

# Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2021

## Executive Summary

There were significant changes in the Niger Delta peace and security landscape in 2021. These changes include an increase in lethal violence, driven by the outbreak of additional security issues, and the emergence of new conflict actors. Diverse conflict risk factors contributed to the changing conflict and security dynamics during the period. These conflict risk factors include historical tensions and the proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian). This report examines the trends and patterns of conflict risk and lethal violence, and identifies key interrelated drivers and pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), CIEPD (<https://ciepdcwc.crowdmap.com>), IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), criminality and separatist agitation were the leading causes of conflict fatalities during the year. Criminality and separatist agitation increased by 87% and 573% respectively in 2021 compared to 2020. In contrast, there was a drop in communal clashes and gang violence during the period.

The most prevalent conflict and security issues in 2021 include kidnapping for ransom, robbery, clashes between rival cult gangs, herder/farmer clashes, and communal land/boundary disputes, violent separatist agitation, mob violence, sexual violence, and targeted killing of women and girls for organ trafficking and ritualistic purposes.

Militancy/illegal oil bunkering related clashes, communal conflict, clashes between rival cult gangs, organized criminality and separatist agitation were the most lethal forms of violence in 2021, as measured by fatalities per incident. According to data (see second graph on page 4), on average, every incident of militancy/illegal oil bunkering related violence resulted in at least six fatalities. This was followed by communal violence and gang/cult clashes with an average of three and two fatalities per incident, respectively.

Overall, the most prevalent incidents of violence involved organized crime including kidnapping, robbery and killings for ritualistic purposes, with 845 fatalities in 408 reported incidents. This was followed by clashes/supremacy battles among rival cult gangs with 160 fatalities in 66 incidents.

Communal violence was the third most prevalent conflict issue during the year. It caused more than 150 fatalities in 48 reported incidents, including farmer/herder clashes, land/boundary disputes, and leadership tussles.

Violent separatist agitation including targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel was also among the most reported forms of lethal violence during the year. Separatist agitation and associated violence caused over 140 fatalities in more than 70 reported incidents, particularly in Imo, Abia, Rivers and Akwa Ibom State.

In addition, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including sexual violence was prevalent, especially in Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo and Ondo State. Vigilante/mob violence was also prevalent, particularly in Delta, Imo, Edo and Rivers, and it caused nearly 60 fatalities during the year.

There were changes in the geography of conflict in the Niger Delta in 2021, compared to 2020. According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), the most violent States during the period, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities, were Delta, Imo, Rivers, and Abia, respectively.

## Regional Dynamics of Conflict Risk and Insecurity

The Niger Delta of Nigeria is highly diverse with over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local government areas and covers nine out of the 36 states of Nigeria: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. With over 30 million people, according to a 2006 population census, and an estimated population density of 265 people per square kilometer, the region accounts for more than 23 percent of Nigeria’s population.

The Niger Delta area contains vast reserves of oil and gas, which play an important role in the Nigerian economy. In spite of these abundant natural resources, the Niger Delta is marked by poverty, economic underdevelopment, inequality, environmental degradation, and violent conflict. Historical tensions and the proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian) contribute to the changing conflict and security dynamics in the region.

There were significant changes in the conflict and security dynamics in the Niger Delta in 2021. These changes include an increase in lethal violence, driven by the outbreak of additional security issues and the emergence of new conflict actors and drivers. Conflict issues during the year include organized criminality, communal tensions, political competition and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include piracy, militancy, kidnapping, gang/cult supremacy clashes, armed robbery, killings for ritualistic purposes and organ

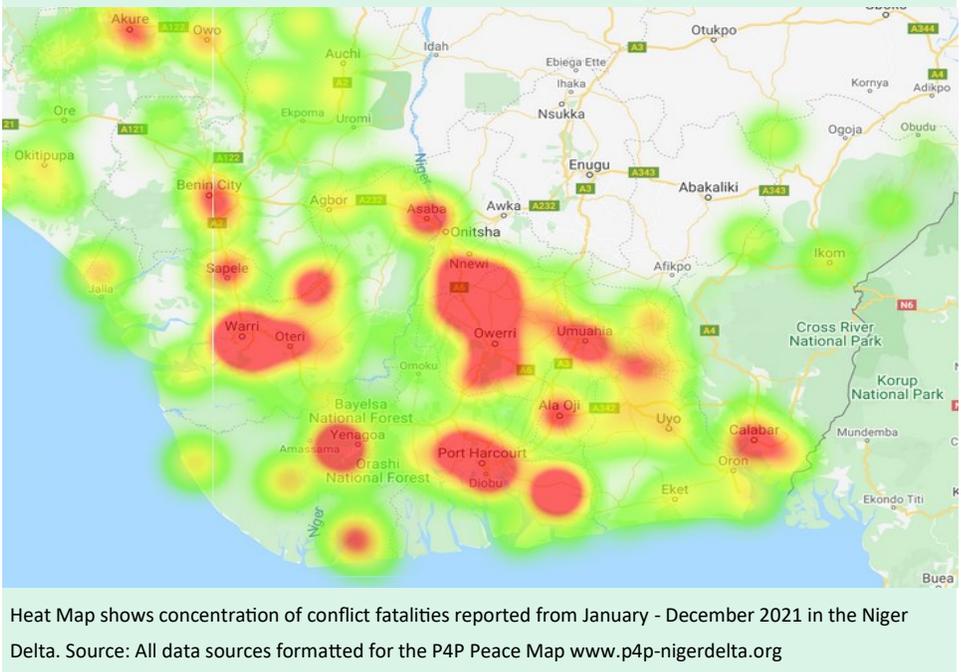
trafficking, human trafficking, sexual violence, mob violence, communal violence, land disputes, separatist agitation, targeted violence against government security facilities and personnel, extra-judicial killings, election violence and protests.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), while the nature of conflict risk and violence in the region varies, organized criminality, cult clashes, separatist agitation, and communal conflict over land and boundary disputes were the primary causes of lethal violence in 2021. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), VAWG (focused

on Violence Against Women and Girls), the IPDU SMS early warning system, CIEPD, and others.

This annual report looks at the trends and patterns of conflict risk factors and incidents of violence, and the related pressures on peace and stability in the Niger Delta. The report is not designed as a conflict analysis, but rather it is intended to update stakeholders on the annual patterns and trends in conflict risk and lethal violence. An understanding of the deeper conflict drivers and related impact, allows stakeholders to proactively address emerging trends rather than only reactively respond to conflict incidents.

### Fatalities Heat Map of Lethal Violence in the Niger Delta



## Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2021

There was a rise in reported incidents of conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta in 2021, compared to 2020. Criminality and separatist agitation increased by 87% and 573% respectively during the year. According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), criminality and separatist agitation were the leading causes of conflict fatalities during the period. On the other hand, there was a decrease in reported incidents of communal clashes and gang violence during the year.

The most violent month during the year was May, with a total of 205 reported fatalities. In May, for instance, over 10 persons were reportedly killed during clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Akpabuyo LGA, Cross River State. Separately, in May, 11 fatalities were reported during a clash between government security

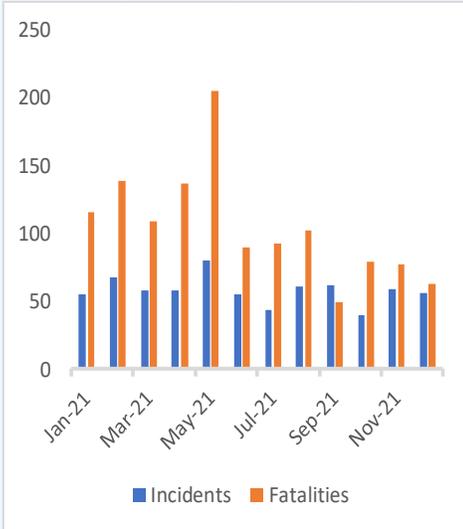
operatives and suspected members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) - the security outfit of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) - at a divisional police station in Orlu LGA, Imo State.

According to data, there were significant changes in the Niger Delta conflict and security landscape during the year. There was a resurgence of violent separatist agitation and targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in Imo, Abia, Rivers and Akwa Ibom State during the period. The States with the highest number of lethal violence during the year were Delta, Imo and Rivers, while the LGAs with the highest number of lethal violence were Orlu (Imo) and Emohua (Rivers). Criminal violence caused more than 650 fatalities in Delta and Imo. In addition, separatist agitation caused over 180 fatalities in Imo during the year.

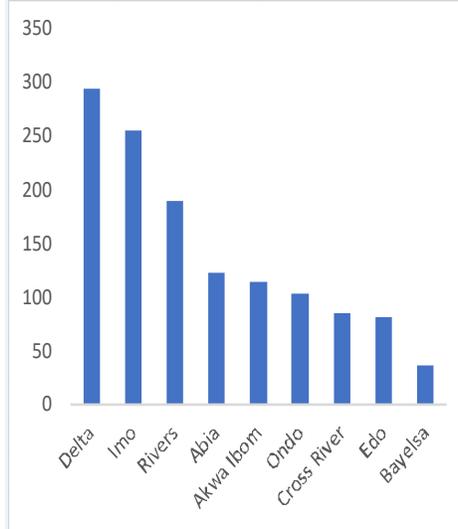
Human rights violations including sexual violence were prevalent during the year. Sexual abuse and other violence against women and girls caused more than 70 fatalities during the period. Moreover, many of the criminal violence and communal conflicts also impacted on the safety and livelihoods of women and girls, particularly in Delta, Akwa Ibom and Ondo State. Mob violence was prevalent and caused over 50 fatalities. Illegal artisanal oil refining related violence and fire outbreaks was also prevalent. It caused over 30 fatalities and intensified environmental pollution during the year, especially in Rivers State.

The following pages provide a breakdown of the prevalent conflict risk as it relates to the main issues reported in 2021 and the key conflict drivers.

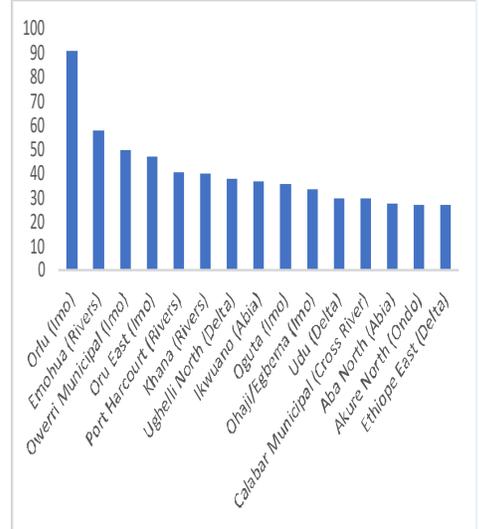
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (January-December 2021)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January-December 2021)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January-December 2021)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2021

The Niger Delta conflict and security landscape in 2021 was dominated by organized criminality (incl. kidnapping, piracy and ritual killings), gang violence (clashes between rival cult gangs), communal conflict (incl. land disputes and farmer/herder clashes), violent separatist agitation, human rights violations (incl. sexual violence), mob violence, and militancy/illegal oil bunkering.

The most lethal conflict issues in 2021, based on the average number of fatalities per incident were militancy/illegal oil bunkering, communal conflict, gang violence, organized criminality, separatist agitation, mob violence and violence affecting women and girls including sexual violations.

Illegal oil bunkering related violence caused more than 30 fatalities in 2021, particularly in Rivers and Bayelsa, and driven mainly by clashes between government security forces and operators of illegal artisanal refineries, as well as fire outbreaks at illegal artisanal oil refining sites.

Communal violence caused over 150 fatalities during the year. It was prevalent in Delta, Akwa Ibom, Edo and Ondo, and was largely driven by tensions over land and boundary disputes, as well as the herder/farmer conflict.

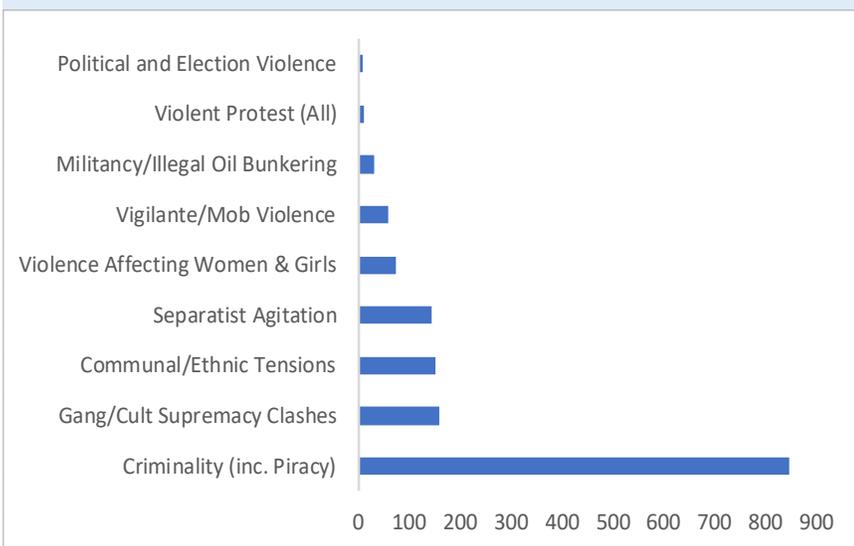
Organized criminality as well as clashes between government security forces and hoodlums was

prevalent at the regional and State levels, and it caused over 840 fatalities during the year.

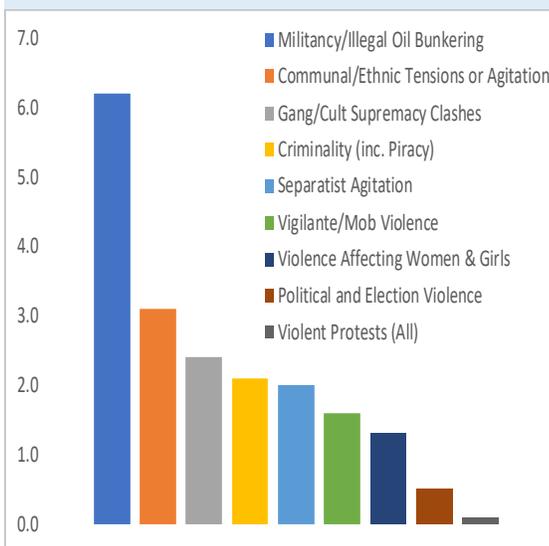
Gang violence caused over 150 fatalities during the period. It was prevalent in Delta, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Edo, and was driven mainly by reprisal killings and battles for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs, as well as communal conflict and general criminality.

There was an upsurge in separatist agitation and targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in 2021, particularly in Imo, Abia, Rivers and Akwa Ibom. It caused over 140 fatalities in more than 70 reported incidents during the year.

**Predominant Conflict Issues, Regional Level Fatalities (January-December 2021)**



**Most Lethal Conflict Issues, Fatalities Per Incident (January-December 2021)**



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Criminality

**Criminality** was the most prevalent security issue in the Niger Delta in 2021, driven mainly by armed robbery, kidnapping, violent separatist agitation, arms proliferation, and killing for ritualistic purposes. Violent criminality was a dominant security issue in the entire region during the year, but it was more prevalent and deadly in Imo, Delta and Rivers, and caused more than 800 fatalities. Criminal violence reached the highest level in May, with 177 fatalities in 67 reported incidents.

### Imo

Violent criminality was prevalent in Imo during the year, particularly in Owerri Municipal, Orlu and Oru East LGAs. Criminal violence during the period involved mainly robbery, homicide, targeted attacks on security facilities and clashes between government security forces and hoodlums. In February, for instance, a 64-year old former

chairman of the Imo State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) was reportedly killed by gunmen in Owerri, the state capital. In April, gunmen reportedly attacked the state police headquarters and a correctional facility in the state capital and set free over 1,000 inmates. In June, the local youth leader of a major political party was reportedly killed by gunmen in Awo-Amamma community, Oru East LGA. In July, six oil workers and a policeman were reportedly killed by gunmen in Assa community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

### Delta

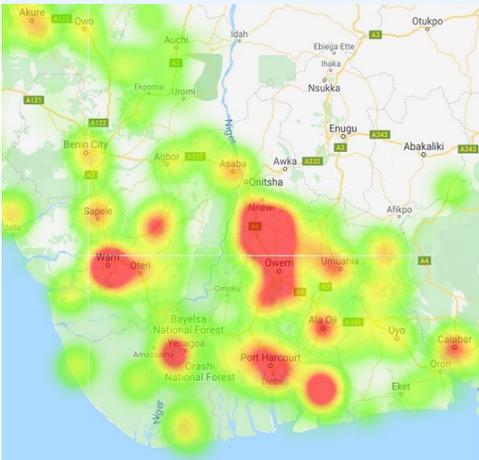
Criminal violence was prevalent in Delta State in 2021, particularly in Ethiope East, Ughelli North and Udu LGAs. Criminality during the period was driven largely by kidnapping, robbery, arms proliferation and clashes between security forces

and hoodlums. In January, for instance, gunmen reportedly killed three policemen and stole their weapons in Ekiugbo town, Ughelli North LGA. In March, robbers reportedly attacked two banks, a petrol station and a restaurant, and killed four persons in Issele-Uku town, Aniocha LGA. In July, a soldier and two robbers were reportedly killed in a gun battle in Tuomo community, Burutu LGA.

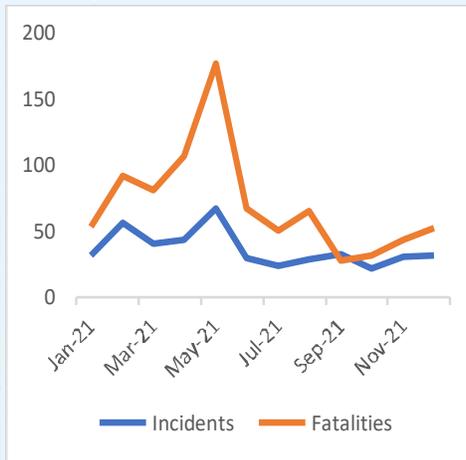
### Rivers

Criminality in Rivers State during the year related mainly to sea robbery/piracy, kidnapping and clashes between security operatives and hoodlums. In February, for example, pirates reportedly hijacked a passenger boat and abducted 12 persons along the waterways in Bonny LGA. In April, gunmen reportedly killed six youths in Uegwere community, Khana LGA.

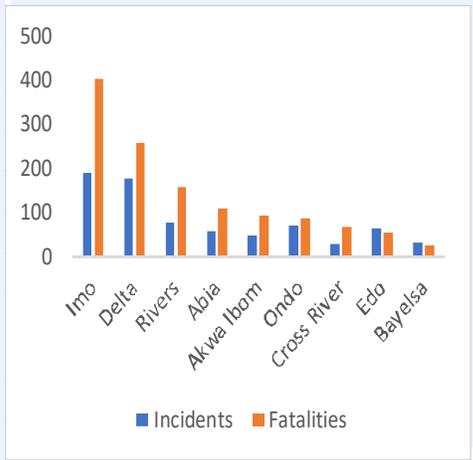
Fatalities Heat Map, Criminality



Incidents and Fatalities, Criminality - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Criminality



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Gang Violence

**Gang violence** was among the most lethal conflict issues in the Niger Delta in 2021. At the regional level there was a decrease in gang and cult related violence during the year, compared to 2020. Gang violence was prevalent in Delta, Rivers and Akwa Ibom, driven primarily by clashes and supremacy battles among rival cult gangs, as well as general criminality. Gang related violence caused over 160 fatalities in more than 65 reported incidents during the period.

### Delta

Gang violence was a dominant conflict risk and security issue in Delta State during the year. Over 60 persons were reportedly killed in gang and cult related clashes in the State during the period. Gang violence was prevalent in Udu, Warri South, Oshimili South and Ukwuani LGAs. In January, for example, five persons were reportedly killed in a series of cult clashes in Ekurede Itsekiri, Merogun, Ugbori and Egbokodo communities in Warri South LGA. In March, over five persons were reportedly killed during clashes between rival cult gangs in

Owhase, Ovwian and Oghior communities in Udu LGA. In July, over 12 persons were reportedly killed during clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Asaba town, Oshimili South LGA. In September, three people were reportedly killed during clashes between rival cult gangs in Obiaruku community, Ukwuani LGA.

### Rivers

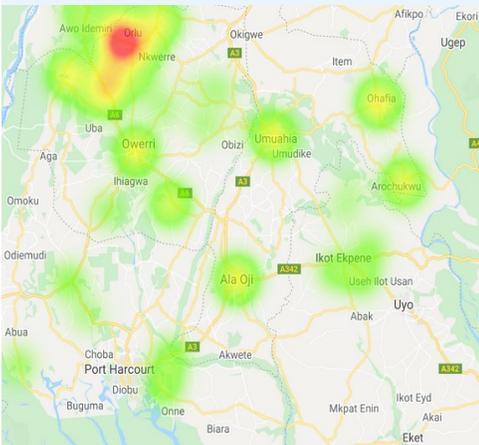
Several incidents of gang and cult related violence were reported in Rivers State during the year. Gang violence during the period was primarily driven by reprisal killings and battles for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs, particularly in Port Harcourt, Khana, Emohua, and Andoni LGAs. In March, for instance, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between cultists and members of a local vigilante group in Ibaa community, Emohua LGA. In April, eight persons including the local leader of a militant group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), were reportedly killed in a series of clashes with members of the

Iceland cult gang over a tussle for territorial control in Ajakajak, Ibotirem, Dema and Samanga communities, Andoni LGA. Also, in April, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs over a supremacy battle in Port Harcourt, the state capital. In August, over 10 persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes over a supremacy battle between Iceland and Greenlander cult gangs in Luebe, Gwara, Kono -Boue and Ka-Bori communities, Khana LGA.

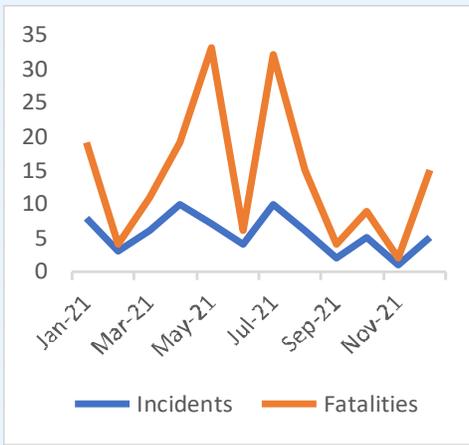
### Akwa Ibom

Gang violence was a prevalent security issue in Akwa Ibom State during the year. Over 25 persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes and battles for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs in the State, particularly in Ukanafun, Esit Eket and Etim Ekpo LGAs. In May, for instance, eight persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between Vikings and Black Axe cult gangs in Esit Eket town, Esit Eket LGA. In August, two persons were reportedly killed by cultists in Ikot Ese community, Etim Ekpo LGA.

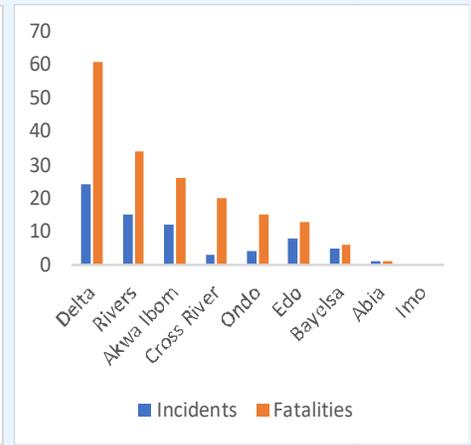
Fatalities Heat Map, Gang Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Gang Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Gang Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Separatist Agitation

**Separatist agitation** was a dominant conflict risk and security issue in the Niger Delta in 2021. Violent separatist agitation and targeted attacks on security facilities by separatist militias as well as clashes between government security forces and members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) - the security arm of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) - caused over 140 fatalities during the year, particularly in Imo, Abia, Rivers and Akwa Ibom.

### Imo

Violent separatist agitation was prevalent in Imo State during the year, particularly in Orlu, Owerri Municipal and Oru East LGAs. Targeted attacks by separatist militias as well as clashes between militias and government security forces caused more than 180 fatalities in the State during the period. In January, for instance, five persons were reportedly killed during a clash between separatist militias and government security forces in Okporo town, Orlu LGA. In April, 11 fatalities were reported during a clash between separatist militias and government security operatives in Awo-Amamma community, Oru East LGA. In June, more than 12 fatalities were reported during a military

raid on several camps of separatist militias at different locations in Ikeduru, Oguta and Ideato North LGAs. In July, separatist militias reportedly attacked a police station with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Njaba town, Njaba LGA.

### Abia

Separatist agitation was a dominant security issue in Abia State during the year. Targeted attacks against security facilities and civilians as well as clashes between separatist militias and government security forces caused over 50 fatalities in the State during the period. In March, for example, more than 11 persons were reportedly killed during a clash between separatist militias and soldiers at a security checkpoint in Ariaria, Aba North LGA. In May, separatist militias reportedly attacked a police station with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and killed two police officers in Apumiri town, Umuahia South LGA. In August, supporters of IPOB reportedly attacked and inflicted injuries on travelers along Ohafia-Uzuakoli-Umuahia Road in Ohafia LGA. The travelers were allegedly attacked over non-compliance with the IPOB 'sit-at-home' order in the State.

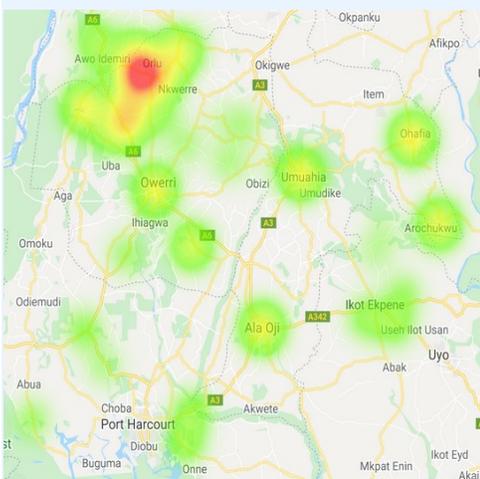
### Rivers

Separatist agitation and anti-police insurgency were key security issues in Rivers State in 2021. In April, for instance, 12 government security personnel were reportedly killed in a series of coordinated attacks by separatist militias at different locations in the State. In May, seven policemen were reportedly killed in a series of attacks on police stations and security checkpoints in Obio/Akpor and Emohua LGAs. In August, two separatist militias were reportedly killed during a clash with operatives of the Nigeria Police along Eleme-Oyigbo Road, Oyigbo LGA.

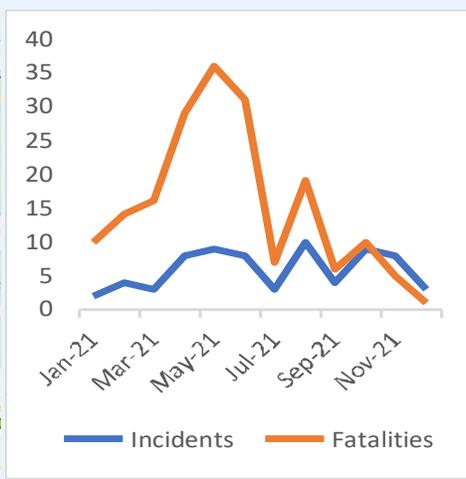
### Akwa Ibom

Separatist agitation and anti-police insurgency caused several fatalities in Akwa Ibom State during the period. In February, for instance, gunmen suspected to be members of the ESN reportedly attacked a security checkpoint and killed two security operatives in Ikpe Annang community, Essien Udim LGA. In May, separatist militias reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, killed two policemen, set vehicles ablaze and made away with weapons in Urua Inyang community, Ika LGA.

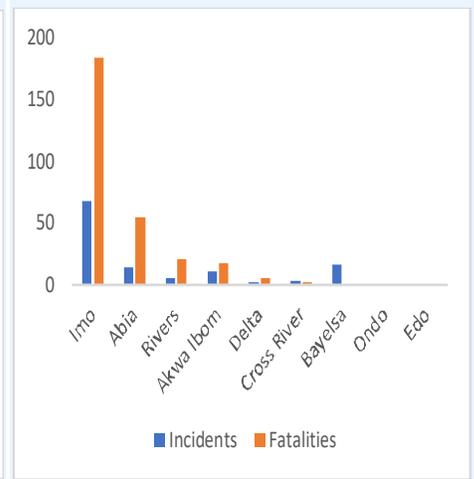
Fatalities Heat Map, Separatist Agitation



Incidents and Fatalities, Separatist Agitation - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Separatist Agitation



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org) ; [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Communal Violence

**Communal violence** was a major conflict risk and security issue in the Niger Delta in 2021, even though there was a decrease in incidents of communal conflict during the year compared to 2020. Communal violence caused more than 150 fatalities during the year, and driven mainly by inter and intra-communal tensions over land and boundary disputes, as well as the herder/farmer conflict. Communal violence was prevalent in Delta, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Ondo and Abia State.

### Delta

Communal violence was prevalent in the State during the year, especially in Ughelli North, Ughelli South, Udu, Warri South, and Isoko South LGAs. Communal conflict caused more than 40 fatalities during this period, driven mainly by land and boundary disputes, leadership tussles, as well as herder/farmer clashes. In January, for instance, 10 persons were reportedly killed and several houses destroyed during a clash over a longstanding land dispute between Igbide and Emede communities in Isoko South LGA. In March, a man and his two children were reportedly killed during a clash between herders and farmers in Abraka town,

Ethiope East LGA. In April, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash over the ownership of a market between Iwhreko and Ekiugbo communities, Ughelli North LGA.

### Akwa Ibom

Communal violence caused several fatalities in the State in 2021, driven mainly by land and boundary disputes. In January, for instance, three persons were reportedly killed and four others abducted during a clash over a boundary dispute between Nkari community in Ini LGA, Akwa Ibom State and Usaka Ukwu community in Ikwuano LGA, Abia State. In April, seven persons were reportedly killed and a woman raped during a clash over a boundary dispute between Ikpanya community in Ibiono Ibom LGA, Akwa Ibom State and Ugbo community in Arochukwu LGA, Abia State. In June, two residents were reportedly killed during a clash between herders and farmers in Ikot Atasung community, Ikot Ekpene LGA.

### Edo

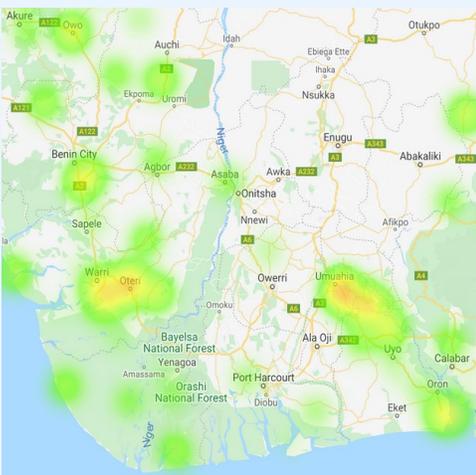
Several incidents of communal violence were reported in the State during the year, driven

primarily by communal land disputes and the herder-farmer conflict. In February, for example, three farmers were reportedly killed and farmlands burned during a clash between farmers and herders in Ugo community, Orhionmwon LGA. In March, three residents were reportedly killed during a fight over a land dispute between Sabon Gida-Ora and Uhonmora-Ora communities in Owan West LGA. In August, a resident was reportedly killed and houses and livestock destroyed during clashes over a land dispute between the Ijaw and Bini ethnic groups in Ikoro and Obazuwa communities, Ovia North East LGA.

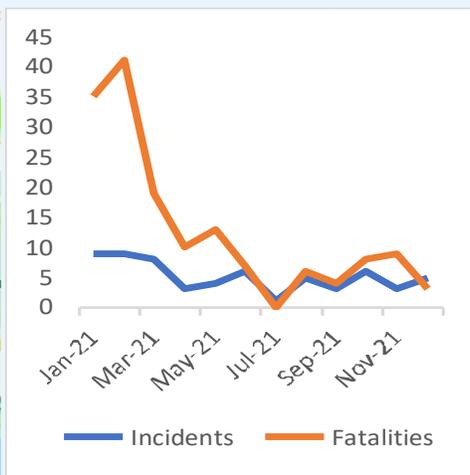
### Ondo

Communal violence in Ondo State during the period was driven mainly by leadership tussle and the herder-farmer conflict. In February, for example, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between farmers and herders in Ijugbere community, Owo LGA. In May, two residents were reportedly killed during a clash between two factions of youths supporting two traditional chiefs over a chieftaincy tussle in Ikare-Akoko community, Akoko North East LGA.

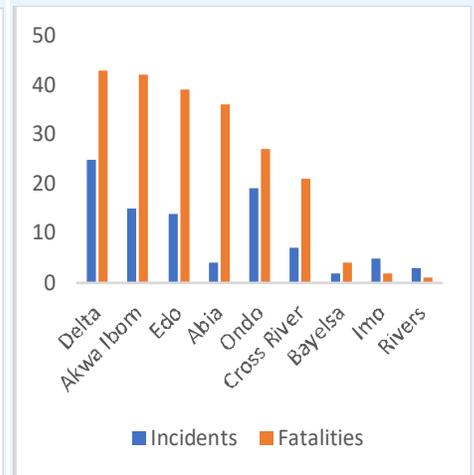
Fatalities Heat Map, Communal Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Communal Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Communal Violence



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## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

**Violence Against Women and Girls** increased significantly in the Niger Delta in 2021. According to data, incidents of against women and girls and related fatalities increased by 56% and 81% respectively during the year, compared to 2020. Violence against women and girls caused over 70 fatalities in more than 60 reported incidents in 2021, compared to 42 fatalities and 39 reported incidents in 2020. Incidents of violence against women and girls during the period mainly involved domestic violence, sexual violence, child trafficking and killing of women and girls for ritualistic purposes and organ trafficking, particularly in Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo and Ondo State.

### Akwa Ibom

Incidents of VAWG in Akwa Ibom State during the year were mainly related to sexual violation and domestic violence. In February, for instance, a 16-year old female student was reportedly raped by three men at gunpoint in Eyo-Abasi town, Oron LGA. In April, a 26-year old female job seeker was reportedly raped and killed by a fake male employer in Uyo, the state capital. In June, a 40-

year old woman was reportedly killed by her 49-year husband in Ikot Abia village, Eket LGA.

### Delta

Several incidents of VAWG were reported in Delta State during the period, driven largely by sexual violation, child abuse, domestic violence and killing of women and girls for ritualistic purposes. In March, for example, a 39-year old woman was reportedly abducted from her farm and killed by suspected human body parts dealers in Obiaruku town, Ukwuani LGA. Separately, in March, the decapitated body of a 34-year old woman was discovered in an uncompleted building in Ozoro community, Isoko North LGA. She was reportedly killed for ritualistic purposes.

In May, a 13-year old girl was reportedly killed by a cleric who allegedly harvested her vital organs for ritualistic purposes in Agbor town, Ika South LGA. Separately, in May, a 14-year old girl was reportedly gang raped by seven men in Issele-Uku town, Aniocha North LGA. In August, a 50-year old woman was reportedly raped and killed for ritual purposes in Umeh community, Isoko South LGA.

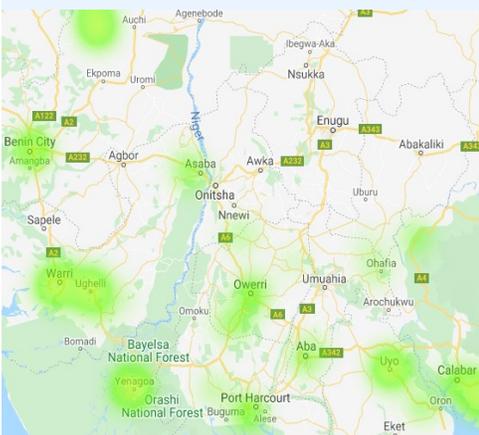
### Edo

Incidents of VAWG in Edo State during the year mainly involved domestic violence. In June, for instance, a 39-year old woman was reportedly beaten to death by her 45-year old husband during a disagreement in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In July, a 46-year old widow was reportedly killed by her 23-year old male lover in Ugbor community, Oredo LGA. In September, a 27-year old pregnant woman was reportedly found dead inside the vehicle of a community leader in Benin City. She was allegedly murdered and left inside the vehicle.

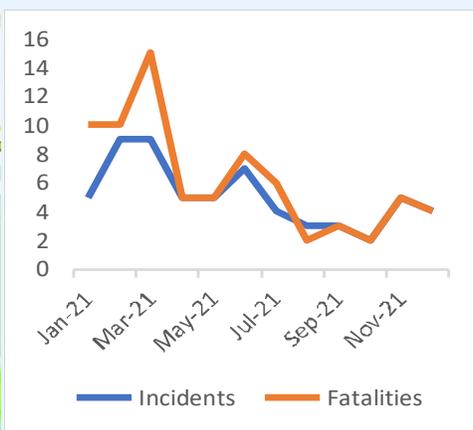
### Ondo

Reported incidents of VAWG in the State during the period mainly involved domestic violence, sexual violation and killings for ritualistic purposes. In March, for instance, a woman was reportedly killed by her husband in Odojomu community, Ondo West LGA. Separately, in March, a 1-year old girl was reportedly raped to death by a 27-year old man in Igbotako town, Okitipupa LGA. In September, a young lady was reportedly killed for ritualistic purposes by internet fraudsters also known as ‘Yahoo Boys’ in Akure, the state capital.

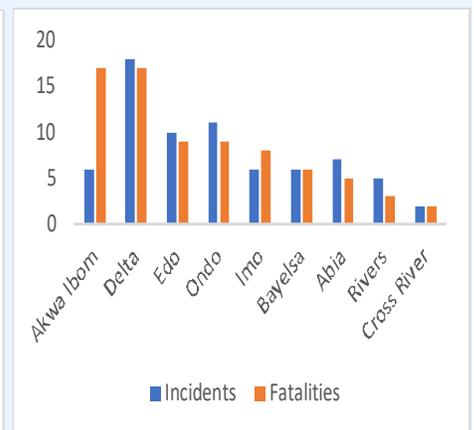
Fatalities Heat Map, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



Incidents and Fatalities, Violence Affecting Women and Girls - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Vigilante and Mob Violence

**Vigilante and mob violence** were major conflict risks and security issues in the Niger Delta in 2021, driven mainly by criminality and mob justice as well as the proliferation of vigilante groups and other informal security outfits. Several local vigilante groups and informal security outfits were established in the Niger Delta during the year mainly emboldened by a lack of citizen’s trust in the capacity of government law enforcement agencies to protect lives and properties, as well as perceived weaknesses in the judicial and penal system. Vigilante and mob violence caused more than 50 fatalities during the period and it was prevalent in Delta, Imo, Edo and Rivers State.

### Delta

Mob violence was prevalent in Delta State during the year, driven mainly by rising cases of petty crimes and organized criminality in the State. In January, for instance, two robbery suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Iwhrekan community, Ughelli North LGA. In March, a robbery suspect was reportedly burned to death by a mob at Mclver Market in Warri South LGA. In April,

another robbery suspect was reportedly killed by a mob in Ovwian community, Udu LGA. In May, three kidnapping suspects were reportedly lynched by a mob in Oghara community, Ethiope West LGA. In October, a male robbery suspect was reportedly burned to death by a mob along the Warri-Sapele Road in Effurun town, Uvwie LGA.

### Imo

Several incidents of mob lynching were reported in Imo State during the period, driven primarily by criminality and violent separatist agitation. In February, for example, two robbery suspects were reportedly lynched by a mob in Akuma community, Oru East LGA. In April, an escaped prisoner was reportedly lynched by residents in Ihodimeze community, Ikeduru LGA. In July, three robbery suspects were reportedly lynched by a mob in Owerri Ebiri community, Orlu LGA. In September, a 34-year old man who was enforcing a ‘sit-at-home’ order issued by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was reportedly beaten to death by residents in Oru Ahiaria community, Ahiazu Mbaise LGA.

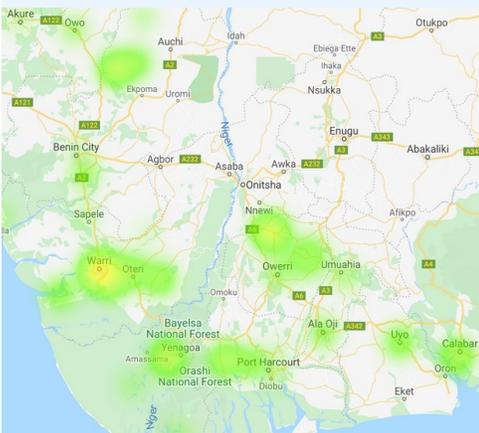
### Edo

Vigilante and mob violence caused several fatalities in the State during the year. In January, for example, a robbery suspect was reportedly lynched by a mob in Ugbowo community, Egor LGA. In May, a member of the Edo State Community Vigilante Security Network reportedly killed a man and a woman in Aduwawa community, Ikpoba Okha LGA. In July, five kidnapping suspects were reportedly burned to death by a mob along Afuze-Uokha Road in Owan West LGA.

### Rivers

Vigilante and mob violence caused many fatalities in Rivers State during the period. In March, for example, three residents were reportedly killed during a clash between cultists and members of a local vigilante group in Ibaa community, Emohua LGA. In November, members of a local vigilante group - Ahoada Security Planning Advisory Committee (ASPAC) - reportedly killed four residents who allegedly mobbed a traditional doctor who was accused of ritual killings in Edeoha community, Ahoada East LGA.

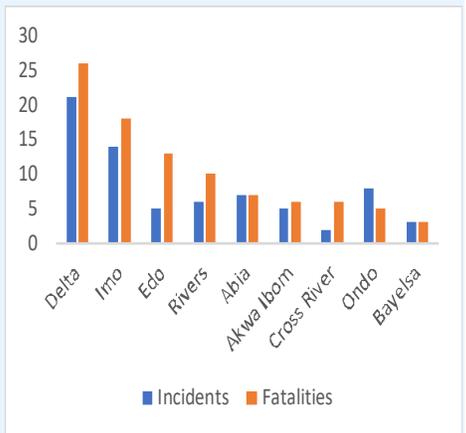
Fatalities Heat Map, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## About Us

### PIND



The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a not-for-

profit organization that develops innovative partnerships for peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods in the Niger Delta. PIND has developed a Peace Map to bring together data on peace and conflict for validation, triangulation and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

### NDPI



The Niger Delta Partnership Initiative (NDPI) is a U.S.-based not-for-

profit organization that harnesses the power of the private and public sectors to help alleviate poverty and instability in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria through collaborative, market-based solutions that are community owned and implemented. NDPI work closely with her Nigeria-based implementing partner, the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND).

### The Projects



**IPDU:** The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND responds to

emerging threats and mobilizes appropriate actors and resources for preventive interventions.

**P4P:** Partners for Peace (P4P) is a network of peace actors whose mission is to build social capital around peacebuilding by amplifying the voices of positive actors, and collaborating on activities for conflict early warning and prevention.

## Contact Us

### Inquiries



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### Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text: **080 9936 2222**

What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)

*Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description*