# Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

#### April to June 2024

Nigeria's Niger Delta region was relatively stable and peaceful in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024. Data shows an improvement in the overall peace and security situation compared to the first quarter (Q1) of the year (see page 2). Lethal violence decreased by 8.82%, from 204 conflict fatalities in Q1 to 186 in Q2 of 2024. Many peace and development actors, including local peace society organizations international development organizations, and relevant government agencies, carried out several interventions that helped mitigate and prevent violent conflict and insecurity during the period. According to PIND's P4P Peace Map, criminality, clashes between cult gangs, separatist agitation, clashes between hoodlums and security forces, communal conflict, and disasters were the major causes of lethal violence during the period.

This quarterly tracker examines 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 requires 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 kidnapping, piracy, robbery, gang violence, political violence, land

Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria

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Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from April - June 2024. Source: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map <a href="www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p">www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p</a>

disputes, militancy, separatist agitation, violence against security personnel, sexual violence, illicit drugs and human trafficking, ritual killing, and disasters. Data sources include Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), Nigeria Watch, Community Initiatives for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD), VAWG Sources (focused on Violence against Women and Girls), PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) SMS Early Warning System, and others.

The Niger Delta region is highly diverse, with over 40 ethnic groups who speak over 100 languages and dialects and whose traditional livelihood involves mainly farming and fishing. The region comprises 185 of Nigeria's 774 local government

areas (LGAs). It covers 9 out of the 36 states: 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 comprises 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 conflict dynamics described in the following pages.

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## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — April to June 2024

The peace and security situation in the region was relatively stable during Q2 2024. Lethal violence has decreased gradually since the third quarter (Q3) of 2023, and the trend continued in Q2 2024. According to data, reported conflict fatalities decreased by 8.82%, from 204 in Q1 to 186 in Q2 of 2024.

Communal conflict, mob violence, violent protests, and criminal violence decreased during the period. Data shows a 75% decrease in communal violence from 44 fatalities in Q1 to 11 in Q2 2024. Criminal violence also decreased by 21.6%, from 125 reported fatalities in Q1 to 98 in Q2 2024.

On the other hand, there was an increase in armed clashes involving cult gangs, separatist militias and government security forces during the quarter. Data shows a 57.14% increase in clashes between hoodlums and security forces, from 28 fatalities in Q1 to 44 fatalities in Q2 2024. There was a rise in lethal violence associated with separatist militias during the period, particularly in Abia and Imo States. According to data, violence associated with separatist militias increased by 71.43%, from 14 reported fatalities in Q1 to 24 fatalities in Q2.

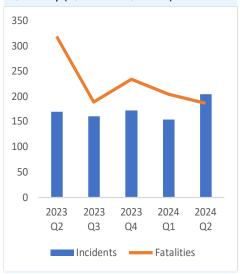
Violence associated with cult gangs increased significantly during the quarter. Data shows that clashes between cult gangs increased by 76.67%,

from 30 fatalities in Q1 to 53 fatalities in Q2. Lethal violence involving cult gangs was prevalent in Edo, Rivers, and Delta States. Gang violence during the period was mainly driven by criminality and battles for supremacy among rival cult gangs.

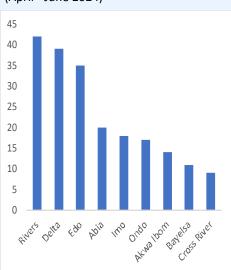
Rivers, followed by Delta and Edo, ranked highest in lethal violence during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. The LGAs with the highest conflict fatalities were Eleme and Oredo in Rivers and Edo States respectively.

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.

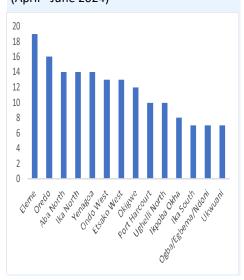
# Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q2 2023 - Q2 2024)



# Conflict Fatalities, State Level (April - June 2024)



# Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (April - June 2024)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map <a href="www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p">www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p</a>

#### **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 the tracker is comprehensive, please contribute your knowledge by reporting any verified incident of conflict to PIND's IPDU Early Warning System by texting a message to any hotline; 080 9936 2222 / 091 2233 4455.

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: <a href="https://pindfoundation.org/category/conflict-trackers/">https://pindfoundation.org/category/conflict-trackers/</a> Or <a href="https://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map">www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map</a>

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

There was a significant rise in conflict risks and lethal violence in Abia State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Data shows a 300% increase in lethal violence, from five reported fatalities in Q1 to 20 in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia was one of the States that ranked high in lethal violence during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Violence and insecurity during the quarter were mainly driven by separatist agitation, clashes between government security forces and separatist militias, and general criminality. Aba North, followed by Aba South LGA, had the highest conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

# Separatist Agitation

There was a resurgence of separatist agitation in the State during the quarter. Separatist agitation

and clashes between government security forces and separatist militias caused over 15 fatalities in the State during the period. In May, for example, separatist militias allegedly killed five soldiers at a security checkpoint at Obikabia Junction, Aba North LGA. Separately, in May, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly killed two soldiers at a military outpost near Milverton Avenue Junction in Aba South LGA. In June, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly killed two police officers at a security checkpoint at Opobo Junction in Aba North LGA.

# **Violent Criminality**

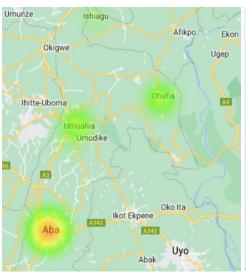
Several incidents of criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom, were reported in the State during the period. In May, for instance, armed kidnappers allegedly abducted the chairman of the Abia State chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) at Alaoji village in Ugwunagbo LGA.

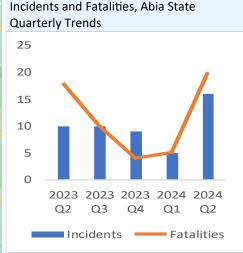
# Violence Affecting Women & Girls

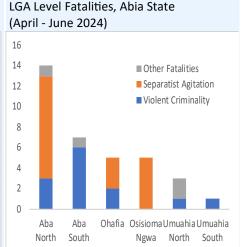
In addition to the impact of separatist agitation and criminal violence on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence against women and girls were also reported during the period. In May, for instance, a 45-year-old woman was allegedly strangled by a seminarian in Umuahia North LGA.

#### Other Incidents

In April, a businessman was reportedly killed by a policeman during a disagreement at a security checkpoint along the Aba-Owerri Road in Aba South LGA.







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

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Lethal violence decreased by 44%, from 25 fatalities in Q1 to 14 in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Akwa Ibom was one of the least violent States in the region during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Criminality and clashes between cult gangs were the major drivers of lethal violence during the quarter. Uyo LGA recorded the highest conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

#### **Violent Criminality**

Criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom, was a predominant security issue in the State during the quarter. Criminal violence caused over 15 fatalities in the State during the period. In April, for instance, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers reportedly killed a businessman and abducted a woman along Airport Road in Uyo, the state capital. The victims were allegedly attacked

on their way from the farm. Separately, in April, a medical doctor was allegedly abducted by gunmen in Oron LGA. In May, a four-month-old baby was reportedly abducted at gunpoint in Enen-Atai village, Itu LGA. Also, in May, a traditional ruler was allegedly abducted by gunmen at his palace in Ebughu community, Mbo LGA. Separately, in May, the wife of a prominent politician was allegedly abducted by kidnappers in Oron community, Oron LGA. In a separate incident in May, a 65-year-old community leader was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be assassins in Nkek Abak community, Ukanafun LGA.

# Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs were major causes of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the period. In April, for example, a 32-year-old man was allegedly killed during a clash between Klansmen and Black Axe confraternities in Afaha Atai community, Eket LGA. In May, a man was

reportedly killed during a clash between Ku klux Klan and Vikings cult gangs in Urua Ekpa community, Itu LGA.

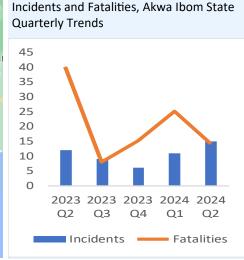
#### **Domestic Violence**

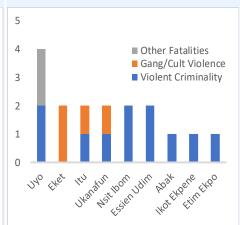
Domestic violence, including matricide, patricide, and fratricide, has been a major security issue in Akwa Ibom State. During the quarter, incidents of domestic violence were reported in the State. In April, for instance, a 70-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her 40-year-old son in Ikpe Annang community, Etim Ekpo LGA.

# Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of criminal and gang violence on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence against women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In May, for instance, a young girl was reportedly killed by her 25-year-old boyfriend in Uyo, the state capital.







LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom

(April - June 2024)

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

There was a reduction in lethal violence in Bayelsa State during the quarter. Data indicates a 35.29% decrease in lethal violence, from 17 reported conflict fatalities in Q1 to 11 fatalities in Q2 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Bayelsa was one of the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by criminality and clashes between rival cult gangs. Reported incidents of lethal violence and insecurity were mostly concentrated in Yenagoa, the state capital, and adjoining communities.

## **Violent Criminality**

Criminal violence was a major security issue in the State during the quarter. Several incidents of criminal violence, including armed robbery, were reported during the period. In June, for instance, gunmen suspected to be robbers reportedly killed a businessman in his office near a motor park in Ekeki community, Yenagoa LGA. Also, in June,

robbers reportedly killed a commercial driver along Imgbi Road in Amarata community, Yenagoa, the state capital.

# Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs were major drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the period. Cult gangs related violence caused several fatalities during the quarter. In April, for example, a 28-year-old man was reportedly killed during a clash over a battle for supremacy between Icelander and Greenlander cult gangs in Amarata community, Yenagoa LGA. The two rival cult gangs have allegedly been engaged in a struggle for supremacy and territorial control in the State.

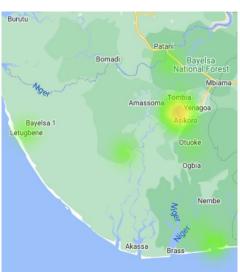
#### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

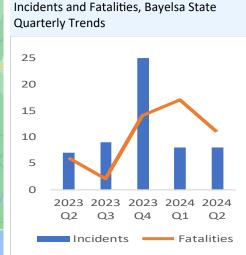
In addition to the impact of criminal and gang violence on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence targeting women and girls were

also reported during the period. In April, for instance, a 14-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her 17-year-old boyfriend in a hotel in Yenagoa, the state capital. The suspect reportedly took the teenager to the hotel for intimacy and later killed her. However, the suspect allegedly claimed that the deceased went to the bathroom to take her bath but fell and sustained injuries that caused her death.

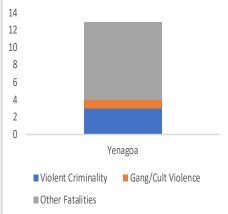
# Other Incidents

In May, a 40-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by a police officer during a disagreement at a security checkpoint along Azikoro Road in Yenagoa LGA. In May, seven residents, including university students, reportedly died after allegedly inhaling fumes from a power generator inside a music studio in Amarata community, Yenagoa LGA. Also, in May, a man was reportedly electrocuted while working on a high-tension electric pole in Ekeki community, Yenagoa LGA.





# LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (April - June 2024)



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

Conflict risks and lethal violence increased marginally in Cross River State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Lethal violence increased by 50%, from six reported conflict fatalities in Q1 to nine fatalities in Q2. However, according to Peace Map data (see page 2), Cross River was the least violent State in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the quarter was mainly driven by criminality and communal conflict over land and boundary disputes. Odukpani LGA had the highest conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

#### **Violent Criminality**

Several incidents of criminal violence were reported in the State during the period. In April, for example, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers reportedly killed a cleric and abducted four other residents at Nde 3 Corner along Ikom/Ogoja/Katsina-Ala highway in Ikom LGA. The police later rescued the victims. Also, in April, three young men were reportedly killed by a mob at Ekpugrinya Junction in Ogoja LGA. The victims were alleged to have kidnapped and sold a two-

year-old child for six hundred thousand naira. They were reportedly burned to death. Mob lynching is a prevailing security issue in the State. In May, three residents, including a lecturer, were reportedly abducted by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers in Calabar, the state capital.

#### Communal Violence

Periodic outbreaks of communal conflict over land and boundary disputes have been a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in Cross River State. Renewed clashes over land disputes caused many fatalities and the destruction of properties during the quarter. In May, for example, a female farmer was reportedly killed and 10 others injured during a renewed clash over land and boundary disputes between Isu community in Arochukwu LGA, Abia State, and Ukwa Eburutu community in Odukpani LGA, Cross River State. The alleged discovery of a limestone deposit in the disputed land reportedly triggered the clash. In a related incident in May, militias in military uniform allegedly killed five people and destroyed several houses in Mbiaong Ukwa community, Odukpani LGA. The attack was alleged to be related to an ongoing boundary dispute between Ukwa community in Cross River State and Isu community in Abia State.

# Violence Affecting Women & Girls

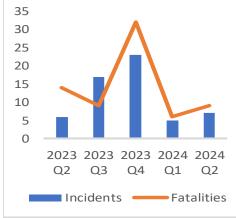
In addition to the impact of communal violence and criminality on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In May, for instance, five women were reportedly raped by the militias that attacked Mbiaong Ukwa community in Odukpani LGA.

#### Other Incidents

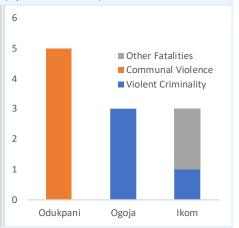
In April, over 200 shops and a commercial bank were reported destroyed by a fire outbreak at a market in Ikom community, Ikom LGA. About 10 fire incidents were reportedly recorded in the State between January and April 2024. In June, an 18-year-old boy was reportedly attacked and abducted by members of a cult gang during a disagreement in Calabar, the state capital.







# LGA Level Fatalities, Cross River (April - June 2024)



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

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Delta State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Data shows a 30.36% decrease in lethal violence, from 56 conflict fatalities in Q1 to 39 fatalities in Q2. However, according to Peace Map data (see page 2), Delta was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the region during the period, based on reported fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence in the State during the quarter were mainly driven by criminality, including kidnap for ransom. Ika North LGA had the highest conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

#### **Violent Criminality**

Criminality was the leading security issue in Delta State during the quarter. Criminal violence, including kidnap for ransom and the targeted killing of government security personnel, caused over 25 fatalities during the period. In April, for instance, three persons were allegedly killed during a clash between the police and a criminal gang in Isah-Ogwashi community, Aniocha South LGA. Also, in April, over 10 persons were allegedly killed and about 15 others abducted by gunmen in different communities, including Owa-Ekei and Owa-Oyibu, in Ika North-East LGA. Separately, in April, kidnappers allegedly attacked a commercial

bus and abducted 18 travelers along the East-West Road in Evwreni community, Ughelli North LGA. In another incident in April, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between the police and gunmen along the Asaba-Benin Expressway in Oshimili South LGA. In June, a 46-year-old man was reportedly killed by gunmen in Ubulu-Uku community, Aniocha South LGA. Separately, in June, a 29-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by another man during a fight in Oghara community, Ethiope West LGA.

#### Communal Violence

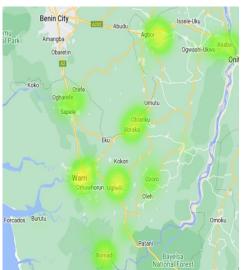
Several incidents of communal violence, including clashes between herders and farmers, were reported during the period. In April, for example, a member of a local vigilante group was reportedly killed in a clash with herders in Abavo community, Ika South LGA. Also in April, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between members of two local vigilante groups in Owaeke-Emuhu community, Ika South LGA. In May, a resident was allegedly killed and three others injured during a clash over a disagreement between Okuama and Akugbene communities in Ughelli South and Bomadi LGAs, respectively.

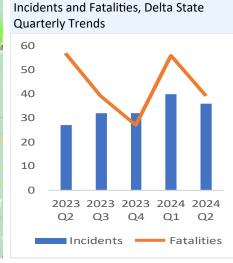
# Gang/Cult Violence

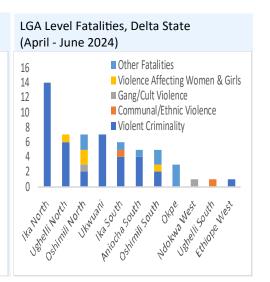
Clashes between rival cult gangs caused many fatalities in the State during the quarter. In April, for instance, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between Eiye and Vikings cult gangs in Obiaruku community, Ukwuani LGA. Also, in April, a fatality was reported during a clash between operatives of the Nigeria Police and the leader of a cult gang in Ibusa community, Oshimili North LGA. In June, a resident was allegedly killed during a clash between Black Axe and Eiye cult gangs in Kwale community, Ndokwa West LGA.

## Violence Against Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of criminality and communal violence on women and girls listed above, other acts of violence against women and girls were reported during the period. In April, for instance, a woman was reportedly killed by her friend's husband during a disagreement in Asaba, Oshimili South LGA. Also, in April, a 19-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her 20-year-old boyfriend in Ozoro community, Isoko North LGA. In June, a 6-year-old girl was reportedly killed by her father for alleged ritual purposes in Agbarho community, Ughelli North LGA.







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

Violence and insecurity increased significantly in Edo State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Data shows a 59% rise in lethal violence, from 22 reported fatalities in Q1 to 35 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Edo was one of the States in the Niger Delta that ranked very high in lethal violence during the period, based on reported fatalities. Violence and insecurity during the quarter were mainly driven by criminality, clashes between rival cult gangs, and political tensions. Etsako West, followed by Oredo LGA, had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

## Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom and clashes between government security forces and hoodlums, was a major cause of insecurity in the State during the quarter. In May, for instance, gunmen reportedly killed three employees of an oil palm company in Okomu community, Ovia South-West LGA. In June, gunmen allegedly shot and injured three soldiers in Okomu community, Ovia South-West LGA.

# Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs were a major cause of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In April, for example, two students were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs at a university in Ekpoma community, Esan West LGA. Also in April, a fatality was reported in a clash between rival cult gangs in Auchi community, Etsako West LGA. Separately, in April, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Obagie community, Ikpoba Okha LGA. In June, a fatality was reported during a clash between cult gangs in Evbuotubu community, Egor LGA.

#### Political Violence

In the lead-up to the forthcoming September 2024 off-cycle governorship elections, political tensions have intensified, with several reported incidents of violence in the State. In April, for instance, the governorship candidate of a political party was allegedly attacked by hoodlums during a meeting at a university in Benin City, the state capital. In

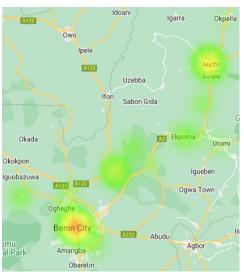
May, a student was reportedly injured during a clash between supporters of two political parties at a voter registration center in Benin City.

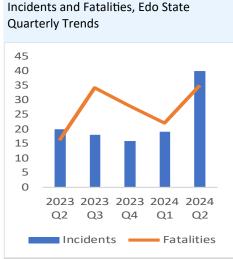
#### Communal Violence

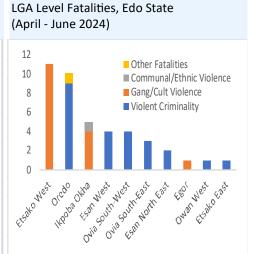
Communal violence caused a number of fatalities during the period. In April, for example, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Amagba and Obagie communities in Ikpoba Okha LGA.

# Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of criminality, communal violence, and cult clashes on women and girls listed above, other acts of violence against women and girls were reported during the period. In April, for example, a 19-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and killed by kidnappers in Iru Egbede community, Orhionmwon LGA. In June, a 22-year-old female graduate of the University of Benin was reportedly raped and killed by unknown assailants in Iyowa community, Ovia North-East LGA.







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

Lethal violence reduced significantly in Imo State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Data shows a 66% decrease in lethal violence, from 53 reported fatalities in Q1 to 18 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Imo was one of the States in the Niger Delta that recorded a relative decline in lethal violence during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. Lethal violence and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by criminality and separatist agitation, including clashes between government security forces and separatist militias. Okigwe, followed by Ikeduru LGA, had the highest levels of lethal violence in the State during the period.

#### **Violent Criminality**

Organized criminal violence, including the targeted killing of government security personnel and civilian residents, was a major driver of insecurity in the State during the period. In April, for instance, a male lawyer was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be assassins in Orodo community, Mbaitoli LGA. In May, a fatality was reported during a clash between government security forces and a gang of kidnappers along Orlu-Owerri Road in Umuaka community, Njaba LGA. In June, a 31-year-old man was reportedly

stabbed to death by his 27-year-old girlfriend during a disagreement in Uzoagba community, Ikeduru LGA. The couple reportedly disagreed over the sharing of the proceeds of an internet fraud.

#### **Separatist Agitation**

Separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and security forces, was a major security issue during the period. In May, for instance, two residents, including a former councilor, were reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias in Unuimo LGA. Also in May, a fatality was reported during a clash between government security forces and separatist militias in Amagberedere community, Oguta LGA. In June, separatist militias allegedly attacked and killed three persons, including two police officers and a civilian, at a security checkpoint in Akabo community, Ikeduru LGA. Also, in June, separatist militias allegedly attacked and killed six traders at Ama Hausa in Garki, Okigwe LGA.

#### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of separatist agitation and criminal violence on women and girls listed

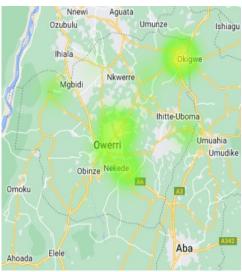
above, other violence against women and girls was reported during the period. In April, for instance, a woman was allegedly killed by her husband during a disagreement in Nekede town, Owerri West LGA.

## Riots/Protests

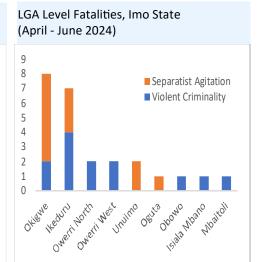
Several incidents of protests were reported in the State during the quarter. In April, for example, a hotel was allegedly set ablaze by protesters over the death of a male staff in Umulogho community, Obowo LGA. The staff was reportedly tortured to death by the owner of the hotel over an allegation of theft. In May, over 500 women reportedly protested over alleged brutality by government security forces in Mmahu community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

#### Other Incidents

In April, a resident was reportedly killed by a local vigilante in Uratta community, Owerri North LGA. Also in April, a young man was allegedly tortured to death by a hotelier in Umulogho community, Obowo LGA. He was allegedly accused of stealing a mobile phone. In May, the corpse of a pregnant woman was reportedly found in a bush along Amaraku-Umudim Road in Isiala Mbano LGA.







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

There was a significant increase in lethal violence in Ondo State in Q2 2024 compared Q1. Data shows a 112.5% increase in lethal violence, from eight reported conflict fatalities in Q1 to 17 in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Ondo was one of the States in the Niger Delta that recorded a relative increase in lethal violence during the period, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the quarter mainly involved violent criminality. Ondo West LGA had the highest conflict fatalities during the period.

# **Violent Criminality**

Criminal violence, including homicide and clashes between security forces and hoodlums, was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In April, for instance, a man was allegedly killed during a clash between members of a cult gang and operatives of the Ondo State chapter of the Western Nigeria Security Network also known as 'Amotekun Corps' in Igbokoda community, Ilaje LGA. In May, a male

farmer was reportedly attacked and macheted by unknown assailants in Ala community, Akure North LGA. Also, in May, a commercial driver was reportedly killed by three private security guards during a disagreement along the Akure-Ijare Road in Akure South LGA. Separately, in May, a 23-year-old farm laborer allegedly killed his foster brother in Leege village, Idanre LGA. In June, a man was allegedly abducted from his farm by gunmen in Ayede-Ogbese community, Akure North LGA.

#### Political Violence

Political tension has been elevated in the lead-up to the September 2024 governorship election in the State. Many incidents of political violence, including clashes between supporters of opposing political groups and candidates, were reported during the period. In April, for example, some journalists were allegedly attacked by the supporters of a government official during the primary elections of a political party in Oba-Ile community, Akure North LGA. Separately, in April, some members of a political party reportedly

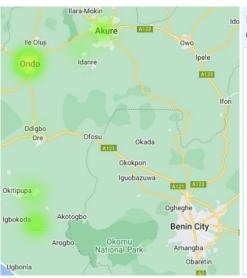
assaulted a government official during a primary election conducted to elect the party's governorship candidate in Ugbo community, Ilaje LGA.

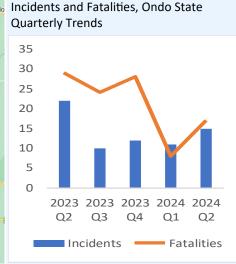
#### Communal Violence

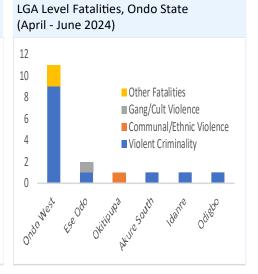
Several incidents of communal violence were reported during the period. In June, for instance, an unidentified armed group reportedly destroyed several cocoa farmlands over an alleged land dispute in Gbelegi community, Idanre LGA. In June, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between militias from Ikale and Igbobini communities, Okitipupa LGA.

# Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of communal violence and criminality on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls was reported during the period. In May, for instance, a woman was allegedly killed by her husband during a disagreement in Akure town, Akure South LGA.







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

There was an increase in violent conflict and insecurity in Rivers State in Q2 2024 compared to Q1. Data shows a 13.89% rise in lethal violence, from 36 reported fatalities in Q1 to 41 fatalities in Q2. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Rivers ranked highest in lethal violence in the Niger Delta, based on reported fatalities during the period. Criminality and clashes between cult gangs were the major drivers of lethal violence and insecurity during the period. Eleme, followed by Port Harcourt LGA, had the highest conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

# Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs and associated criminal violence were major drivers of insecurity during the quarter. Cult and gang related violence caused several fatalities in the State. In April, for example, a local vigilante was reportedly killed during a clash with members of a cult gang at Obidanso Waterfront in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. Also in April, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between the police and members of a cult gang in Ogbologbo community, Ahoada West LGA.

#### Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence was a major security issue in Rivers State during the period. In April, for instance, a policewoman was reportedly attacked and killed by a mob at a security checkpoint in Taabaa community, Khana LGA. Also, in April, gunmen reportedly killed a police inspector in Rumuolumeni community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, in April, a journalist who works with a popular television station was allegedly abducted by kidnappers at his residence in Rumuosi community, Obio/Akpor LGA. The kidnappers later demanded a 30 million naira ransom.

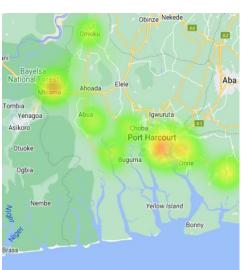
In May, gunmen allegedly attacked a passenger boat and abducted seven travelers along the Onne Waterways in Eleme LGA. Also in May, a resident was reportedly killed and two houses were destroyed during a clash between some youths and members of a local vigilante group in Egbeda community, Emohua LGA. Separately, in May, two siblings were allegedly killed by gunmen suspected to be members of a local vigilante group in Omoku community, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. In June, a man was reportedly killed by a member of a local vigilante in Egbeda community, Emohua LGA.

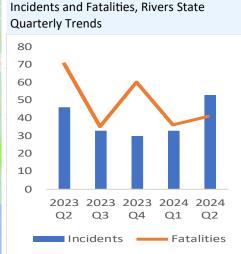
#### Political Violence

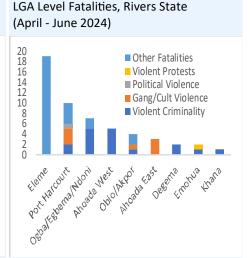
Political tension was heightened over power tussle between political actors in the State during the period. Many incidents of politically motivated violence were reported in the State. In June, for instance, several incidents of violence, including clashes between rival political groups, were reported at different locations in Ikwerre and Port Harcourt LGAs. On June 18, 2024, two persons, including a police officer and a local vigilante, were allegedly killed in clashes between supporters of opposing political groups over the tenure of the chairperson of the local government council in Eberi-Omuma community, Omuma LGA. Also, on June 18, a youth leader was reportedly killed by members of a cult gang who double as political thugs in Ula-Upata community, Ahoada East LGA.

#### Disasters

Explosions and fire outbreaks caused several fatalities in the State during the period. In April, for instance, a petrol tanker exploded, killed four persons, and destroyed over 70 vehicles along the East-West Road in Eleme LGA. In May, a gas tanker exploded and killed three persons at the Obirilkwerre Flyover along the East-West Road in Rumuosi community, Obio/Akpor LGA.







#### 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.

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 con-55,000 data points on conflict that dates back to 2009, the Peace Map is one of society, and the general public committed to promoting peaceable livelihoods. 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

PIND implements collaborative market-based, community-owned programs to 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. flict for validation, triangulation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. With over The network includes stakeholders from community-based organizations, civil

#### **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**

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+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 / 091 2233 4455.

Incident Details: Include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief description.