

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing and Mitigating Post-Election Violence in the Niger Delta

March 19-25, 2023

## Description

This weekly update spotlights election violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on the risk of post-election violence in the aftermath of the 2023 general elections. According to data (see map below), over 400 incidents of election related violence and more than 200 fatalities were reported in the Niger Delta between February 2019 and February 2023. During the February 2023 presidential and National Assembly elections, for instance, over 50 incidents of election violence including more than 8 fatalities were reported in the region. Several incidents of protests have also been reported in the aftermath of the March 18, 2023 governorship and State Assembly elections in the region. Delayed announcement of poll results reportedly triggered a series of protests in Abia State. Protests over alleged election irregularities were also reported in Delta, Imo and Rivers States. Growing tensions over the outcome of the 2023 general elections including reported calls for the cancellation of the polls over alleged electoral irregularities could snowball into mass demonstrations and crackdown by government security forces in the Niger Delta.

## Why it Matters

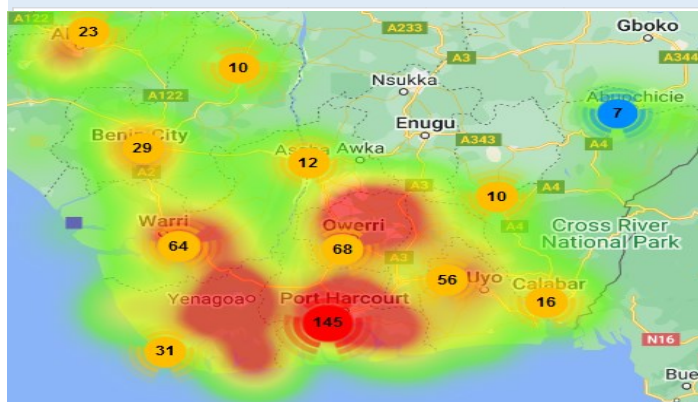
Rising tensions over the process and results of the 2023 elections could cause post-election violence. Protests over the elections could snowball into mass demonstrations which could result in crackdown by government security forces. Political tensions could also intersect with ethnic and communal tensions in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the Niger Delta. This could cause social and economic disruptions, and political instability.

**Social:** If not mitigated, the situation could degenerate into violent protests, mass demonstrations, and riots which could evolve into indiscriminate destruction of properties, arbitrary killings, and crackdown by government security forces. This could cause unrest and a breakdown of law and order which could be exploited by political thugs, cult gangs and criminal groups to commit violence. This could also deepen social polarization and communal tensions in the region.

**Economic:** Post-election violence could create a climate of insecurity that could adversely affect the economy. It could cause fear and uncertainties which could disrupt business activities, weaken investors' confidence, and cause loss of revenue and economic opportunities. This could also provide opportunities for hoodlums to vandalize and loot properties, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** Post-election protests and violence could evolve into mass demonstrations and backlash movements against the government. This could bring about political instability which could undermine governance. This could also cause sectarian and ethnic conflicts that could present additional security challenges for the government.

## Incidents Heat Map of Election-related Violence in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of election-related violence in the Niger Delta from February 2019 - February 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

Political tensions in the aftermath of the 2023 general elections has the potential to escalate and cause widespread violence. Stakeholders should leverage conflict early warning systems to monitor the situation and respond proactively to potential incidents and indicators of violence by directing all grievances to the relevant conflict resolution agencies. Stakeholders should also work with the relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies and media outfits to mitigate fake news and misinformation in the region.

## Contact Us

Inquiries: [PINDfoundation.org](http://PINDfoundation.org)

Contacts: [info@PINDfoundation.org](mailto:info@PINDfoundation.org) +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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

## Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

**Incident Details:** Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



FOUNDATION FOR NIGER DELTA PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE