new village head

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Name of Conflict	Trigger
Ankpa Local Government conflict	In 2003, two trigger-happy policemen shot and killed two people.
Ankpa local Government conflict	. 2005 ward and local government convention of the PDP. Thugs of opposing camps engaged one another in a fight on allegations of attempts to impose ward and local Government officials of the party.
Bassa LG conflict	The gruesome murder of the local Government Chairman by unknown persons.



**Table 3: Selected conflicts by Status and responses of interveners**

<b>Name of conflict</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Responses of International organization and foreign Govts</b>	<b>Responses of FG and State Govt</b>	<b>Responses of NGOs, CBOs, Religious orgs, Media etc</b>
Kabba-Bunu LGA conflict	Dormant transformed	Nil. Localized	The state Government constituted a panel of enquiry to investigate the matter. The white paper on the report is still been awaited. The state Government also paid compensation to the affected victims	
Egbeda-Egga in Ijumu LGA conflict	Transformed	Nil. Localized	The Ijumu Local Government set up a panel of enquiry to investigate the matter. Those arrested were released on bail	
Omala LGA/Bassa Komo community	On-going	Nil. Localized	The state Govt intervened though the office of the Surveyor General. The office ceded Iyade to Omala LGA but this been contested by Bassa Komo in the High Court of Kogi State in Koton Karfe. The Omala community took the case to court and obtained judgement upholding their claim to Iyade	

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Name of conflict	Status	Responses of International organization and foreign Govts	Responses of FG and State Govt	Responses of NGOs, CBOs, Religious orgs, Media etc
Olamaboro LGA political conflict	Re-occurring presently the chairman of the LGA is on suspension and the vice-chairman is acting	Nil. Localized	The state Govt through the office of the Deputy Governor intervened severally. The actors signed MOUs which they hardly honor	
Olamaboro LGA Chieftaincy conflicts	Re-occurring		The state Govt. set up the AIG Ahmadu Shauibu committee recommended the removal of Gabriel Adaji as Odah Ojiji of Imani for non-compliance with laid down selection procedures. Gabriel Adaji was removed but has not been replaced. The present administration set up the Sheikh Abdulkadir committee on this and similar cases across the state. The Govt white paper is still to be released.	The Imani district Union submitted a memo in support of the re-installment of Gabriel Adaji. The ohiemi descendant union submitted a memo in favour of another contestant Mr. Stephen Akor

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Bassa LGA political conflict	On-going Impeachment notice served the suspended Chairman	Nil. Localized	The House of Assembly committee is still investigating allegations of gross abuse of office levied against the chairman by the Bassa LG legislative council. The state chief Judge has constituted a 7 man impeachment panel to investigate allegation levied against the suspended chairman by the Bassa LG legislative council	

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Okehi sub clans conflicts	Re-occurring. On-going	-	The Federal Government responded to the petition by the Ohi-awan clan that AIG M.J. Araga of Emani supplied ammunition to the Emani clan as AIG Araga was alledged to have been queried. The state Govt set up a panel of enquiry to investigate the matter. The Local Govt sought assistance from the Federal Emergency Agency for relief materials for the victims of the conflict.	Ihima welfare Association, Ihima Elite forum sued for peace among warring factions. NTA Lokoja has been documenting the event as they unfold.
Ogori-Magongo political conflict	Transformed as the suspended chairman has been re-installed	-	Police was drafted to keep the peace. The House of Assembly suspended the chairman, constituted a committee to investigate thematter. The committee recommended the re-instatement of the chairman	-
Okene political conflict	Re-occurring	-	State Govt response is alledged to be passive as decisive steps have not been taken to contain violence	Ebira peoples congress Ebira Peace project Ebira Youth congress sued for peace by organizing conferences and meeting of stakeholders

The data in table 3 reveals the poor management of conflicts by the state and local government councils. The immediate response of Government in conflict situations is to draft armed men to the areas. The field work however revealed that this effort has not been generally effective as the warring factions often are in possession of far superior weapons than the police. Government has often intervened by setting up investigative panels. The data on table 3 however reveals that the reports of the committee are more often not released and where they are released the government white papers were not forthcoming.

### **Previous Research on Conflicts in the North Central zone**

1. Jibo Mvendiga (etal) (2001): Ethnic Groups and Conflicts in Nigeria. Volume 4. The North Central Zone of Nigeria: the Lords creations Ibadan.
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5. Omolori Sanni (1995): " Rejoinder to the Attah Igala memorandum" to the Head