

Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

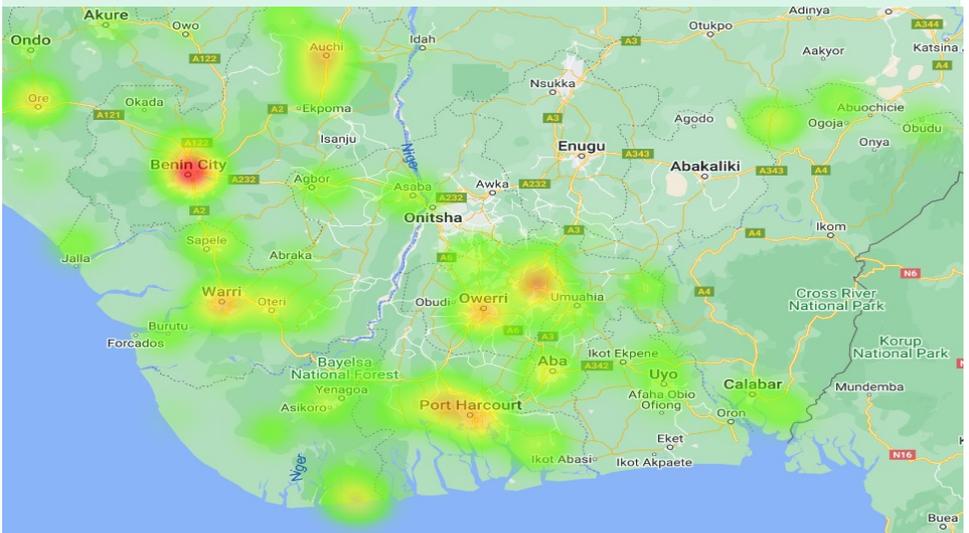
July to September 2023

The Niger Delta was relatively peaceful during the third quarter of 2023. There was a decrease in lethal violence during the period compared to the first and second quarters of the year (see page 2). Data shows significant improvement in the overall peace and security situation in the region. Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs), international development organizations, local peace actors, and government security agencies implemented several interventions that helped to prevent and mitigate communal and political violence, and effectively counteract occasional outbreaks of criminal violence during the quarter. According to data on the P4P Peace Map (www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p), criminality, clashes between security forces and hoodlums, 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 July - September 2023.

Source: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map 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), Nigeria Watch (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 — July to September 2023

The peace and conflict situation in the Niger Delta improved significantly in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter of the year. Conflict incidents declined by 5.3% from 170 in Q2 to 161 in Q3, while fatalities decreased by 41% from 319 in Q2 to 188 in Q3.

Criminal violence, separatist agitation and clashes between cult gangs decreased significantly during the period. Data shows a 37% decline in organized criminal violence from 210 fatalities in Q2 to 132 fatalities in Q3. Violence associated with separatist agitation including clashes between government security forces and separatist militias decreased by 72.4% from 58 fatalities in Q2 to 16 in Q3.

Violence associated with cult gangs decreased substantially during the quarter. At the regional level, data indicates that clashes between rival cult gangs and associated violence decreased by 60.2% from 83 reported fatalities in Q2 to 33 fatalities in Q3. At the state level, sporadic clashes between rival cult gangs were prevalent in Edo and Rivers states where it caused 35 and 23 reported fatalities respectively during the period.

Conversely, there was an increase in communal conflict and mob violence during the quarter. Data shows a 114.3% increase in communal violence from 7 fatalities in Q2 to 15 fatalities in Q3. Several incidents of violence over communal land disputes

were reported in Delta and Cross River States during the period. Many of the communal conflicts reported during the period were rapidly mitigated by local peace actors through the deployment of traditional conflict management mechanisms.

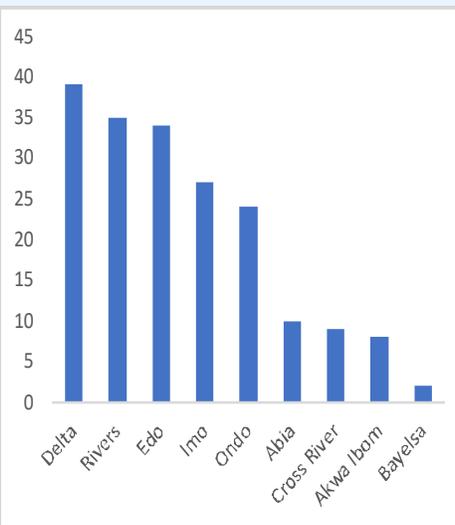
Delta, followed by Rivers and Edo States ranked highest in lethal violence during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. The LGAs with the highest number of conflict fatalities were Oredo (Edo), Ehime Mbano (Imo), and Emohua (Rivers).

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.

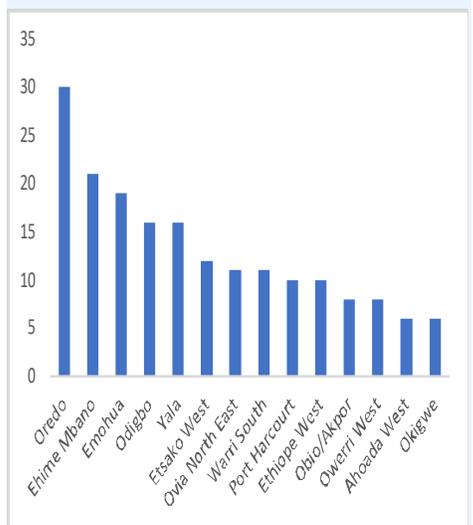
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q3 2022 - Q3 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (July - September 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (July - September 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

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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Abia State

There was a decline in conflict risk and violence in Abia State in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the first and second quarters of the year. Lethal violence decreased by 44.4% from 18 fatalities in Q2 to 10 fatalities in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia was one of the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence during the period were mainly driven by criminality and ethno-national separatist agitation. Ohafia and Umuahia South LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence was a major driver of conflict risk and insecurity in the State during the quarter. Several incidents of criminality including homicide and kidnap for ransom were reported in the State

during the period. In July, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked the convoy of a government official and killed two policemen at Sameck Junction near Ariaria International Market in Aba South LGA. In September, a 70-year-old chieftain of a political party was allegedly killed by unknown assailants in Uturu community, Isiukwuato LGA. Separately, in September, a 65-year-old man was reportedly killed by unknown persons in Umumba Nsirimo community, Umuahia South LGA.

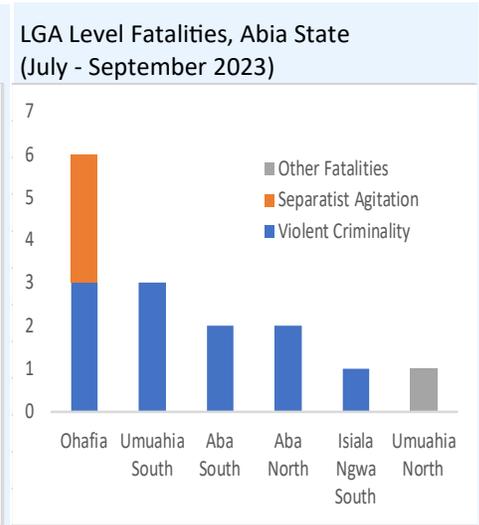
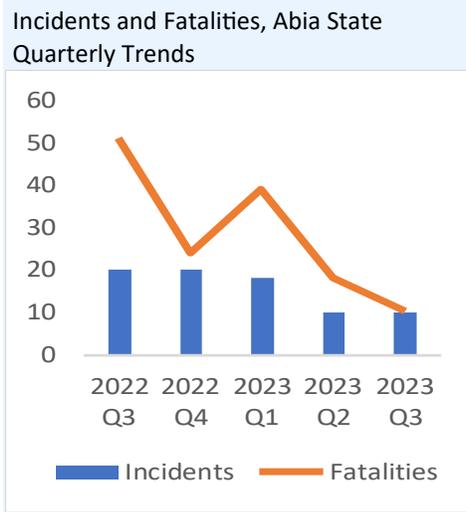
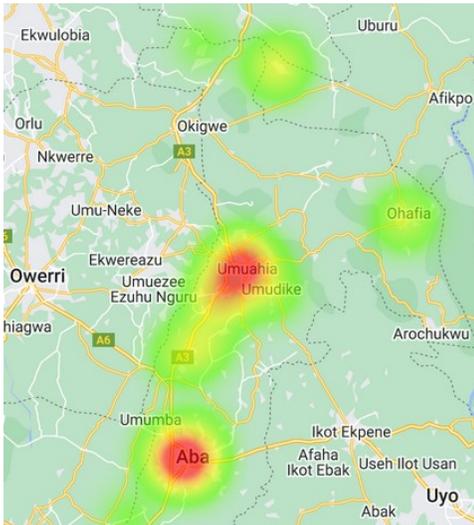
Separatist Agitation

Ethno-nationalist separatist agitation was a major driver of insecurity in the State during the period. In July, supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) reportedly abducted a commercial driver and set his bus ablaze along Ngwa Road in

Aba South LGA. In September, three members of the Biafra National Guards (BNG) were allegedly killed in a gun battle with government security forces at Igboro forest in Ohafia LGA.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of organized criminality and separatist agitation on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported during the period. In July, for instance, a middle-aged man allegedly defiled his three daughters aged 14, 12 and eight in his house in Obi Ngwa LGA. Separately, in July, a 24-year-old man reportedly killed his 20-year-old girlfriend during a fight in Ajata Ibeku community, Umuahia North LGA. Also, in July, a 53-year-old woman was reportedly killed by unknown persons in her farm in Ngwama community, Isiala Ngwa South LGA.



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

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

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Lethal violence reduced by 80% from 40 fatalities in Q2 to eight in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Akwa Ibom was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by violent criminality. Uyo followed by Ibiono Ibom LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence was a key security issue in the State during the quarter. In July, for instance, a criminal suspect was reportedly set ablaze by a mob in Itam community, Itu LGA. In August, two robbery suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Uyo, the state capital. Separately, a 25-year-old man was reportedly killed by his father during a disagreement at a farm in Ebe Ikpe community,

Essien Udim LGA. Also, in August, a village head was reportedly arrested for allegedly organizing the killing of a primary school teacher and his 10-year-old son in Ikpanya community, Ibiono Ibom LGA. In September, several passengers were reportedly abducted by armed kidnappers along Oron Road in Uyo, the state capital.

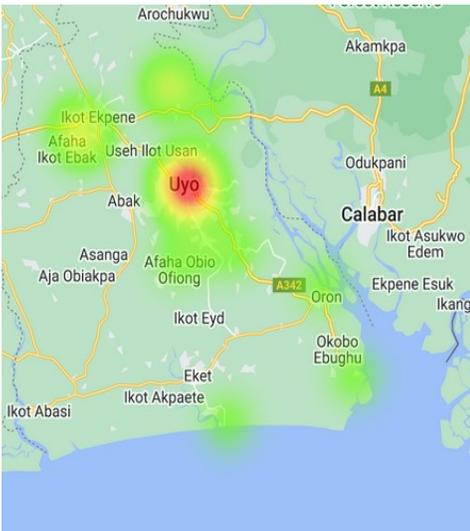
Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of violent criminality on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In July, for instance, a six-year-old girl was reportedly sexually violated by her father in Aka Itiam Etoi community, Uyo LGA. In September, a young woman was reportedly stabbed to death by her boyfriend in Ikot Inene community, Essien Udim LGA.

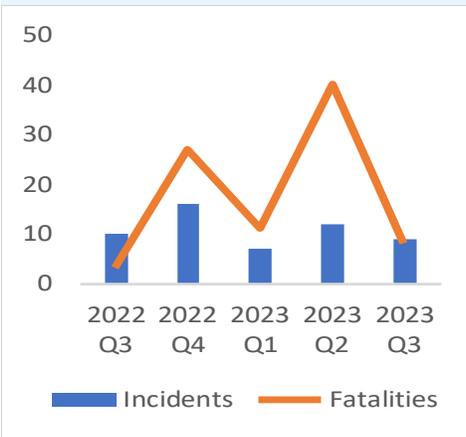
Other Incidents

In August, youths from several communities in Mbo LGA protested against an indigenous oil and gas company over alleged violation of the Nigeria 'Local Content' law. The protesters alleged that they are sidelined by the company in employment and award of contracts. Separately, in August, several persons were reportedly injured during a series of clashes between the police and some residents who were protesting over issues relating to the allocation of oil revenue to communities. The protesters under the aegis of Niger Delta Advocacy Movement (NDAM) and Ibom Youth Council (IYC) reportedly called for the allocation of 5% of the current 13% derivation to oil producing communities in the State.

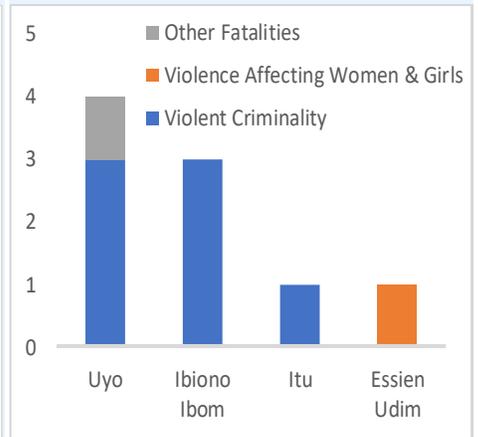
In September, a male farmer was accidentally shot dead by a policeman at Ibong Itoro village in Uyo, the state capital. The man was reportedly hit by a stray bullet while a team of policemen were shooting sporadically in the area.



Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (July - September 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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Bayelsa State

There was an increase in reported incidents of violence and a reduction in conflict fatalities in Bayelsa State during the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Data shows a 29% rise in lethal violence from seven incidents in Q2 to nine in Q3, and a 67% decline in conflict fatalities from six reported fatalities in Q2 to two in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Bayelsa was the least violent State 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 political tensions in the lead-up to the November 11, 2023 off-cycle governorship election. Nembe LGA recorded the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

Violent Criminality

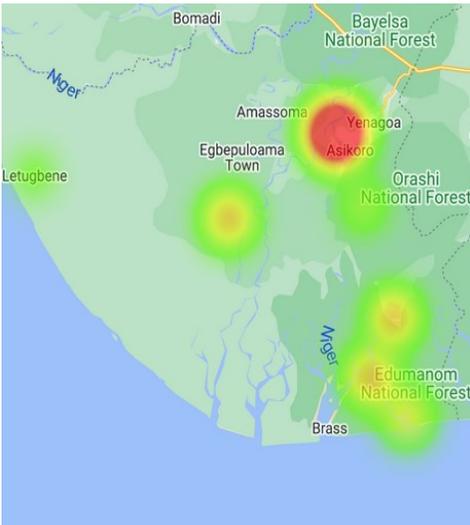
Organized criminality was a major security issue in the State during the period. In July, for instance, an unspecified number of suspected pirates were reportedly killed in a gun duel with a team of

policemen on patrol duty along the waterways in Oporoma community, Southern Ijaw LGA. Separately, in July, operatives of the Nigerian Navy reportedly clashed with a gang of sea robbers and recovered several arms and ammunition in Garam community, Southern Ijaw LGA.

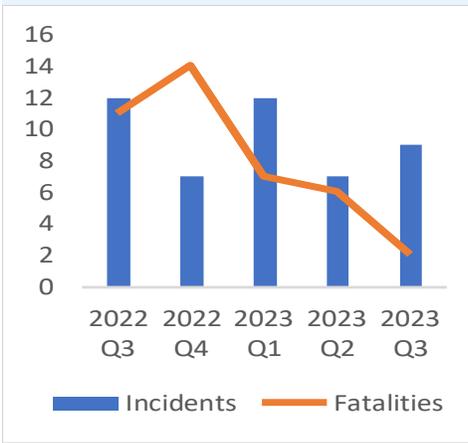
In August, several gunmen were allegedly arrested by soldiers at a security checkpoint in Otakeme community, Ogbia LGA. Separately, in August, a resident was reportedly killed and several others injured during an operation by government security forces to mop up illegal firearms and ammunitions in Opu-Membe (Nembe Basambiri) community, Nembe LGA. Also, in August, a group of journalists were reportedly attacked by gunmen in Opu-Nembe community, Nembe LGA. In a separate incident in August, a mob reportedly attacked and looted a government warehouse allegedly containing food items in Kpansia community, Yenagoa LGA.

Political/Election Violence

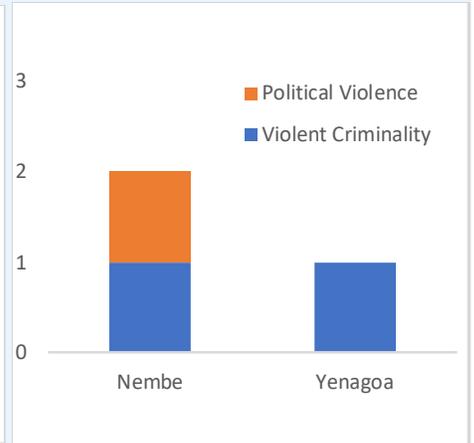
Political tension was elevated in the lead-up to the November 2023 off-cycle governorship election in the State. Several incidents of violent political rallies and clashes between supporters of rival political parties as well as inciting statements by key political actors were reported in the State during period. In August, for example, supporters of two major political parties reportedly clashed over political mobilization during a campaign in Opu-Nembe (Nembe Basambiri) community, Nembe LGA. Separately, in August, a man was reportedly killed and many others injured in a series of clashes involving gunmen, government security forces, and supporters of rival political parties in Opu-Nembe community, Nembe LGA. Following the spate of political violence, a curfew was reportedly imposed by the government to mitigate the situation.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (July - September 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

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

There was an increase in reported incidents of violence and a decrease in conflict fatalities in Cross River State during the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Data shows a 183% increase in lethal violence from six incidents in Q2 to 17 in Q3, and a 36% decline in conflict fatalities from 14 fatalities in Q2 to nine fatalities in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Cross River was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on the number of reported fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence during the period were mainly driven by communal and ethnic conflict over land and boundary disputes. Yala LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

Communal Violence

Communal violence caused several fatalities in the State during the quarter. In August, for instance, a family head was reportedly killed by a group of armed youths allegedly led by a youth leader from a neighboring community during a meeting in Bebuatswan village, Obudu LGA. Separately, in August, several residents including youths and the

elderly protested over a land dispute in Kasuk Qua II clan in Calabar Municipal LGA. The protest was over an alleged plan to cede their communal land to another community. In September, over seven persons were reportedly killed, many others injured and more than 15 houses destroyed during a series of clash over a boundary dispute between Ijegu-Yache community in Yala LGA, Cross River State and Mbaaka community in Konshisha LGA, Benue State. Also, in September, several persons were reportedly injured during a clash between youths from Njua and Ndok communities in Ogoja LGA. Separately, in September, gunmen suspected to be local militias reportedly attacked residents and killed three persons across many communities including Utanga in Obalinku LGA.

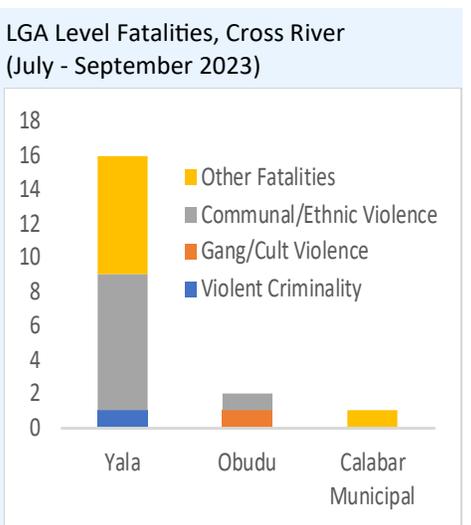
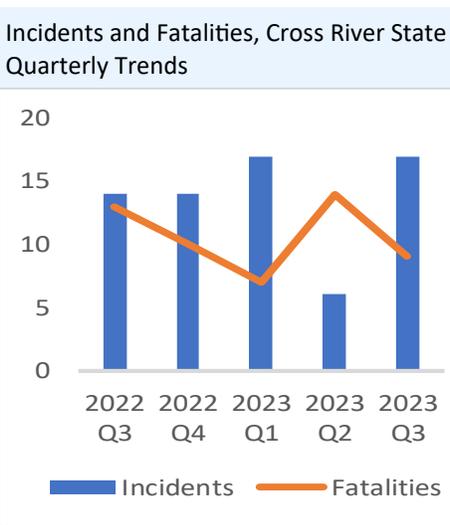
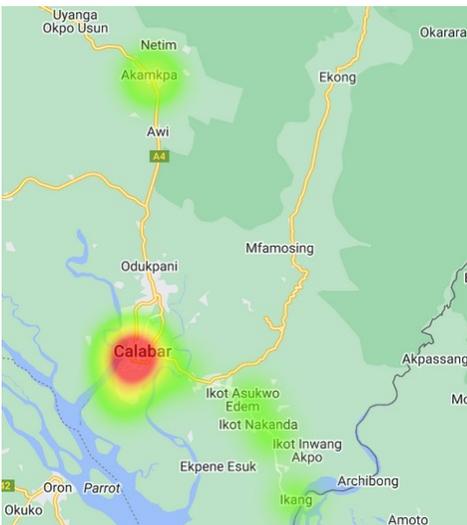
Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major driver of insecurity in the State during the period. In July, a male medical doctor was reportedly abducted by gunmen who allegedly disguised as patients in a hospital in Atimbo community, Calabar Municipal LGA. In

September, gunmen suspected to be kidnapers reportedly abducted several residents including a pastor and his daughter at a satellite town in Calabar Municipal LGA. Separately, in September, armed kidnapers reportedly abducted many travelers in Ikang community, Akpabuyo LGA. The kidnapers later demanded a ransom of five million naira to release one of the victims.

Other Incidents

In August, some female students of the University of Calabar (UNICAL) reportedly protested over alleged sexual harassment by a professor who doubles as an administrator in the institution. Separately, in August, an abandoned day-old baby was allegedly found dead in Ikot Ishie community, Calabar Municipal LGA. The baby was reportedly abandoned under the rain and drowned in a flood. In September, two men were reportedly beaten by a mob over allegation of magically causing the disappearance of a man’s genitalia in Calabar, the state capital. A man reportedly claimed that his penis and testicles disappeared after a handshake with the accused.



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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Delta State

There was a rise in incidents of lethal violence, but a decline in conflict fatalities in Delta State in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Data shows that lethal violence increased by 19% from 27 reported incidents in Q2 to 32 in Q3, while conflict fatalities declined by 32% from 57 fatalities in Q2 to 39 in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Delta ranked highest 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, clashes between rival cult gangs, communal conflict, and violence against women and girls. Warri South followed by Ethiope West LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence was a major security issue in the State during the quarter. In July, for instance, gunmen allegedly killed a police inspector and stole his rifle along the East-West Road in Ewreni community, Ughelli North LGA. Separately, gunmen allegedly killed two policemen and burned their patrol vehicle at a security checkpoint along the Ughelli-Asaba Expressway in Oleh town, Isoko South LGA. Also, in July,

kidnappers reportedly abducted a 60-year-old woman from her home and killed her after a ransom was allegedly paid in Tamigbe community, Burutu LGA. In August, gunmen reportedly attacked a Divisional Police Headquarters, killed an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), and injured another in Isiokolo community, Ethiope East LGA. In September, a local vigilante was reportedly killed during a gun battle with hoodlums at 1st Marine Gate in Warri South LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

In July, a 20-year-old man was reportedly killed by a member of a cult gang during a quarrel in Tuomo community, Burutu LGA. In August, a young man was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult gang in Oghara community, Ethiope West LGA. Separately, in August, a youth was allegedly killed during a clash between members of two rival cult gangs in Eku community, Ethiope East LGA.

Communal Violence

In July, two persons were reportedly killed and several others injured during a clash between communal militias over a lingering land dispute between Ogbe-Ijoh community in Warri South-West LGA and Aladja community in Udu LGA. In

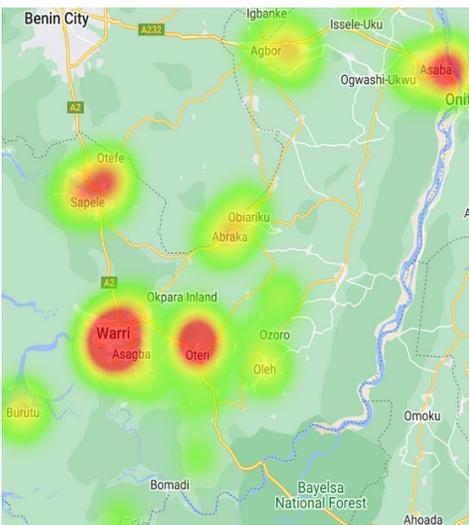
September, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash over a leadership tussle in Ewu community, Ughelli South LGA.

Violence Against Women & Girls

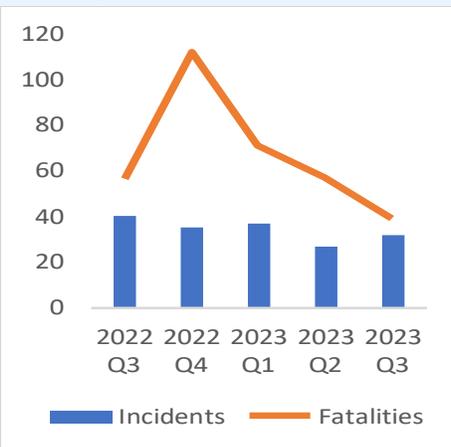
In addition to the impact of criminality and communal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were reported during the period. In September, for instance, a young woman was reportedly killed by a man alleged to be a pastor in Agbarha-Otor community, Ughelli North LGA. The remains of the woman was allegedly found in the man’s house.

Other Incidents

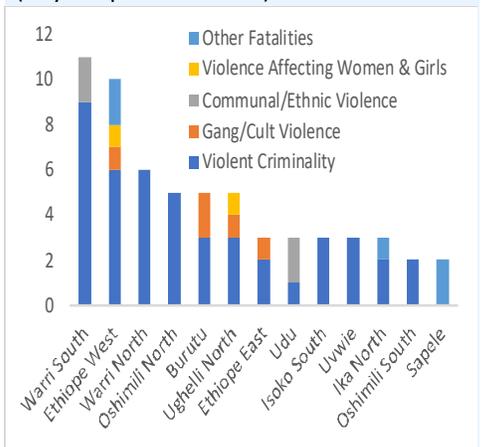
In July, a robbery suspect was reportedly burned to death by a mob in Agbor community, Ika South LGA. Separately, a robbery suspect was allegedly killed by a mob at Okumagba Layout in Warri South LGA. Also, in July, a two-year-old boy was allegedly killed by a stray bullet fired during an operation by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Okpanam town, Oshimili North LGA. In September, a 32-year-old woman reportedly killed her husband by pulling his testicles during a disagreement in Mosogar community, Ethiope West LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (July - September 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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Edo State

There was an escalation of lethal violence in Edo State in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter of the year. Data shows a 113% increase in lethal violence from 16 fatalities in Q2 to 34 fatalities in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Edo was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the Niger during the period, based on reported fatalities. Conflict and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Oredo followed by Ovia North-East and Etsako West LGAs had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major cause of conflict and insecurity in the State during the period. In July, for example, armed kidnapers allegedly abducted eight passengers along the Jesse-Oben-Asaba Road in Orhionmwom LGA. Separately, in July, gunmen reportedly ambushed a private vehicle, killed the male driver and abducted two of his siblings along Igarra-Ebilo Road in Akoko-Edo LGA.

In August, gunmen allegedly attacked a church, shot the pastor and killed his wife in Benin City, Oredo LGA. Separately, gunmen suspected to be robbers allegedly attacked a military patrol van, killed a soldier and made away with a bag containing money in Benin City, the state capital. Also, in August, a hunter was allegedly killed by herdsmen in Igarra community, Akoko-Edo LGA.

In September, gunmen reportedly attacked and killed three members of the Edo State Security Network (ESSN) in Okhunmwun community, Ovia North-East LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed a man at Egbedion Street in Okhunmwun community, Ovia North-East LGA. Also, in September, a man was allegedly killed by gunmen along Sapele Road in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

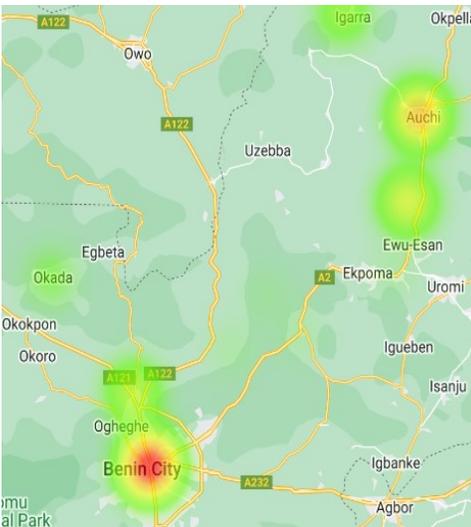
Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs was a major security issue during the quarter. In July, for instance, four persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between the Black Axe and the Supreme Viking cult gangs at different locations in Auchi

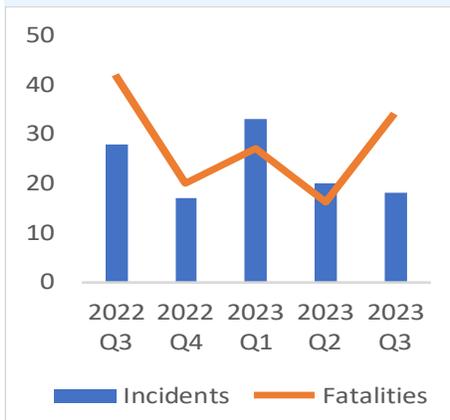
community, Etsako West LGA. Separately, a middle-aged man was allegedly killed by a cult gang in front of a church in Amagba community, Oredo LGA. Also, in July, three persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Benin City, the Edo State capital. In August, 10 persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Benin City, Oredo LGA. Separately, in August, two persons including a female student and a revenue collector were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Auchi community, Etsako West LGA.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

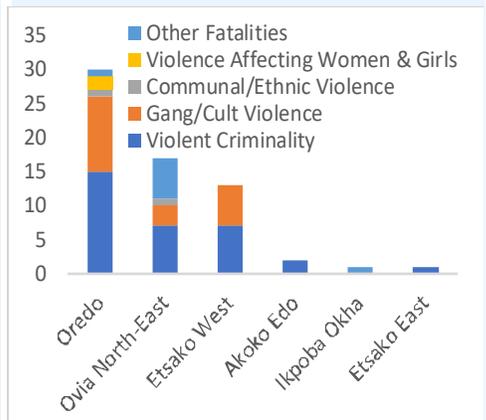
In addition to the impact of criminality and cult clashes on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls were reported during the period. In August, for instance, a 75-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her 84-year-old husband during a quarrel in Benin City, Oredo LGA. Also, in August, a student who doubles as an internet fraudster allegedly stabbed his girlfriend to death in Benin City, the state capital.



Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State (July - September 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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Imo State

There was a decrease in conflict fatalities but there was no significant changes in the intensity of lethal violence in Imo State during the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Data shows a 61% decrease in conflict fatalities from 69 fatalities in Q2 to 27 in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Imo was one of the States that ranked high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on the number of reported fatalities. Violence and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality and separatist agitation. Ehime Mbano LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the State during the period.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence was a major driver of insecurity in the State during the period. In July, for example, gunmen allegedly killed a traditional ruler during a meeting in his palace in Nguru Nweke community, Aboh Mbaise LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed three persons and abducted several others in Amuro community, Okigwe LGA. Also, in July, armed robbers allegedly killed three residents and robbed several others in Orogwe and Ndegwu communities, Owerri West LGA.

In August, gunmen reportedly attacked and burned the residence of a traditional ruler in Okwuru Orsu-Ihitte-Ukwa community, Orsu LGA. Separately, a 30-year-old man was allegedly killed by armed robbers while he was withdrawing money from a point of sale (POS) machine at World Bank Junction in Owerri, the state capital. Also, in August, gunmen suspected to be robbers allegedly killed a retired police officer and his wife at their POS shop in Owerri, the Imo State capital.

Separatist Agitation

Separatist agitation was a key security issue during the period. In July, for example, two residents including a commercial tricycle operator were reportedly killed by separatist militias who were enforcing a one-week sit-at-home order allegedly declared by supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Akwakuma Junction in Owerri North LGA. Separately, a local defense militia was allegedly killed during a clash between government security forces and members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the militant wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at the palace of a traditional ruler in Amaifeke community, Orlu LGA. In August, a separatist militia was reportedly

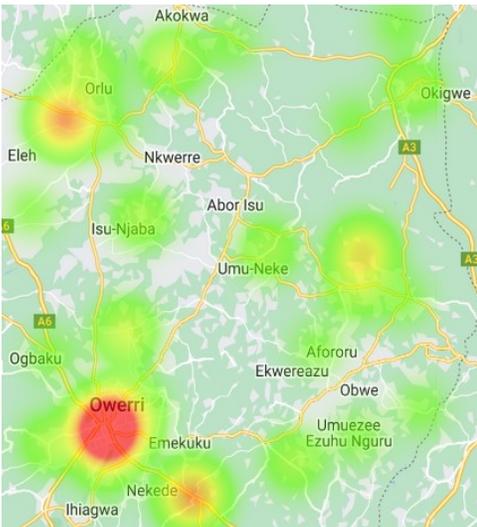
killed in a clash with government security forces along Owerri-Onitsha Expressway in Owerri Municipal LGA. In September, eight government security personnel including soldiers and policemen were reportedly ambushed and killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias in Umualumaku community, Ehime Mbano LGA.

Political Violence

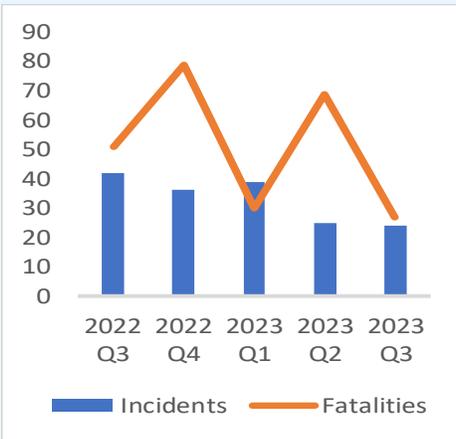
Political tension was elevated in the lead-up to the November 2023 off-cycle governorship election in the State. In August, for instance, the secretariat of one of the major political parties in the State was reportedly vandalized by gunmen suspected to be political thugs in Owerri, the state capital.

Other Incidents

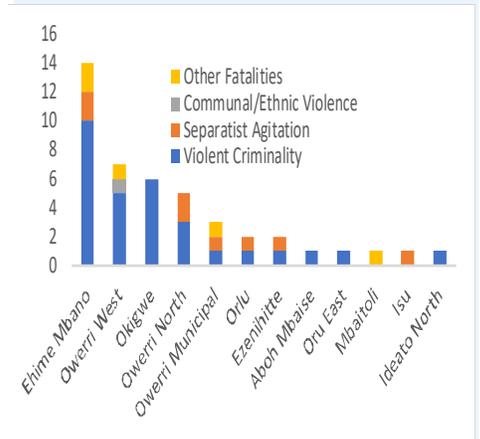
In July, a seven-month-old baby was reportedly kidnaped by members of a child trafficking syndicate in Amaraku community, Isiala Mbano LGA. Separately, in July, a nine-month-old baby girl was reportedly kidnapped in Amaiyi community, Njaba LGA. In August, a traditional medicine practitioner reportedly killed his apprentice during a misunderstanding in Alaenyi Ogwa community, Mbaitoli LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (July - September 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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Ondo State

There was a decrease in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Ondo State during the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Data shows a 55% drop in lethal violence and 17% decrease in conflict fatalities from 29 fatalities in Q2 to 24 in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Ondo was one of the States that recorded a modest reduction in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by criminality. Ondo West followed by Ese Odo and Akure South LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

Violent Criminality

Violence and insecurity in the State during the period were mainly driven by criminality including kidnap for ransom and killing for ritualistic purposes. In July, for instance, five staff of an electricity company were reportedly abducted by kidnapers while they were working on a government electrification project along Ogbagi-

Ikare Road in Akoko North-East LGA. In August, a 45-year-old pastor was allegedly killed by ritualists who allegedly disguised as laborers at a farm in Ipele community, Owo LGA. In September, a 30-year-old male farmer was reportedly killed and decapitated by a 24-year-old male laborer in Ofosu community, Odigbo LGA. Separately, in September, a 65-year-old man was reportedly killed by his wife during a disagreement in Ondo town, the headquarters of Ondo West LGA.

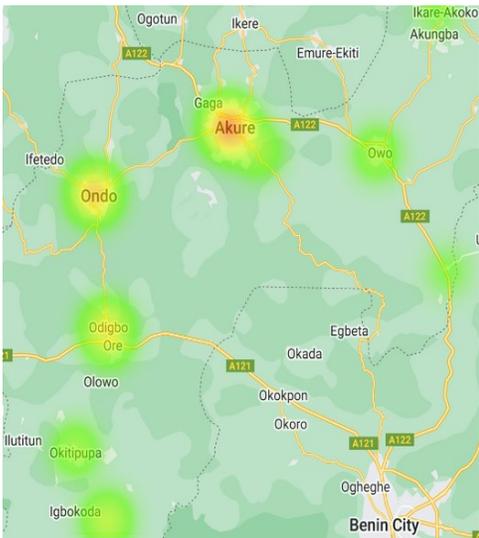
Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of organized criminal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the quarter. In August, for instance, a 45-year-old woman was reportedly tortured, killed and dismembered by her ex-boyfriend in Oke-Aro community, Akure South LGA. In September, a woman was allegedly robbed and raped at gunpoint by a 22-year-old man in Bolorunduro community, Ondo East LGA. Also, in September, about 25 choristers who were

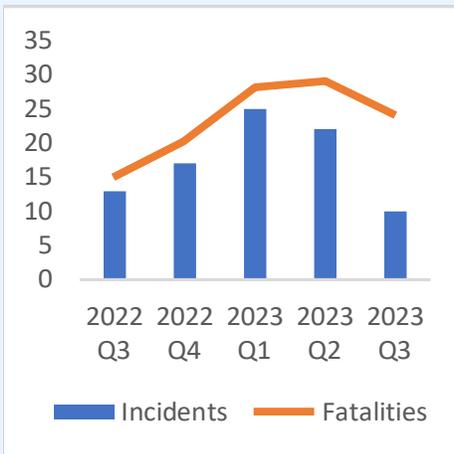
on their way to a funeral ceremony were reportedly abducted by armed kidnapers along the highway in Ifon community, Ose LGA.

Other Incidents

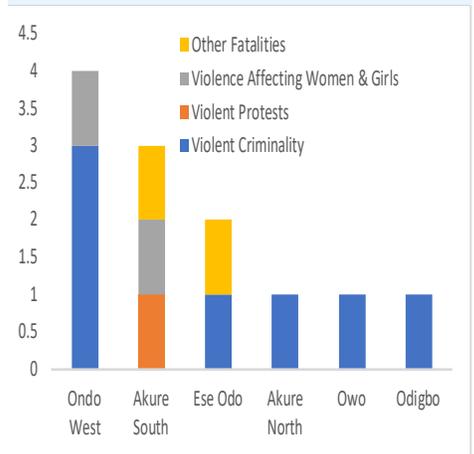
In July, about 20 persons including a pregnant woman and her three children reportedly died after a tanker carrying petroleum products fell and exploded in Ore community, Odigbo LGA. The fire was reportedly ignited by a spark from a mobile phone held by one of the persons who were allegedly scooping fuel that spilled from the fallen tanker. Also, in July, the 27-year-old son of an herbalist was reportedly shot dead by his friend while they were allegedly testing the potency of a protection charm (traditional bulletproof) in preparation for an annual traditional festival at Laoso Camp in Ondo West LGA. In August, a human head was allegedly found in the apartment of a 26-year-old man suspected to be involved in fraudulent internet activities popularly known as 'Yahoo Plus' at Elewuro area of Ondo town in Ondo West LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Ondo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Ondo State (July - September 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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Rivers State

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers State during the third quarter of 2023 compared to the second quarter. Lethal violence decreased by 51% from 71 fatalities in Q2 to 35 fatalities in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), at the regional level, Rivers was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta based on reported fatalities during the quarter. Lethal violence and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Emohua followed by Ahoada West and Ahoada East LGAs had the highest levels of lethal violence in the State during the period.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence including kidnap for ransom and clashes between government security forces and hoodlums was a major security issue in Rivers State during the period. In July, for instance, a woman was reportedly abducted from her shop by kidnapers at Mile 2 in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, in July, a female director at the Rivers State broadcasting corporation was allegedly abducted by kidnapers in Port Harcourt, the state capital. In August, gunmen allegedly killed two soldiers and abducted six persons including an expatriate at a road construction site

in Ogboloma community, Abua/Odual LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed a police inspector and made away with his rifle in front of a hotel at Olu Obasanjo Road in Port Harcourt, the state capital. In another incident, a passenger boat was reportedly hijacked by gunmen suspected to be pirates along the Soku-Abonnema waterways in Akuku-Toru LGA. Also, in August, gunmen reportedly killed two youths and injured five other residents who were allegedly assigned to provide security and surveillance of oil pipeline at the site of an oil spillage in Bodo community, Gokana LGA. In September, a man was reportedly killed by gunmen in the Trans-Amadi area of Port Harcourt, the state capital.

Gang/Cult Violence

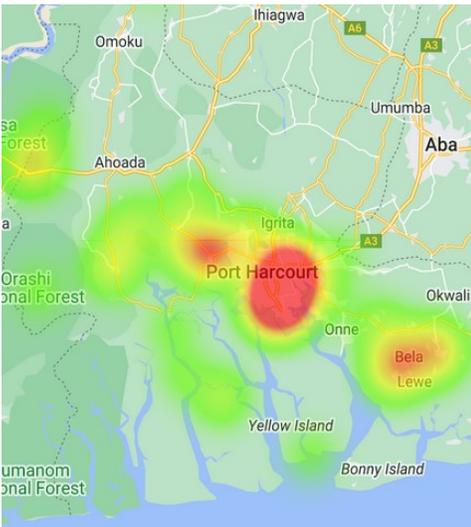
Clashes between cult gangs was a major driver of violence and insecurity in the State during the period. In August, for example, an off-duty policeman was reportedly killed in house by suspected members of a cult gang in Rumuodogo community, Emohua LGA. In September, a notable Divisional Police Officer (DPO) was reportedly killed by members of a notorious cult gang in Odeimude community, Ahoada East LGA. Separately, in September, a young man was

allegedly beaten to death by hoodlums suspected to be members of a cult gang in Rumuodumaya community, Obio/Akpor LGA.

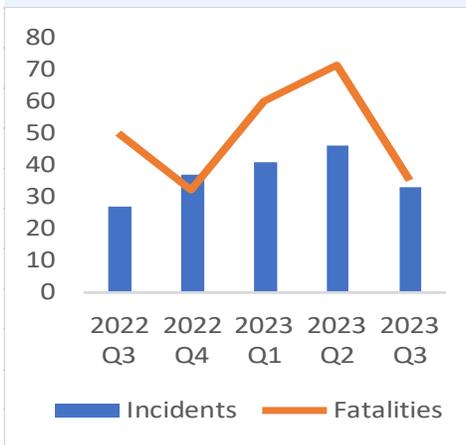
Other Fatalities

Several incidents of artisanal oil refining related violence were reported in the State during the period. In July, for example, 16 persons including fishers were reportedly killed by fire caused by an explosion while they were allegedly scooping spilled petroleum products at a jetty in Okrika LGA. In August, government security forces allegedly bombed several illegal artisanal oil refineries and neutralized many oil thieves at different locations in Akuku-Toru, Bonny, and Degema LGAs.

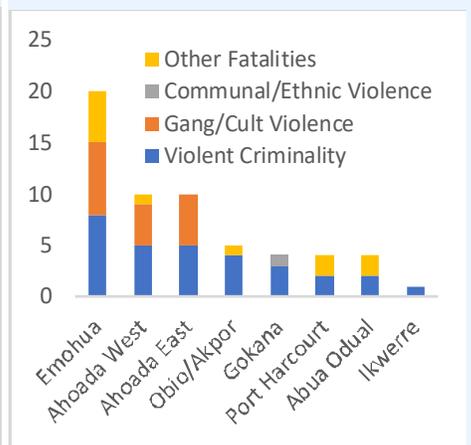
Also, in August, a man was allegedly killed by a stray bullet fired by policeman at a bar in Elekahia community, Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, a newborn baby was reportedly buried alive by a group of boys allegedly involved fraudulent internet activities at Andoni Waterfront in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. In September, a resident was reportedly killed and many others injured during a clash over a chieftaincy tussle in Bodo community, Gokana LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State (July - September 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

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

Contacts: 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.