

# Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

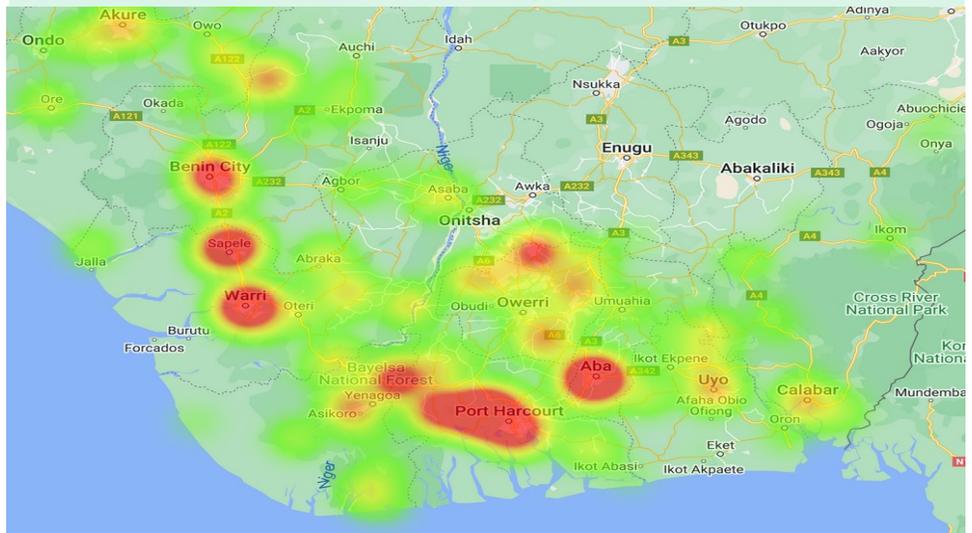
April to June 2023

The Niger Delta conflict, peace and security landscape was comparatively stable in the second quarter of 2023. There were continuities in the nature and dynamics of peace and security with few changes in the trends of violence during the quarter. There was a decline in incidents of lethal violence and a rise in conflict fatalities during the period compared to the first quarter. Overall, there was an improvement in the peace and security situation in the region (see page 2). Peace actors implemented many successful interventions that helped to de-escalate political tensions and prevent communal violence in the aftermath of the February and March 2023 general elections in the region. According to data on the P4P Peace Map ([www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)), criminality, separatist agitation, clashes between cult gangs, and human rights violations were the major causes of lethal violence during the period.

This quarterly tracker looks at the patterns and trends of conflict risk and lethal violence, and the related pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. It is not designed as a conflict analysis, rather it is intended to update stakeholders on the trends and patterns of violence. Understanding the deeper conflict drivers, implications, and mitigating options require a robust participatory qualitative analysis of these trends and patterns by stakeholders.

Prevailing conflict issues in the Niger Delta include organized criminality, communal tensions, political competition, resource-based conflicts, and human rights abuses. Incidents include kidnap for ransom,

## Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from April - June 2023.

Source: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

robbery, piracy, militancy, cult/gang violence, political violence, sexual violence, illicit drugs and human trafficking, ritual killing, mob violence, land disputes, separatist agitation, violence against security operatives, and natural disasters. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), VAWG Sources (focused on Violence against Women and Girls), CIEPD (<https://ciepdwc.crowdmap.com>), the IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

The Niger Delta region is highly heterogeneous, with over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects, and whose traditional livelihood involved mainly farming and fishing. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local

government areas and covers 9 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 over 23% of Nigeria's population.

The region contains vast reserves of oil and gas, which play a vital role in the Nigerian economy. Despite these abundant natural resources, the Niger Delta is marked by insecurity, poverty, and underdevelopment. Historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian) contribute to many of the conflict dynamics described in the following pages.

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — April to June 2023

There was a decline in incidents of conflict risk and violence and a rise in conflict fatalities in the Niger Delta in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. Conflict incidents decreased by 26% from 229 in Q1 to 170 in Q2, while fatalities increased by 15% from 278 in Q1 to 319 in Q2.

Communal and political tensions in the aftermath of the 2023 general elections were mitigated by peace actors through the targeted deployment of multistakeholder Early Warning/Early Response (EWER) systems during the period. Interventions by local peace actors helped to reduce tensions by channeling grievances to traditional institutions and civil society organizations for resolution.

Communal violence reduced by 79% from 33 fatalities in Q1 to 7 fatalities in Q2 of 2023.

Conversely, an upsurge in separatist agitation, organized criminal violence and clashes between rival cult gangs resulted in an increase in conflict fatalities during the period compared to the first quarter of the year. Criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity during the quarter. Data shows a 104% increase in the levels of criminality from 107 fatalities in Q1 to 218 fatalities in Q2.

At the regional level, violence associated with cult gangs increased by 118% from 38 fatalities in Q1

to 83 fatalities in Q2. There was also an increase in separatist agitation during the period, especially in Imo and Abia States. Data shows that separatist agitation related fatalities increased by 71% from 34 fatalities in Q1 to 58 fatalities in Q2.

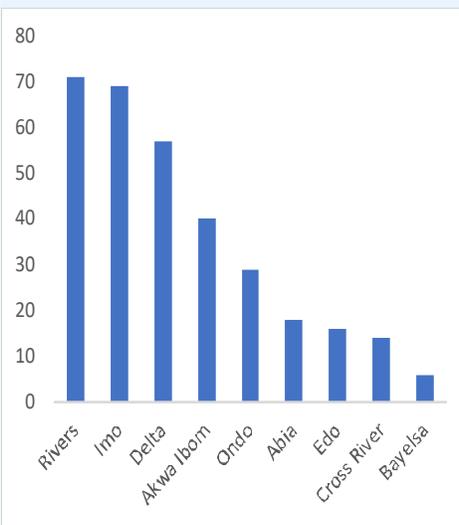
Rivers, followed by Imo and Delta States ranked highest in lethal violence during the quarter, based on reported conflict fatalities. The LGAs with the highest number of conflict fatalities were Oguta (Imo), Emohua (Rivers), and Uyo (Akwa Ibom).

The following pages provide a breakdown by State as to the main conflict issues reported during the quarter and the trends in those issues over time.

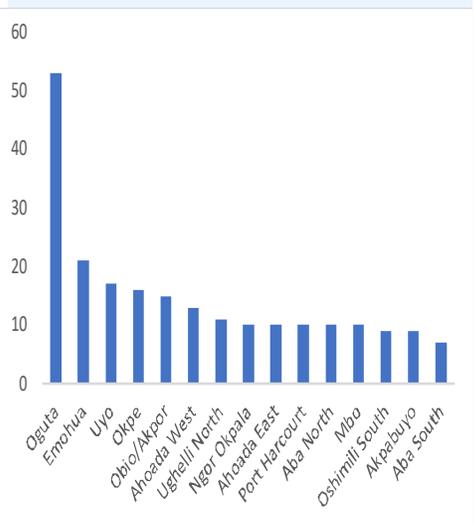
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q2 2022 - Q2 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (April - June 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

### About this Conflict Tracker

We hope that this tracker provides stakeholders with information to inform the process of analysis and joint planning to promote sustainable peace in the Niger Delta.

To ensure that the tracker is comprehensive, please contribute your knowledge by reporting any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU Early Warning System by texting a message to **080 9936 2222**.

Kindly include the relevant State, LGA, town, date, and brief description of the incident. To read the latest conflict trackers and weekly updates, please visit: <https://pindfoundation.org/category/conflict-trackers/> OR [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Abia State

There was a decrease in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Abia State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. Lethal violence reduced by 54% from 39 fatalities in Q1 to 18 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Conflict risk and violence during the quarter were mainly driven by violent criminality and ethno-national separatist agitation. Aba North and Aba South LGAs had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Several incidents of organized criminal violence were reported in the State during the period. In April, for instance, the leader of a criminal gang was allegedly killed in a gun battle with the police

in Azumini community, Ukwa East LGA. In May, gunmen allegedly killed an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and made away with his firearm and uniform in Ndiegoro community, Aba South LGA. Separately, three members of a local vigilante group were reportedly killed by gunmen in Etti-Ohazu community, Aba South LGA. Also, in May, a man was reportedly killed by gunmen at a drinking spot in Aba town, Aba South LGA.

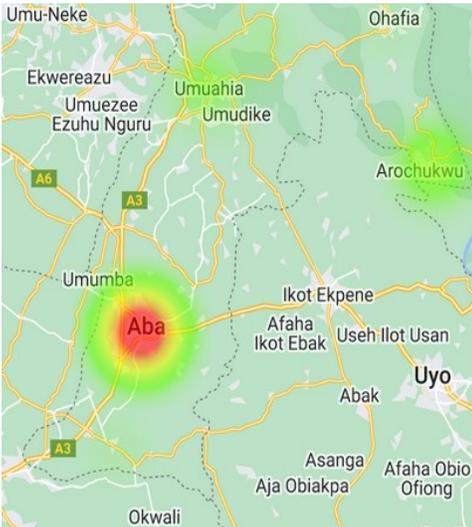
In June, a traditional ruler was allegedly abducted by kidnapers in Amawo Nkwo-Ogu community, Osisioma Ngwa LGA. Separately, in June, gunmen reportedly attacked a commercial bus and kidnapped many passengers including a journalist in Umuahia, the state capital. Also, in June, gunmen reportedly robbed and killed a female trader in Umudioka town, Osisioma Ngwa LGA.

### Separatist Agitation

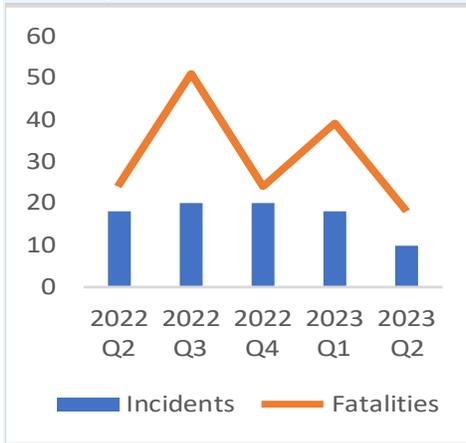
Separatist agitation was a major drivers of lethal violence in the State during the period. In April, for instance, four persons were allegedly killed during a clash between supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and government security forces in Osusu community, Aba North LGA. In May, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly killed two brothers and burned their house for allegedly working as informants for the police in Ohanku community, Aba South LGA.

### Other Incidents

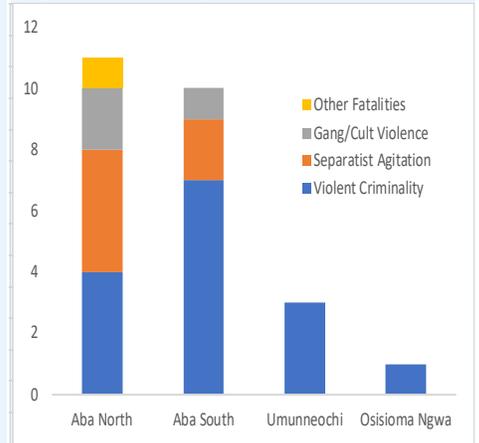
In April, three residents including a woman were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Umuode town, Osisioma Ngwa LGA. In June, a robbery suspect was reportedly killed by a mob at Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Akwa Ibom State

There was a rise in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Akwa Ibom was one of the States that ranked high in the levels of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported conflict fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by violent criminality. Uyo LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminality was a major driver of violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In April, for instance, a policeman was reportedly killed by gunmen in Ikot Abasi Akpan community, Mkpát Enin LGA. In June, a chieftain of a political party was reportedly abducted by gunmen at a petrol station in Oron community, Oron LGA. Separately, in June, a 35-year-old man was reportedly killed by his father in Ikot Ndot community, Ukanafun LGA.

### Political/Election Violence

Election violence caused many fatalities in the State during the period. In April, for instance, three persons were reportedly killed at different polling centers during supplementary National Assembly elections in Abak LGA. Separately, two persons including an official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were reportedly killed during a clash between political thugs and voters during supplementary National Assembly elections in Itak community, Ikono LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs were major drivers of violence and insecurity in the State during the period. In May, for instance, more than four persons were reportedly killed, several others injured and properties destroyed in a series of clashes between Black Axe and Klaans cult gangs over the collection of levies at motor parks in Nwaniba community in Uruan LGA and in Uyo the

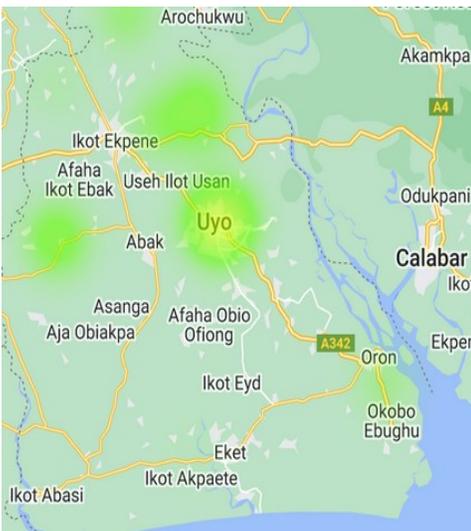
state capital. In June, a male student of the Akwa Ibom State University was reportedly killed by a cult gang in Ikot Akpaden, Mkpát Enin LGA.

### Communal Violence

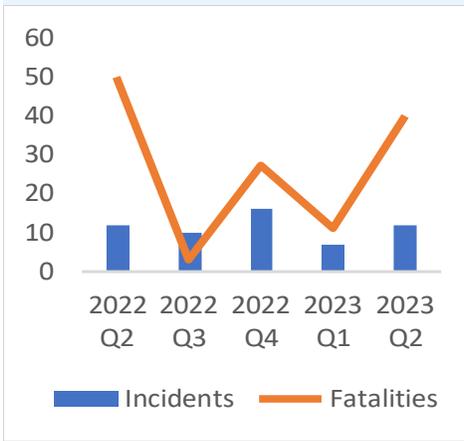
In May, four persons including three youths were reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Amazaba community in Eastern Obolo LGA and Ikot Akpan Udo community in Ikot Abasi LGA. Several property including houses were allegedly destroyed during the incident.

### Other Incidents

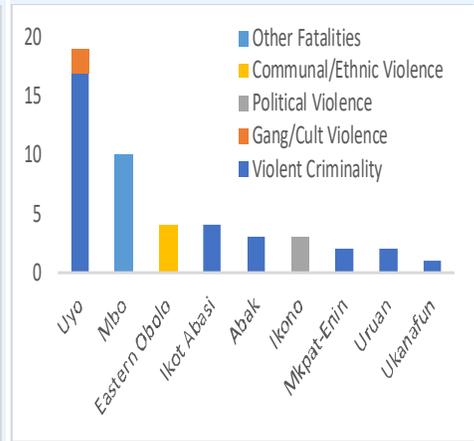
In June, 10 persons reportedly drowned after a passenger boat capsized off the coast of Mbo LGA. The passengers were reportedly returning from a fishing settlement in Ine Ataobong community near the Bakassi Peninsula. Also, in June, a middle-aged man allegedly sold his 9-year-old son for four hundred thousand naira in Ekit Itam Akpan Obong community, Itu LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Bayelsa State

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Bayelsa State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Bayelsa was the least violent State in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities. Conflict risk and violence during the period were mainly driven by criminality. Yenagoa LGA recorded the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence was a key security issue in the State during the period. In April, for instance, a construction worker was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Akenpai community, Yenagoa LGA. In May, four suspected pirates were reportedly killed during a gun battle with a patrol team of the Nigerian Navy in Egwema community, Brass LGA. Also, in May, a 20-year-old girl was reportedly shot dead by robbers in Azikoro community, Yenagoa LGA. In June, gunmen reportedly attacked and robbed a businesswoman

at her shop in Opolo community, Yenagoa LGA. The woman was allegedly robbed of many valuables including a Point of Sale Machine (POS) and a large sum of money. Separately, in June, a female staff member of a commercial bank was reportedly abducted by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers in Yenagoa, the state capital.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

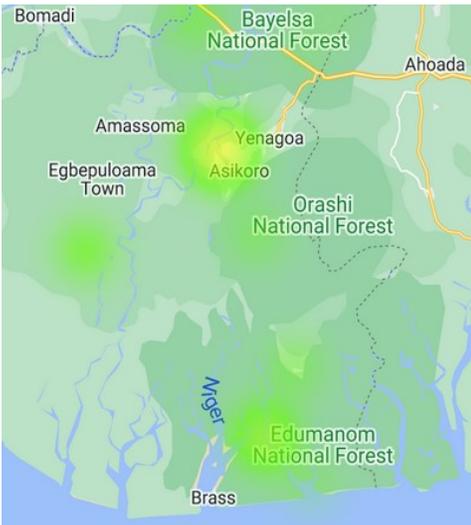
In addition to the impact of organized criminality on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In June, for instance, a female student was reportedly sexually abused by a school principal in Yenagoa, the state capital.

### Other Incidents

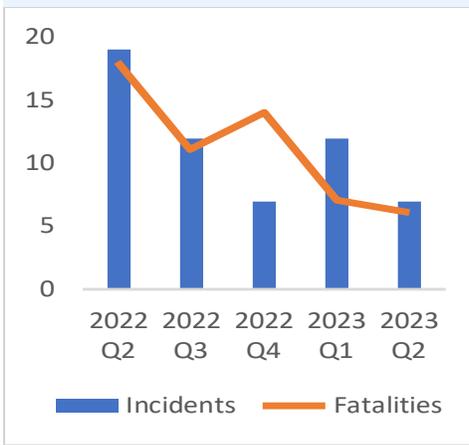
In April, a mob reportedly killed a commercial tricyclist for allegedly killing a passenger during a fight in Yenizue-Epie community, Yenagoa LGA. In May, a male student reportedly slumped and died

after he allegedly took an overdose of an illicit drug locally known as ‘Colorado’ during a celebration at a university in Otuoke community, Ogbia LGA. Separately, in May, a 10-year-old boy reportedly shot dead his 12-year-old friend with his grandfather’s pistol by accident in Otuan community, Southern Ijaw LGA. The accident allegedly happened while the boys were playing.

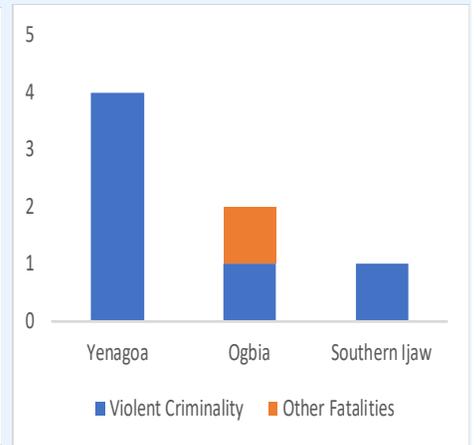
Additionally, in June, a man was allegedly killed by soldiers who were guarding an oil and gas facility in Sangana community, Brass LGA. The incident reportedly triggered a protests by men, women and youths of the community. Separately, in June, two children, a 4-year-old girl and 2-year-old boy, were reportedly abducted and trafficked by their neighbors in Igbegene community, Yenagoa LGA. The suspects allegedly sold the children to human traffickers for the sum of one million five hundred thousand naira. The suspects were later arrested by the police and the children recovered from Abia and Enugu States.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Cross River State

There was a decrease in reported incidents of violence and an increase in conflict fatalities in Cross River State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. Data shows that conflict incidents declined by 65% from 17 in Q1 to 6 incidents in Q2, while conflict fatalities increased by 100% from 7 in Q1 to 14 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Cross River was among the States in the Niger Delta with the least number of lethal violence during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Very few incidents of lethal violence were reported in Cross River during the period. Reported incidents mainly involved criminal violence and clashes between rival cult gangs. Akpabuyo followed by Calabar Municipal LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major driver of conflict risk and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In May, for instance, a man was reportedly killed by his younger brother during a quarrel over the ownership of an oil palm

plantation in Ekor community, Yakurr LGA. In June, two residents including a staff member of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) were reportedly abducted by kidnapers in Calabar, the state capital. Separately, in June, sea robbers reportedly attacked a boat and kidnapped 15 passengers along the Oron-Calabar waterways in Calabar Municipal LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs was a major security issue in the State during the period. In April, for example, three young men were reportedly killed during a clash between members of the Black Night and Skylo cult gangs in Atimbo community, Akpabuyo LGA. In May, seven persons including a youth leader were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Akpabuyo LGA.

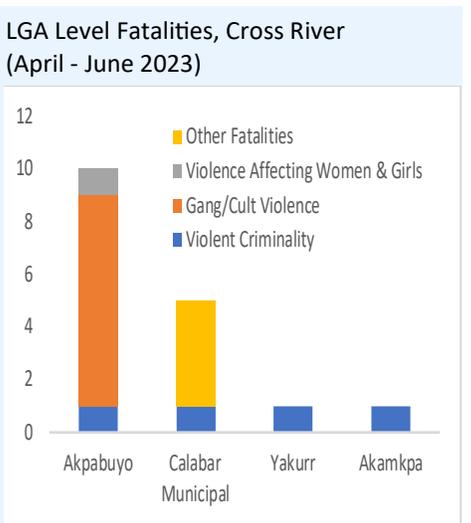
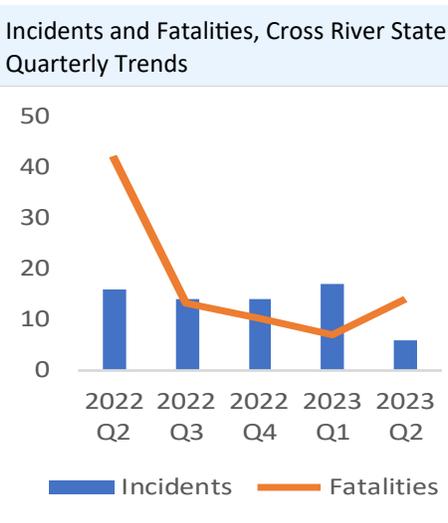
### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of organized criminality and gang violence on women and girls listed

above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In June, for instance, a middle-aged woman was reportedly burned to death by a mob over alleged witchcraft practices at Old Netim community, Akamkpa LGA. Also, in June, another woman was reportedly killed over alleged witchcraft in Ifondo community, Akpabuyo LGA.

### Other Incidents

In April, a 22-year-old robbery suspect was reportedly set ablaze by a mob at Atimbo Area in Calabar Municipal LGA. In May, the Village Head of Ikot Eyo Edem was reportedly assassinated in Ikot Offiong Ambai community, Akpabuyo LGA. In June, the wife of the deceased Village Head was allegedly shot dead by security operatives during the funeral. The woman was accidentally killed when a team of security operatives fired gunshots into the air to scare off hoodlums during the funeral. Separately, in June, a man was reportedly killed by his twin sisters during a disagreement over the sale of their father’s landed property in Nakanda community, Akpabuyo LGA.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Delta State

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Delta State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter of the year. Data shows a 20% decrease in lethal violence from 71 fatalities in Q1 to 57 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), at the regional level, Delta was one of the States that ranked high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence in the State during the period were mainly driven by criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Okpe followed by Ughelli North and Udu LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

In April, gunmen reportedly attacked a bus, killed a passenger and abducted eight others along a road between Ndemili and Oliogo communities in Ndokwa West LGA. Separately, in April, a chieftain of a political party was reportedly assassinated at his home in Agbarho community, Ughelli North LGA. Also, in April, two robbery and kidnapping suspects were allegedly killed during a shootout with the police in Ughelli town, Ughelli North LGA. In May, two policemen were reportedly killed by gunmen in Ekredjebor community, Ughelli North

LGA. In June, a set of 7-year-old twin were reportedly abducted and killed for money making rituals by a relative and a neighbor in Oko-Ogbele community, Oshimili South LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

In April, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult gangs in Ughelli town, Ughelli North LGA. In May, a resident was reportedly killed and several houses destroyed during a clash between a cult gang and members of an anti-cult vigilante group in Eku community, Ethiope East LGA. Also, in May, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Orhuwhorun community, Udu LGA.

### Communal Violence

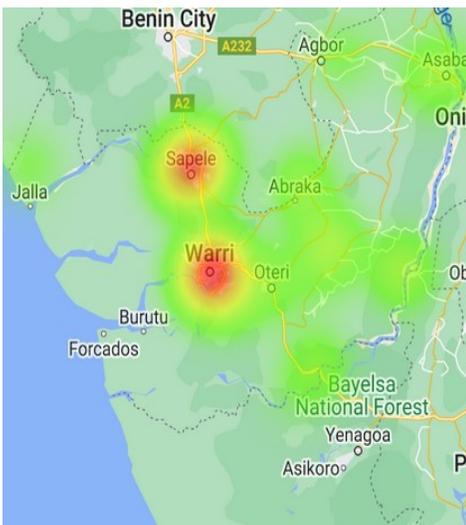
In April, a man was reportedly shot during a clash between fishers from Oboro community in Burutu LGA and Alota community in Ughelli South LGA. The clash reportedly intensified tensions between the Ijaw (Oboro) and Urhobo (Alota) communities in the area. In May, communal tensions were reportedly elevated following an alleged planned attack by communal militias over a land dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Udu and Warri South-West LGAs respectively.

### Violence Against Women & Girls

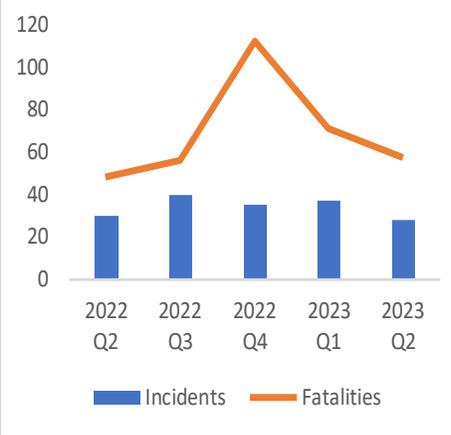
In addition to the impact of criminal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were reported during the period. In April, for instance, a 29-year-old woman was reportedly stabbed to death by her husband during a fight in Igbudu community, Warri South LGA. In June, a 45-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her lover during a quarrel at Okolor Inland community, Udu LGA. Separately, in June, a 10-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a 37-year-old man in Owwor-Olomu community, Ughelli South LGA.

### Other Incidents

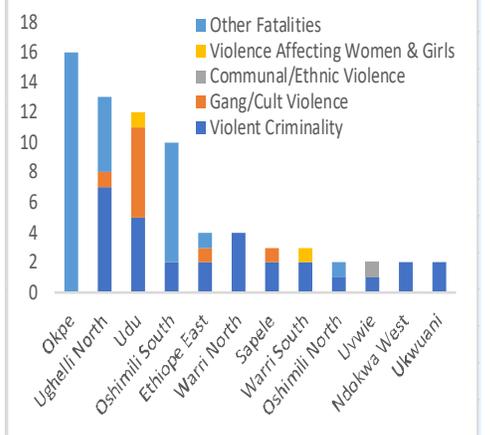
In April, a militant group known as Delta Strike Force (DSF) reportedly vandalized an oil and gas facility in Agbarha-Otor community, Ughelli North LGA. Also, in April, a young man was reportedly shot dead by a policeman during a disagreement over the payment of a bribe at a security checkpoint along Ugbolu-Illah Road in Oshimili North LGA. In June, about 10 persons reportedly died after their boat capsized in Ughoton River near Jeddo town in Okpe LGA. The boat reportedly capsized after hitting a hard object in the River.



Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Edo State

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Edo State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. Lethal violence declined by 41% from 27 conflict fatalities in Q1 to 16 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Edo was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Conflict and security issues during the period mainly involved criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Etsako West followed by Akoko Edo and Oredo LGAs had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major driver of conflict and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In April, for instance, a 46-year-old bouncer was reportedly killed by gunmen at a drinking spot in Benin City, the state capital. Separately, in April, four persons including three policemen were allegedly killed during a gun battle with gunmen suspected to be terrorists in Igarra community, Akoko Edo LGA. The Islamic

State West Africa Province (ISWAP) allegedly claimed responsibility for the attack. Also, in April, eight residents were allegedly abducted by armed herders in Igolo community, Ovia North-East LGA.

In May, 12 travelers including a 9-year-old girl were reportedly ambushed and abducted by kidnappers along Auchu-Afuzo Road in Ihievbe community, Owan East LGA. In June, a Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by kidnappers along Agbor Road in Ikhueni community, Orhionmwon LGA. Also, in June, a young woman was reportedly killed by kidnappers in Sobe community, Owan West LGA. She was allegedly killed after a ransom demanded by the kidnappers has been paid.

### Gang/Cult Violence

In April, a male student of the University of Benin was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult gang at a hostel in Ugbowo community, Egor LGA. In May, eight persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between cult gangs at different locations including Ugbowo and Uselu communi-

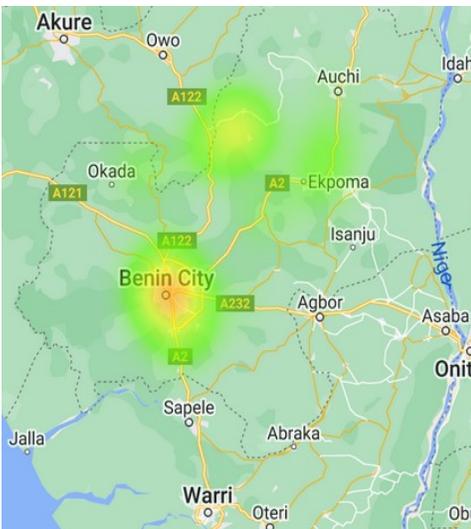
ties in Oredo LGA, and Irhirhi and Ogunmwon communities in Egor LGA. In June, four persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between the Black Axe and Vikings cult gangs at a polytechnic in Auchu community, Etsako West LGA.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

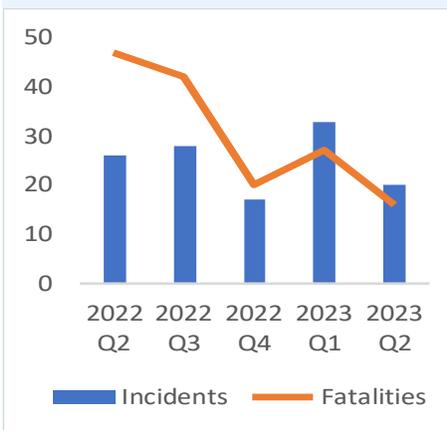
In addition to the impact of criminality and cult clashes on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls were reported. In May, a 23-year-old pregnant woman was reportedly killed by her husband in Egba community, Ikpoba Okha LGA. In June, a young woman was reportedly killed by her boyfriend in South Ibie community, Etsako West LGA.

### Other Incidents

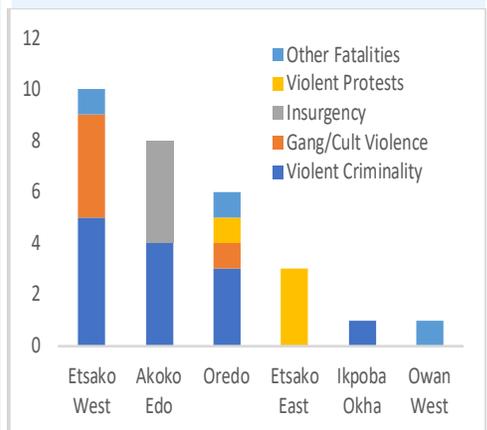
In June, three youths were allegedly killed by soldiers during a protest in Afokpella community, Etsako East LGA. The youths were reportedly protesting underemployment by two cement companies in the area. Also, in June, some policemen allegedly ran over a man in handcuffs with a vehicle in Ekpoma town, Esan West LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Imo State

There was an increase in conflict fatalities whereas incidents of lethal violence declined in Imo State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. Data shows that lethal violence declined by 36% from 39 incidents in Q1 to 25 incidents in Q2, while conflict fatalities increased by 130% from 30 fatalities in Q1 to 69 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Imo was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta based on reported fatalities during the period. Violence and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality and separatist agitation. Oguta followed by Ngor Okpala LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminality was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the period. In April, for instance, gunmen reportedly killed a community leader at a town hall in Logara community, Ngor Okpala LGA. Separately, in April, a Catholic priest was reportedly abducted by gunmen along Oriagu-Obowo Road in Obowo LGA. In May, a community leader was reportedly killed by gunmen in Mgbele community, Oguta LGA. Also, in May, the traditional ruler of Orsu Obodo

community was reportedly killed by gunmen in Izombe town, Oguta LGA. Separately, in May, gunmen reportedly killed two residents and hijacked a car in Amakohia community, Ikeduru LGA. In June, gunmen suspected to be assassins reportedly attacked the convoy of a former governor of Imo State and killed a police officer along Okigwe-Enugu Expressway in Ihube town, Okigwe LGA.

### Separatist Agitation

Separatist agitation was a major security issue during the period. Clashes between security forces and separatist militias caused several fatalities in the State. In April, for instance, five police officers and two civilians were allegedly killed by separatist militias in Okpala community, Ngor Okpala LGA. Separately, in April an inspector of police was allegedly abducted and killed by separatist militias in Umuoshike Ogbor town, Aboh Mbaise LGA.

In May, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly killed two policemen and injured many others at a security checkpoint in Umuneke Ngor community, Ngor Okpala LGA. Separately, in May, a chieftain of a political party was reportedly ambushed and killed by separatist militias in

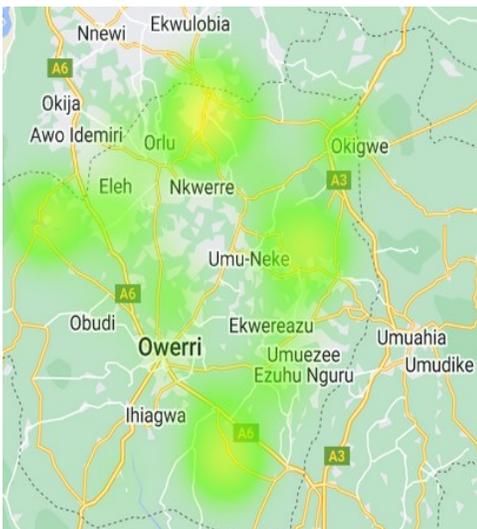
Awomama town, Oru East LGA. In June, over 30 persons were reportedly killed, more than 150 houses destroyed and several residents displaced following a series of clashes between government security forces and members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the militant wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Amakpurudere village in Izombe town, Oguta LGA.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

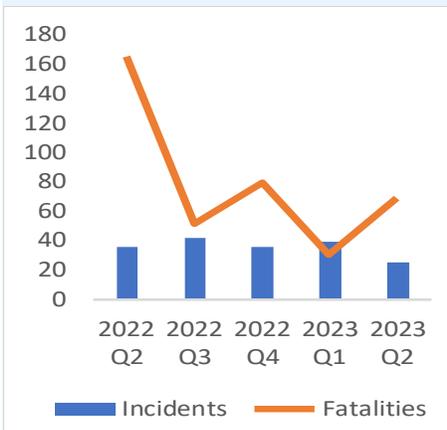
In addition to the impact of separatist agitation and criminal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls were reported. In April, for instance, a woman and her daughter and 8-month-old baby were allegedly killed by stray bullets fired by officials of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Owerri, the state capital.

### Other Incidents

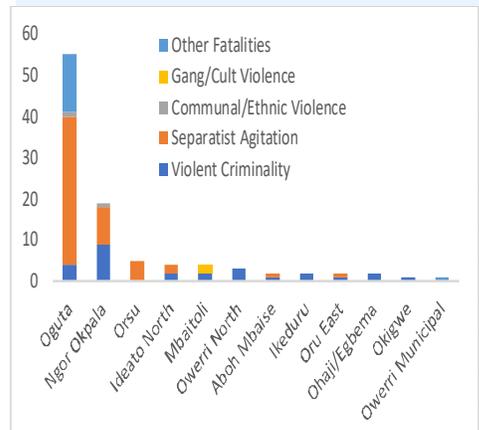
In April, a suspected cultist who allegedly stabbed a man to death was reportedly killed by a mob in Nsookpo-Ogbaku community, Mbaitoli LGA. In May, a resident was reportedly killed by herdsmen during a disagreement over access to land for grazing in Amuekpe Agwa community, Oguta LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Ondo State

There were no significant changes in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Ondo State during the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Ondo was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported conflict fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence during the period were mainly driven by criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Akure South and Akure North LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major security issue in the State during the period. In April, for example, three residents were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Igoba town, Akure North LGA. In May, an 84-year-old man was reportedly killed by kidnapers in Idanre town, Idanre LGA. Separately, in May, a 27-year-old man and his accomplice reportedly killed a 90-year-old traditional chief priest and stole an oracle (mystic)

in Irese community, Ifedore LGA. In June, gunmen reportedly killed a 54-year-old man and abducted his 23-year-old son in Ijagba community, Ose LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

In April, a male university student was reportedly killed by a cultist in Akungba-Akoko community, Akoko South-East LGA. In May, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult gangs in Owo community, Owo LGA.

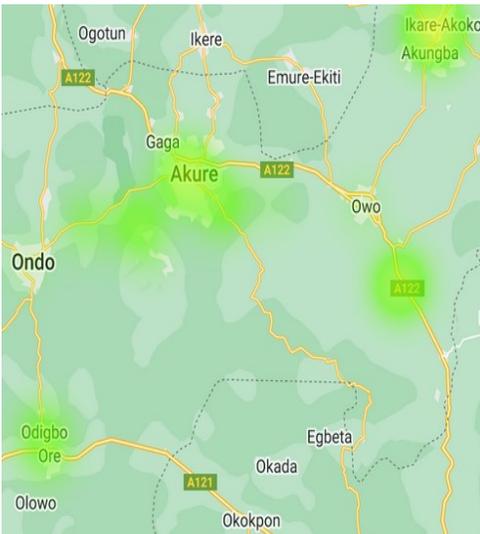
### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of criminality and gang violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported during the period. In May, for example, an 80-year-old woman was reportedly raped to death by a 27-year-old man at a farm in Ore community, Odigbo LGA. Separately, in May, a 58-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a 29-year-old man who attempted to rape her in Akure, the state capital. Also, in May, a 12-year-old girl was

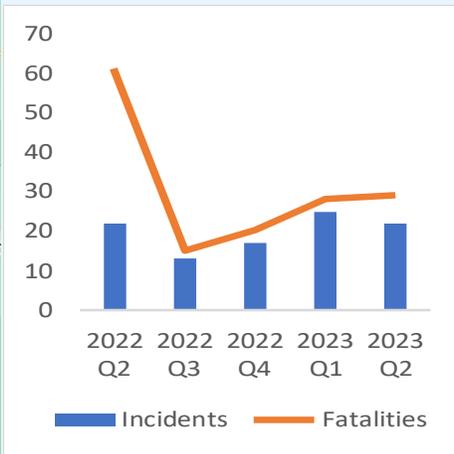
allegedly raped by a middle-aged man in Igbokoda town, Ilaje LGA. In June, a 70-year-old woman was reportedly killed by armed robbers in her house at Sabo area in Ondo town, Akure North LGA.

### Other Incidents

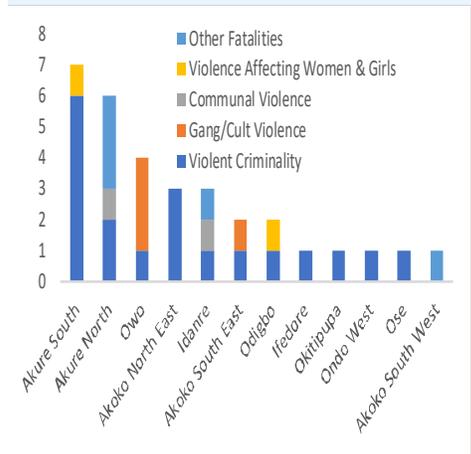
In April, a 50-year-old farmer was reportedly killed by herdsmen at Ala Forest Reserve in Ago-Oyinbo community, Akure North LGA. In April, a mob reportedly killed a 35-year-old taxi driver for killing two persons in a car accident at Ijoka area of Akure, the Ondo State capital. Separately, in April, a 36-year-old motorcyclist was allegedly killed by a private security guard at Alagbaka area in Akure, the state capital. Also, in April, a middle-aged man was reportedly shot dead during a clash between two factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in Ikare Akoko community, Akoko North-East LGA. In another incident, in April, a soldier reportedly stabbed a middle-aged man severely with a knife during a disagreement in Akure, the state capital.



Incidents and Fatalities, Ondo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Ondo State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Rivers State

There was an increase in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers State in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. Lethal violence increased by 18% from 60 fatalities in Q1 to 71 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Rivers ranked highest in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence and insecurity during the quarter were mainly driven by organized criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Emohua LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the period. In April, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between two factions of a cult gang at Mile 1 in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, in April, a 20-year-old man was reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult gangs at Mile 3 in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. In May, a youth leader was allegedly killed by members of a cult gang in Abarikpo town, Ahoada East LGA. Separately, in May, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between the Greenlanders and Icelanders cult gangs along the East-West Road in Ahoada

East LGA. Also, in May, five residents were reportedly killed by a gang of cultists in Odieroke Ubie community, Ahoada West LGA. In a separate incident, four members of a community vigilante group were reportedly killed by members of a cult gang in Rundele community, Emohua LGA.

### Violent Criminality

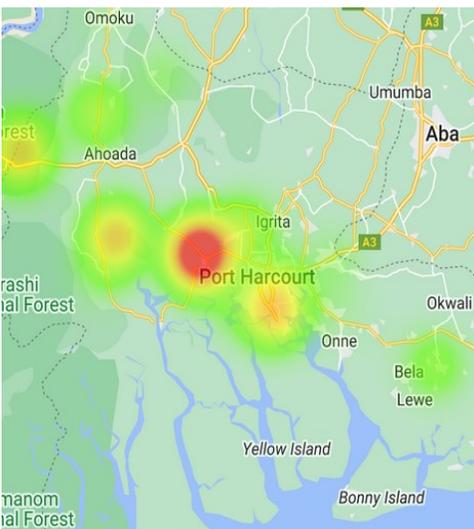
Organized criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major security issue in Rivers State during the period. In April, for instance, a gang of cultists who doubles as kidnappers reportedly killed three residents and abducted two others in Ubeta community, Ahoada West LGA. Separately, in April, gunmen reportedly abducted a former president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and killed two of his aides along the East-West Road in Obio/Akpor LGA. Also, in April, three persons including a female Federal Commissioner from Bayelsa State were allegedly abducted by kidnappers at Ogbakiri Junction along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA. In another incident, in April, a soldier was allegedly killed by hoodlums allegedly involved in illegal artisanal oil refining in Rundele community, Emohua LGA.

In May, about 12 members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were reportedly abducted by

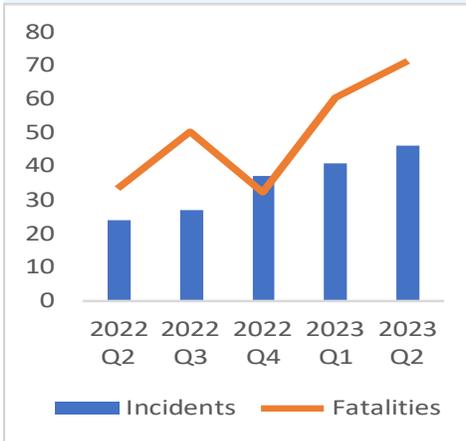
gunmen along the East-West Road in Rumuji community, Emohua LGA. Separately, in May, a woman was reportedly killed by her former private security guard at her residence in the GRA area, Port Harcourt LGA. Also, in May, a police officer was reportedly killed by gunmen at a security checkpoint along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA. In June, pirates reportedly hijacked two boats and killed a female passenger along the waterways between Abonnema and Kula communities in Akuku-Toru LGA. Separately, in June, four members of a criminal gang were allegedly killed during a gun battle with the police in Ogoloma community, Okrika LGA. Also, in June, a naval rating was allegedly killed by gunmen suspected to be members of a local vigilante group in Oduoha community, Emohua LGA.

### Human Trafficking

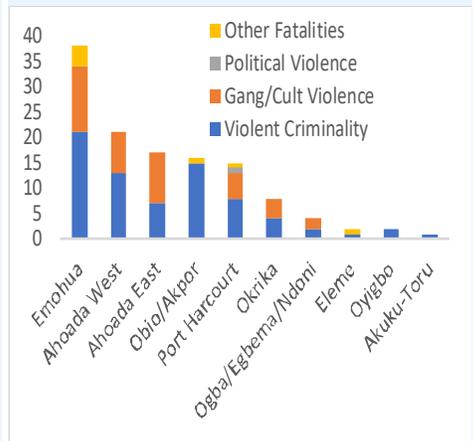
Several incidents of child trafficking were reported during the period. In April, for example, the police reportedly arrested four members of a child trafficking syndicate and rescued two children in Ubima community, Ikwerre LGA. In May, the police reportedly arrested a child trafficker and rescued six pregnant girls in Aluu and Choba communities in Ikwerre and Obio/Akpor LGAs respectively.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State (April - June 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## About Us

### PIND



The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a nonprofit organization that promotes peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

PIND implements collaborative market-based, community-owned programs to mitigate conflicts and boost economic opportunities for local businesses, ensuring that economic progress occurs in a systemic, inclusive, and sustainable manner. Headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria, PIND also has a Washington, D.C.-based counterpart known as the Niger Delta Partnership Initiative (NDPI).

PIND has developed an interactive Peace Map to gather data on peace and conflict for validation, triangulation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. With over 55,000 data points on conflict that dates back to 2009, the Peace Map is one of the most comprehensive data set on conflict publicly available in Nigeria.

### The Projects



**IPDU:** The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND's Peacebuilding Program responds to emerging threats and mobilizes appropriate actors and resources for preventive interventions. It provides

operational level support to stakeholders through: research, capacity building, and applied learning aimed at early targeting and mitigation of potential drivers of conflict and instability.

**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. The network includes stakeholders from community-based organizations, civil society, and the general public committed to promoting peaceable livelihoods.

## Our Services

PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) provides technical support to stakeholders and implementing partners in the public and private sectors. Leveraging our in-house team of subject-matter experts and a network of partners on the ground, and drawing on our over 10 years of experience in peacebuilding and archiving of conflict data and research, we offer technical support to both national and international stakeholders in conflict early warning/response, and production of data-driven conflict reports.

### 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:** Include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief description.