

Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

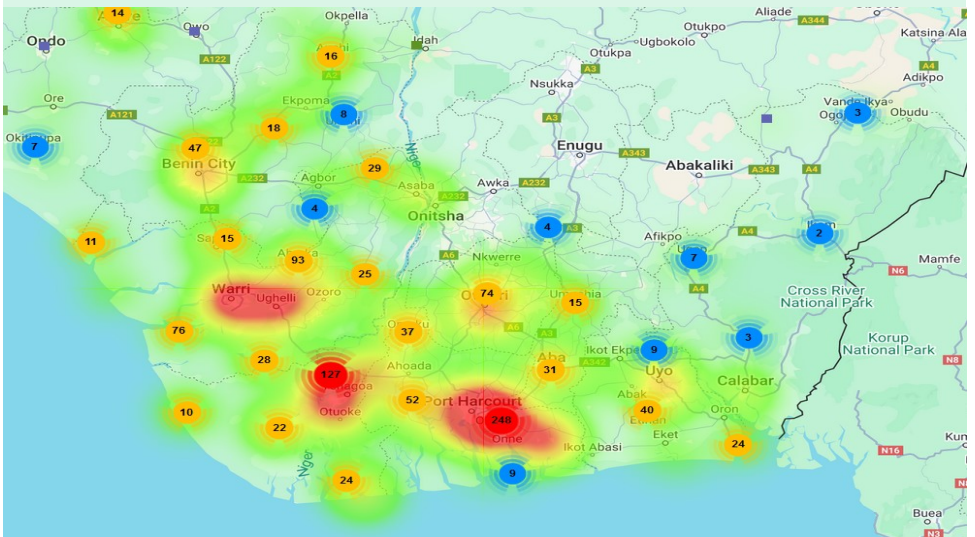
July to September 2024

In the third quarter (Q3) of 2024, Nigeria's Niger Delta experienced a relative period of stability and peace, showing a notable improvement in overall security compared to the second quarter (Q2). Data shows a 19.3% reduction in lethal violence, with conflict-related fatalities decreasing from 186 in Q2 to 150 in Q3 (see page 2 for details). Several peace and development actors, including local peace agents, civil society organizations (CSOs), international development organizations, and government agencies, implemented interventions to mitigate and prevent violent conflict and insecurity during this period. According to PIND's [P4P Peace Map](#), the main drivers of lethal violence were criminal activities, cult gang clashes, separatist agitation, and clashes between hoodlums and security forces.

This quarterly tracker examines patterns and trends in conflict risk and lethal violence and the pressures they place on peace and stability at regional, state, and local levels. It is not intended as a full conflict analysis but rather as an update for stakeholders on the latest trends and patterns of violence. A deeper understanding of conflict drivers, implications, and mitigation strategies requires a comprehensive, participatory qualitative analysis of these trends by all relevant stakeholders.

Prevailing conflict issues in the Niger Delta include organized crime, political competition, communal tensions, resource-based conflicts, and human rights abuses. Incidents involve kidnapping, piracy, robbery, gang violence, political violence, land

Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from July - September 2024.

Source: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

disputes, separatist agitation, violence against security personnel, sexual violence, mob violence, illicit drug and human trafficking, ritual killings, and disasters. Data sources include Armed Conflict Location and Event Data ([ACLED](#)), [Nigeria Watch](#), Community Initiatives for Enhanced Peace and Development ([CIEPD](#)), Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sources, PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) SMS Early Warning System, and others.

The Niger Delta is a highly diverse region, home to over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The region encompasses 185 of Nigeria's 774 local government areas (LGAs) and spans nine of the country's 36 states:

Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers. According to the 2006 population census, it has over 30 million people, accounting for more than 23% of Nigeria's population, with an estimated population density of 265 people per square kilometer.

The Niger Delta contains vast oil and gas reserves, which are critical to Nigeria's economy. However, despite these abundant resources, the region faces significant challenges, including insecurity, underdevelopment, and poverty. Historical tensions and the proliferation of armed groups, including militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian factions, contribute to complex conflict dynamics, which are explored in the following pages.

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — July to September 2024

The peace and security situation in the region remained relatively stable during Q3 2024, with a gradual decrease in lethal violence observed since Q1 2024. This downward trend continued into Q3. According to data, conflict-related fatalities decreased by 19.3%, from 186 in Q2 to 150 in Q3.

Incidents of criminal violence, communal conflict, cult gang clashes, and separatist agitation saw significant declines during the period. Specifically, fatalities from communal violence dropped by 45.5%, from 11 in Q2 to six in Q3. Criminal violence also dropped by 9.27%, with reported fatalities decreasing from 97 in Q2 to 88 in Q3. Clashes involving cult gangs recorded the most

significant reduction, with fatalities dropping by 52.8%, from 53 in Q2 to 25 in Q3. Additionally, fatalities related to separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and government security forces, declined by 12.5%, from 24 in Q2 to 21 in Q3.

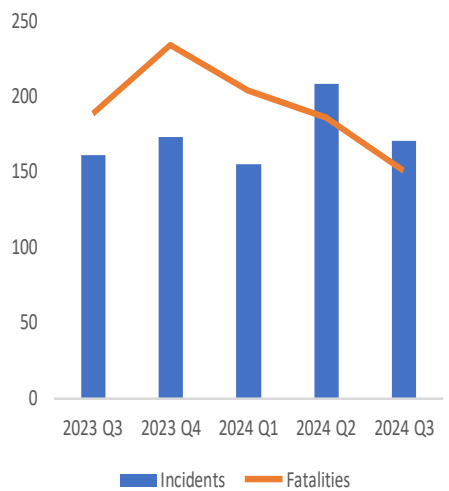
Conversely, there was an uptick in mob violence and politically motivated killings in Q3 2024, particularly in Rivers and Edo States. Several incidents of lethal violence were reported in connection with the governorship and local government elections in these states during this period. Data indicates a 200% increase in political and election-related fatalities in the region, rising

from two deaths in Q2 to six in Q3. Similarly, mob violence escalated during this period, with fatalities rising by 50%, from 10 in Q2 to 15 in Q3.

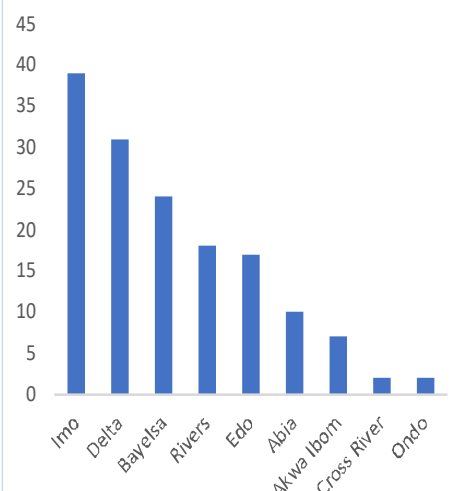
Imo, followed by Delta and Bayelsa, ranked highest in lethal violence in the region during the period, based on reported conflict-related fatalities. Southern Ijaw in Bayelsa and Ughelli North in Delta were the local government areas (LGAs) with the most conflict-related fatalities.

The following pages provide a state-by-state breakdown of the primary conflict issues reported during the quarter, and analysis of trends in these issues over time.

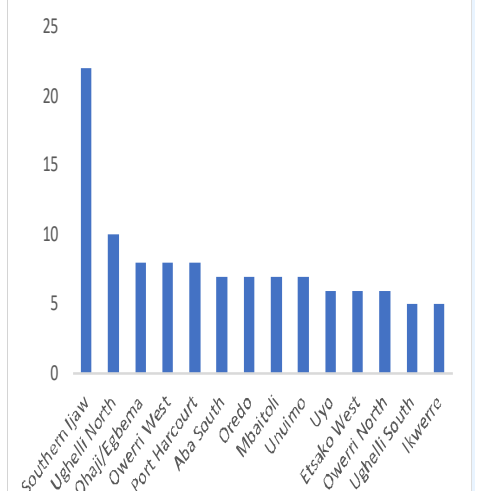
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q3 2023 - Q3 2024)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (July - September 2024)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (July - September 2024)



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 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 <https://pindfoundation.org/category/conflict-trackers/> or www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Abia State

Conflict risks and lethal violence in Abia State decreased significantly in Q3 2024 compared to Q2, with data showing a 50% reduction in reported fatalities from 20 in Q2 to 10 in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia was among the states with relatively low levels of lethal violence during the quarter based on reported fatalities. The main drivers of violence and insecurity were organized criminal activities, clashes between cult gangs, and separatist agitation, including clashes between government security forces and separatist militias. Aba South LGA recorded the highest number of fatalities in the state during the period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnappings for ransom, was a major cause of insecurity in Abia

State in Q3. For example, in July, kidnappers reportedly abducted a commercial driver and 18 passengers in Azumini, Ukwa East LGA. In September, a prominent lawyer and member of the State Ministry of Justice was allegedly killed by gunmen at his residence in Aba, Aba North LGA. Also, in September, a 26-year-old man was reportedly killed in a fight with a 28-year-old man in Umuikaa, Osisioma Ngwa LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

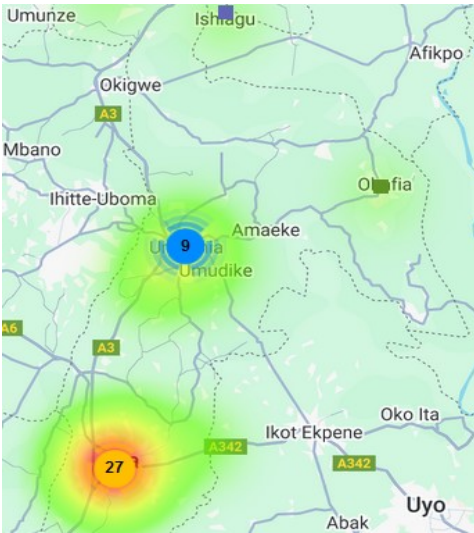
Cult gang-related violence also contributed to insecurity in the state. In July, a member of a cult gang was allegedly killed in a clash with security operatives in Aba, Aba North LGA. In September, another resident was reportedly killed in a clash between members of the Black Axe and Vikings cult gangs in Amuzukwu, Umuahia North LGA.

Separatist Agitation

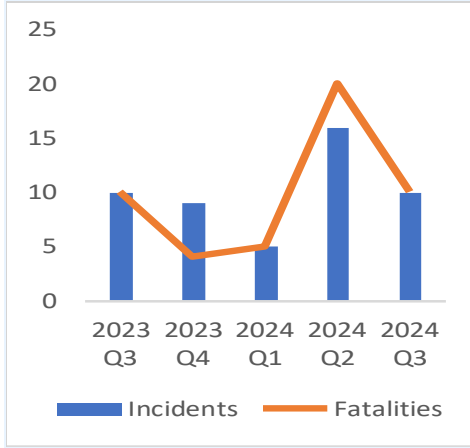
Separatist agitation, particularly clashes between government security forces and separatist militias, was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity during the period. For instance, in July, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly attacked a police patrol team, resulting in six fatalities, including three civilians and a police officer, along Ngwa Road in Aba, Aba South LGA.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

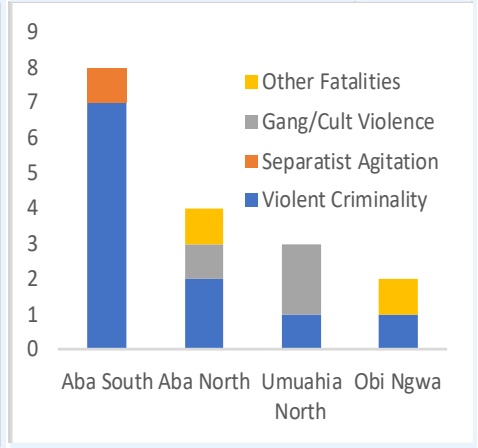
In addition to the impact of criminal violence on women and girls, other forms of gender-based violence were reported during the period. For example, in September, a man allegedly assaulted his wife by gouging out her eyes in Umueze Ibeku, Umuahia North LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State (July - September 2024)



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

In Akwa Ibom State, lethal violence saw a notable decrease in Q3 2024, declining by 50% from 14 fatalities in Q2 to seven in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Akwa Ibom was among the least violent states in the region during this period, based on reported fatalities. Criminal activities and clashes between cult gangs were the primary drivers of lethal violence and insecurity throughout the quarter. Uyo LGA recorded the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the state during this period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnappings for ransom, was a key driver of lethal violence and insecurity in Akwa Ibom State in Q3. For example, in July, gunmen allegedly abducted eight people, including a naval rating, in Ibaka, Mbo LGA. Separately in July, the state coordinator of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and his driver were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Uyo, the

state capital. Additionally, in July, armed robbers attacked the Akwa Ibom State Newspaper Corporation in Uyo, killing a private security guard with a stray bullet as they fled the scene. In September, three members of a kidnapping gang were killed in a clash with the police in Uyo while attempting to abduct a clergyman.

Gang/Cult Violence

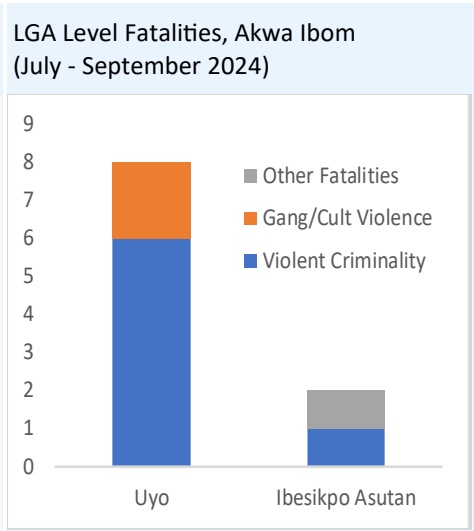
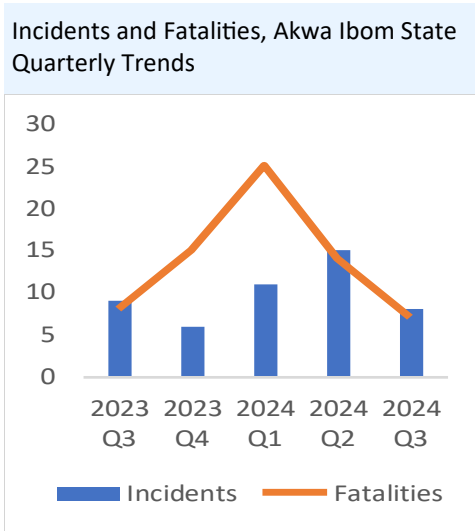
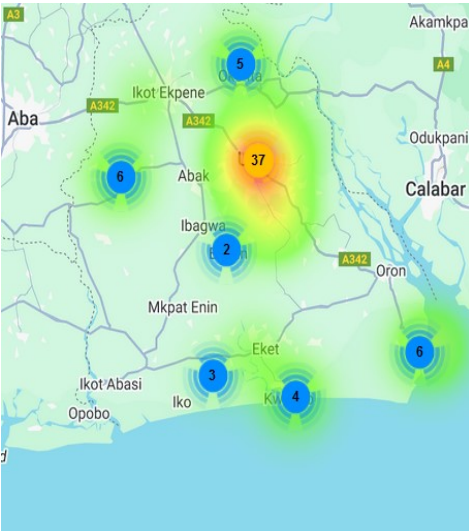
Clashes between cult gangs were a major cause of lethal violence and insecurity in the state during the period. In July, a resident was reportedly killed in a clash between rival cult gangs in Ifa Ikot Okpon, Uyo LGA. In September, three members of a local vigilante group, who also served as hunters, were reportedly killed and decapitated by a cult gang in Unyenghe community, Mbo LGA.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the effects of criminal and gang violence on women and girls, other forms of violence targeting women and girls were reported. For instance, in September, two women were reportedly arrested by the police for allegedly kidnapping two children, whom they later sold for N400,000 and N600,000.

Other Incidents

In July, chieftains of a major political party were reportedly attacked and injured by political thugs during a meeting in Itu LGA, convened to select a candidate for the October 2024 local council elections in the state. In August, two men were reportedly electrocuted while attempting to vandalize power transformers to steal electricity cables in Uyo and Mbierede Obio community, Ibesikpo Asutan 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 — Bayelsa State

Bayelsa State experienced a rise in conflict risks and lethal violence in Q3 2024. Data shows a 118.18% increase in conflict-related fatalities, rising from 11 in Q2 to 24 in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Bayelsa ranked among the States with the highest levels of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during this period. Key drivers of lethal violence and insecurity included disasters, criminal activities, and clashes between cult gangs. Incidents of violence and insecurity were primarily concentrated in Yenagoa, the state capital, while disaster-related incidents were largely reported in Southern Ijaw LGA.

Disasters

Disasters were a significant cause of insecurity in Bayelsa State in Q3. Several incidents, including boat mishaps, resulted in over 20 fatalities during the period. In August, a wooden boat carrying traders reportedly caught fire and sank, claiming 20 lives in Ezetu community, Southern Ijaw LGA. Separately, a speedboat carrying 15 passengers

capsized on the Okubie River in Southern Ijaw LGA, resulting in one fatality, while the other 14 passengers were rescued. Numerous incidents of oil spills were also reported. For instance, women protested at an oil company’s facility in July in response to a spillage in Nembe LGA.

Violent Criminality

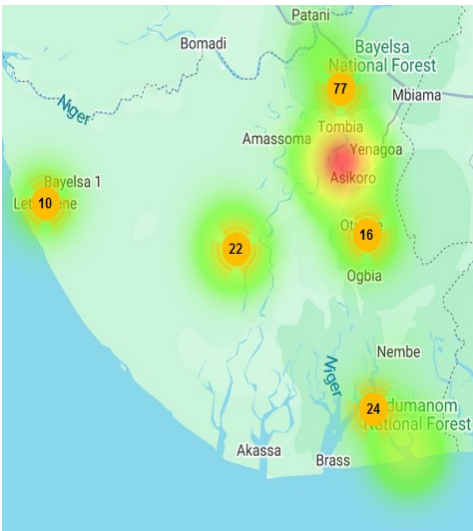
Criminal violence posed a significant security challenge in Bayelsa State during the quarter, with various incidents of criminal and interpersonal violence reported. In July, a male university student was reportedly stabbed to death during a dispute at a relaxation spot on Wilberforce Island in Amassoma community, Southern Ijaw LGA. Also in July, an unidentified armed group dressed in military uniforms allegedly attacked residents and damaged property in Akanama community near Opuama, Southern Ijaw LGA. Additionally, armed robbers reportedly killed a businessman during a robbery at his office near Ekeki Motor Park in Yenagoa, the state capital.

Gang/Cult Violence

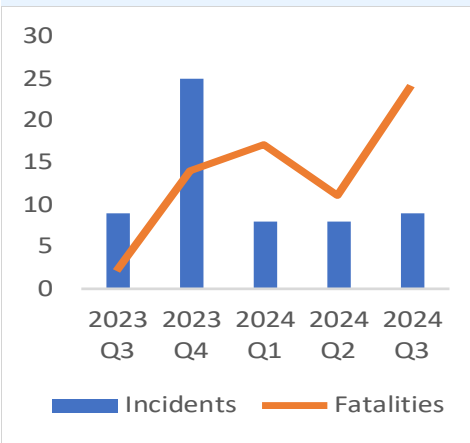
Clashes between rival cult gangs were major drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in the state in Q3. Gang-related conflicts resulted in multiple fatalities during this period. For example, in August, a young man was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult gang at Swali Market in Yenagoa, the state capital.

Other Incidents

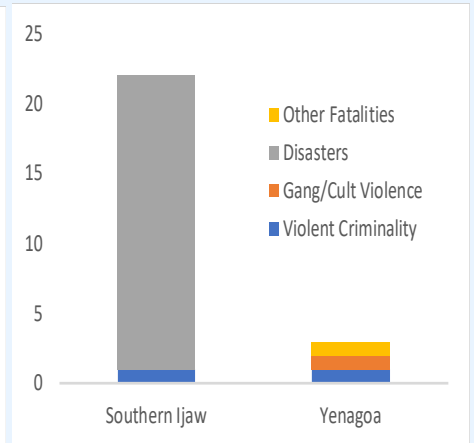
In July, hundreds of youths in Onuebum community, Ogbia LGA, protested and reportedly disrupted operations at an oil company over a disagreement. Also in July, operations at another oil company were reportedly halted following the arrest of a youth and community leader in Ogboinbiri, Southern Ijaw LGA, over a land dispute.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (July - September 2024)



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 — Cross River State

Lethal violence and insecurity decreased marginally in Cross River State in Q3 2024 compared to Q2, with a 77.7% drop in reported conflict fatalities, from nine in Q2 to two in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Cross River ranked among the least violent states in the Niger Delta during the quarter based on reported fatalities. Criminal activities were the primary drivers of lethal violence, with incidents mainly concentrated in Yala and Akamkpa LGAs.

Violent Criminality

Incidents of criminal violence, including robbery and kidnapping, were reported across the State during the period. In July, armed robbers allegedly raided a university hostel in Okuku, Yala LGA, robbing students of valuables, including laptops and mobile phones. During the robbery, one of the robbers reportedly fell into an open well and died while attempting to escape. The robbers also injured two students: one was stabbed, and another suffered a head injury after being struck with a stick.

In August, a kidnapping kingpin, who was also identified as a pirate, was reportedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Uyanga community, Akamkpa LGA. The suspect was allegedly linked to numerous cases of kidnapping and murder in neighboring Akwa Ibom State, including the kidnapping of a high court judge and the killing of her police orderly, as well as the murder of a businessman in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

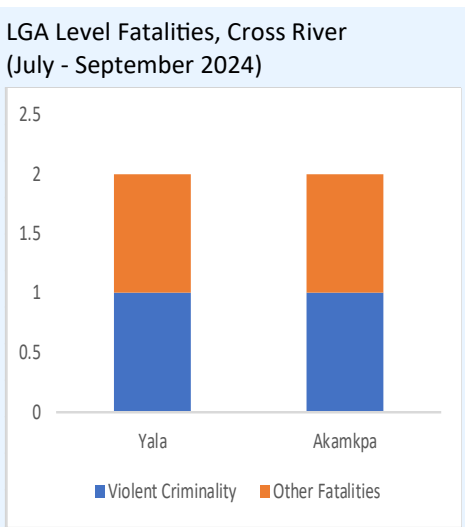
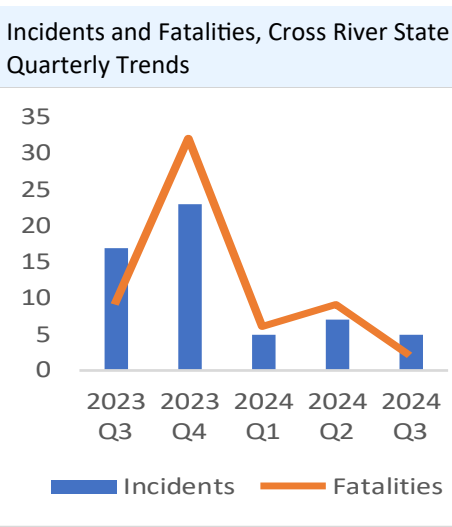
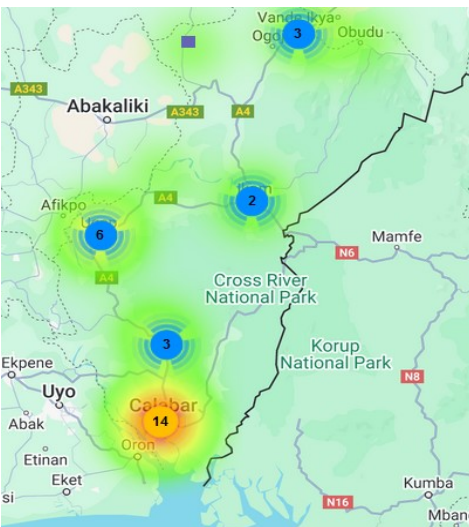
Violence targeting women and girls remains a serious threat to peace and human security in Cross River State. Alongside the general criminal violence impacting women and girls, additional specific incidents were reported during the period. In August, a pregnant woman was reportedly killed in Ugep community, Yakurr LGA, leading to the arrest of two suspects by the police. In September, a 1-year-old baby girl was allegedly raped by her mother’s landlord, a middle-aged man in Betem, Biase LGA. Also in September, community members raised concerns about a

hotel in Afokang, Calabar South LGA, where teenage girls were reportedly held hostage, drugged, and sexually abused.

Other Incidents

In July, women in Ukpoada community, Bekwarra LGA, staged a protest over alleged threats to their lives and the destruction of their farms by herdsmen, urging the government to intervene. Also in July, a mob of over 800 people reportedly attacked vehicles transporting palliatives allegedly meant for journalists in Calabar, the state capital. Additionally, a boat carrying more than 20 women traders capsized in Itigidi community, Abi LGA, due to turbulent waters, resulting in one death and the loss of goods worth millions of naira.

In August, some residents who were protesting fuel price hikes clashed with the police in Calabar, the state capital, with some journalists reportedly caught in the scuffle.



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 — Delta State

In Delta State, there was a notable decrease in lethal violence in Q3 2024 compared to Q2, with conflict-related fatalities dropping by 20.51%, from 39 deaths in Q2 to 31 in Q3. However, according to Peace Map data (see page 2), Delta State remained among the highest-ranking states in the region for lethal violence during this period, based on reported fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence in the State were primarily driven by criminal activities, clashes between cult gangs, communal conflicts, and violence against women and girls. Ughelli North, followed by Ughelli South LGA, recorded the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during this period.

Violent Criminality

Criminality was a major security concern in Delta State in Q3, causing over 40 fatalities. Incidents included homicides and kidnappings for ransom. In July, a clash between police and a gang of kidnappers in Ovir-Ogor community, Ughelli North LGA, resulted in one fatality. Also in July, a 33-year-old man was killed by unknown assailants in Agbor community, Ika South LGA, while a cleric was reportedly killed by his 28-year-old son in Okpare-Olomu community, Ughelli South LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed a police

officer and abducted a former Delta State House of Assembly member in Asaba, the state capital. In August, gunmen allegedly attacked a police patrol team in Effurun, Uvwie LGA, killing a policeman. In September, three people, including two police officers, were reportedly killed by kidnappers in Jakpa, Uvwie LGA, during an attempted abduction of the wife of a Delta State House of Assembly member.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs also caused many fatalities in the State. In July, for instance, a man was killed by a cultist in Ogume community, Ndokwa West LGA. A mob subsequently lynched the cultist. In August, four individuals were killed on the same day at different locations in Ughelli community, Ughelli North LGA, as a result of clashes between the Aye and Bagger cult gangs.

Communal Violence

Several incidents of communal violence were reported during the quarter. In July, gunmen suspected to be herdsmen attacked Okpe-Abavo community in Ika South LGA, killing a 55-year-old farmer, injuring his two sons, and abducting his wife while demanding a 20-million-naira ransom.

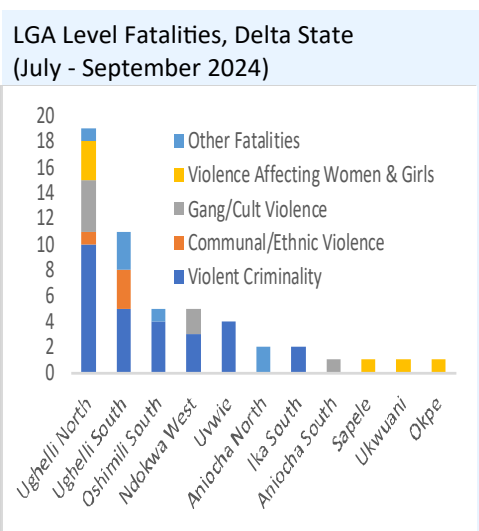
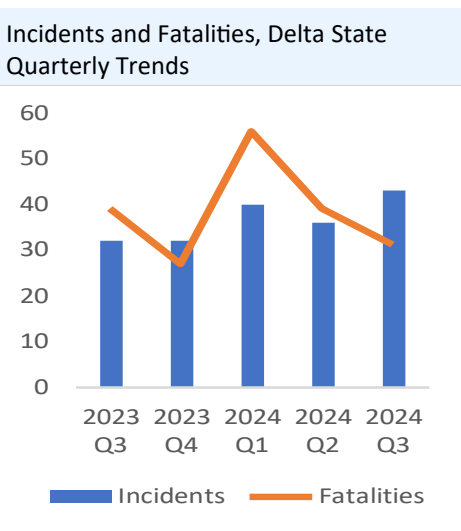
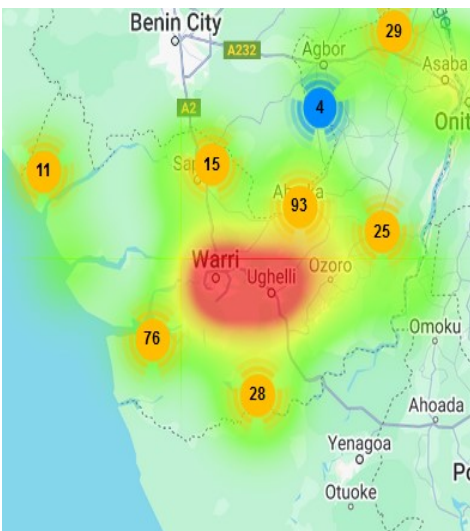
This incident prompted many residents to flee the community. Also in July, tensions escalated in Obodougwa-Ogume community, Ndokwa West LGA, after a community leader was brutally killed and set ablaze by unknown assailants. In September, three youths were allegedly killed during a clash with soldiers over a dispute in Okuama community, Ughelli South LGA.

Violence Against Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of criminality and communal violence on women and girls, other forms of violence against women and girls were recorded. In July, for example, a 50-year-old woman was killed by her 23-year-old son in Obiaruku, Ukwuani LGA.

Other Incidents

Several unusual incidents were also reported during the quarter. In July, a lightning strike during a thunderstorm hit 12 footballers in the Issele-Azagba community, Aniocha North LGA, resulting in two fatalities. In August, a resident was shot and injured during a clash between protesters and police officers at Otovwodo Junction in Ughelli North 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 — Edo State

In Q3 2024, Edo State experienced a notable reduction in violence and insecurity, with a 51.42% decline in incidents of lethal violence compared to Q2. The number of reported fatalities dropped from 35 in Q2 to 17 in Q3, as recorded by Peace Map data (see page 2). This trend placed Edo among states in the Niger Delta with the most significant reduction in lethal violence during this period. The primary drivers of violence and insecurity in Q3 included criminal activities, clashes between rival cult gangs, political tensions, and human rights violations. Oredo and Etsako West LGAs recorded the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including homicides, remained a significant source of insecurity in Edo State during Q3. In July, a 56-year-old man was reportedly assaulted and killed by another man in Ekpoma, Esan West LGA. In September, a middle-aged man allegedly killed his elder brother during a dispute in Auchi, Etsako West LGA, after which a mob reportedly lynched the suspect.

Political Violence

Political tensions increased significantly in Edo State in the lead-up to the September 2024 governorship election, with multiple violent incidents reported. In July, a police officer attached to the governorship candidate of a political party was reportedly killed in a clash between supporters of rival parties in Benin City, the state capital. In August, a Senior Special Assistant to the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly was allegedly killed by gunmen in Ozalla, Owan West LGA. On the eve of the election, armed political thugs were reportedly arrested at different locations in Oredo and Akoko Edo LGAs.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs were a major contributor to lethal violence and insecurity in the State during this period. For example, in July, a man was reportedly killed by suspected cultists in Benin City, Oredo LGA. Another individual was allegedly shot dead during a clash between two

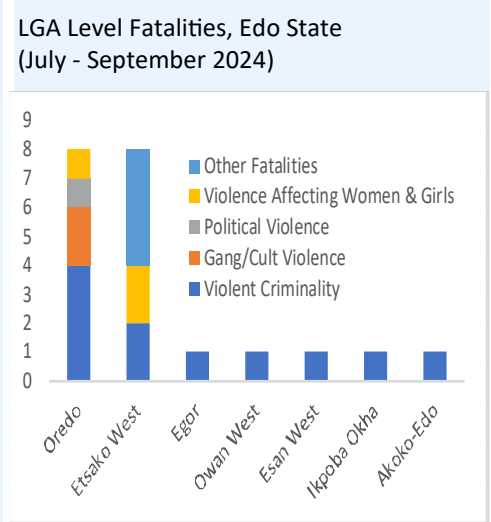
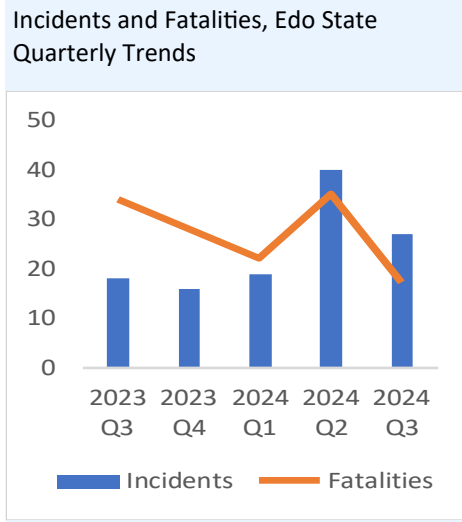
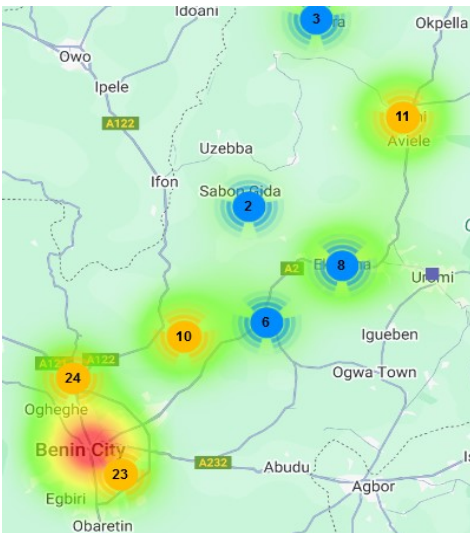
rival cult gangs in Benin City, also in Oredo LGA. Separately, another cultist was reportedly injured in a clash with a rival gang in Benin City in July.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the broader impacts of criminality, communal violence, and cult clashes on women and girls, there were other acts of gender-based violence reported during the period. For instance, in July, a woman was reportedly strangled to death by her male neighbor during a dispute in Ugbiyoko, Egor LGA.

Other Incidents

In July, heavy rainfall led to a tragic accident in Jattu, Etsako West LGA. Four people died and several others were injured when four trees fell simultaneously at a popular market where people were taking shelter. Also, in July, a fire engulfed a hotel in Benin City, resulting in the tragic deaths of four residents - two men and two women.



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

Lethal violence in Imo State increased significantly in Q3 2024 compared to Q2, with a 116.6% rise in reported fatalities, from 18 in Q2 to 39 in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Imo recorded the highest number of fatalities in the Niger Delta during this period. The surge in lethal violence and insecurity was primarily driven by criminal activities, separatist agitations, including clashes between government security forces and separatist militias, and cult gang clashes. Ohaji/Egbema LGA, followed by Owerri West LGA, had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, including the targeted killing of security personnel and civilians, was a major driver of insecurity in Imo State during the period. For instance, in July, gunmen allegedly ambushed and killed three local vigilantes and a passerby in Afor Umuaka community, Njaba LGA. The vigilantes were reportedly attacked during a routine security patrol in the community. In September, gunmen allegedly killed two vigilantes and set vehicles and houses ablaze in Umuelemai, the headquarters of Isiala Mbanjo LGA. Also, in September, a church in Orodo, Mbaitoli LGA, was attacked by gunmen who killed one person.

Separatist Agitation

Separatist agitation, marked by clashes between separatist militias and government security forces, remained a major security challenge during the period. In July, separatist militias allegedly killed four police officers and a young woman in Irete community, Owerri West LGA. Additionally, a member of a local vigilante group was killed and another injured during a clash with a joint security team in Amaifeke, Orlu LGA. In the same month, two fatalities were reported during a clash between security forces and separatist militias in Ezioha-Eziama community, Mbaitoli LGA. Also, in July, separatist militias enforcing a sit-at-home order allegedly killed a man in Orji River, Owerri North LGA.

In August, seven community leaders, including the President General of the community, were reportedly attacked and killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias during a meeting in Umucheke Okwe community, Onuimo LGA. In September, gunmen reportedly attacked the divisional police headquarters in Umuaka, Njaba LGA, killing three people. Separately, militias allegedly attacked a police station with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and an off-

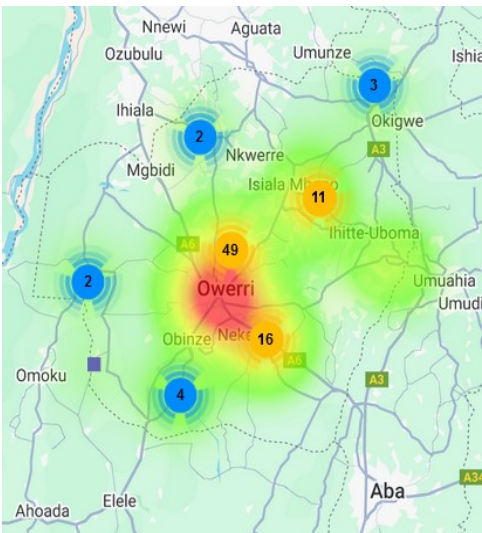
duty policeman was killed in his house in Umulogho, Obowo LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

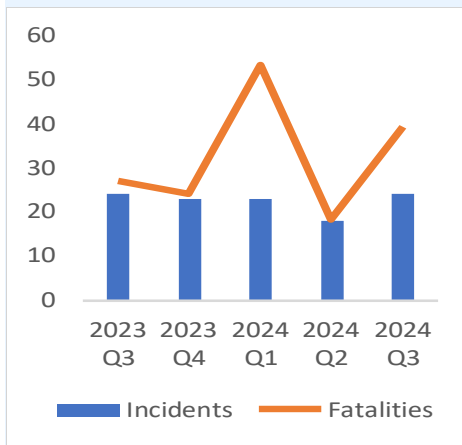
Gang and cult-related violence also contributed significantly to insecurity during the quarter. In July, four people were reportedly killed in clashes between the Black Axe and Supreme Vikings cult gangs at various locations, including MCC Roundabout in Owerri, the state capital. In September, eight people were killed and many others injured in a series of violent clashes between rival cult gangs battling for supremacy and territorial control in Ochia and Awarra communities, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. Five of the fatalities were identified as cult members.

Other Incidents

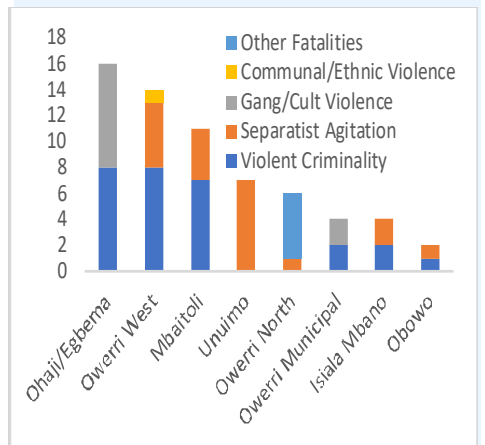
In August, a tragic accident claimed the lives of four men who were attempting to evacuate sewage from a septic tank in Umunwokoji-Umuayalu village, Egbu community, Owerri North LGA. In September, a mob in Orogwe community, Owerri West LGA, allegedly lynched and burned a couple to death after they were accused of attempting to dispossess a man of his motorcycle.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (July - September 2024)



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 — Ondo State

Conflict risks and lethal violence significantly declined in Ondo State in Q3 2024 compared to Q2. Data reveals an 88.23% decrease in fatalities, dropping from 17 reported deaths in Q2 to just two in Q3. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Ondo State recorded the lowest level of violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Violent criminality was the primary driver of lethal violence, with incidents primarily concentrated in Akure North and Akure South LGAs.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnappings for ransom and clashes between local vigilantes and hoodlums, was a significant driver of violence and insecurity in Ondo State during the period. In July, gunmen reportedly kidnapped nine individuals, including a woman and her three children, in Irese community, Akure North LGA. Separately, an operative of the Ondo State chapter of the Western Nigeria Security Network, known as the

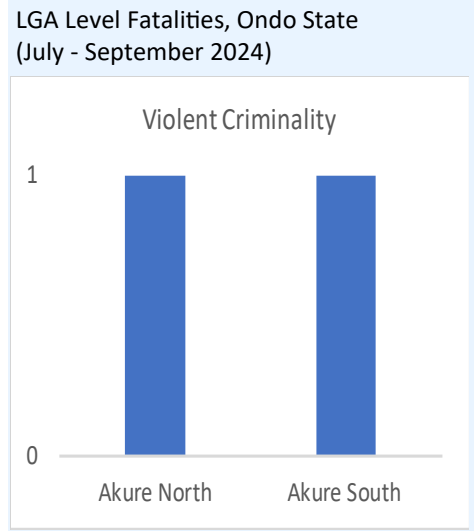
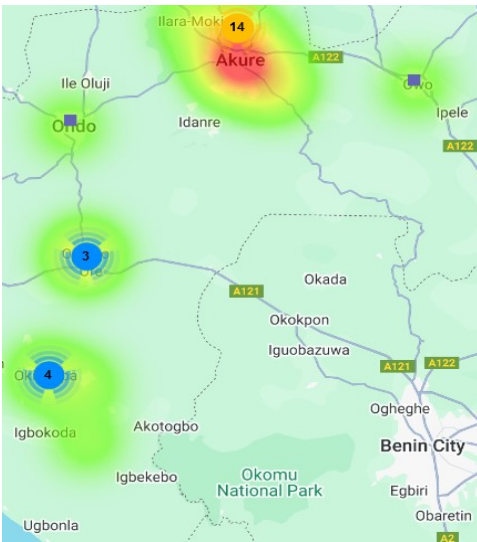
Amotekun Corps, was injured during a clash with armed herders in Igoba community, Akure North LGA. The incident occurred when security personnel arrested over 120 cows and their herders for grazing and destroying tomato farms. Responding to a distress call from a farmer, the Amotekun Corps attempted to enforce the State's anti-grazing law but came under attack from the herders.

Additionally, gunmen allegedly attacked a commercial bus along the Ifo-Owo Expressway in Ifo community, Ose LGA. The attackers killed the driver and a female passenger and abducted several others, including five members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). The kidnappers reportedly demanded a 15-million-naira ransom for the corps members. Meanwhile, in Owo community, Owo LGA, members of the Black Axe and Ku Klux Klan cult gangs reportedly clashed during the same month. Also in July, a 54-year-old businesswoman was reportedly killed in her residence in Akure, the State capital.

Protests

Several protests and mass demonstrations took place across the State during the period. In July, hundreds of residents from multiple communities in five LGAs - Ilaje, Okitipupa, Ese-Odo, Odigbo, and Irele - protested prolonged electricity outages. The protesters claimed they had been without electricity for about 14 years and called on the government to restore power to the affected areas.

Additionally, over 10,000 farmers from the Oluwa Forest Reserve protested in Akure, the State capital, over an alleged plan by the State government to sell approximately 2,000 hectares of land to a private firm. The protesters argued that the sale would result in the loss of their farmlands. Similarly, residents of Ode Irele community protested at the State High Court in Okitipupa town, Okitipupa LGA, against the alleged imposition of a community leader.



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 violent conflict and insecurity in Rivers State in Q3 2024 compared to Q2. Data indicates a 61.53% reduction in lethal violence, with reported fatalities dropping from 52 in Q2 to 20 in Q3. However, according to Peace Map data (see page 2), Rivers State remained one of the States in the Niger Delta with a high incidence of lethal violence during the period, based on reported fatalities. The primary drivers of violence and insecurity were criminality, political violence, and clashes between cult gangs. Port Harcourt LGA recorded the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during this period.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence was a major security issue in Rivers State during Q3 2024, causing multiple fatalities. In July, a local vigilante member was reportedly ambushed and killed by gunmen in Igwuruta community, Ikwerre LGA. Similarly, a clash between operatives of the Nigerian Navy and gunmen along the waterways in Krakrama community, Degema LGA, resulted in a fatality. In August, gunmen attacked a church in Oyigbo LGA, shooting indiscriminately and injuring a church worker. That same month, gunmen reportedly abducted the Director of the Rivers State Board of

Internal Revenue Service at Okrika Waterfront in Port Harcourt LGA.

In September, suspected pirates attacked a passenger boat along the Bonny–Port Harcourt Waterways in Port Harcourt LGA, abducting 10 passengers. In the same month, gunmen reportedly attacked Briun community in Khana LGA, killing two residents. Separately, during the election of a youth leader for the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) in Abuloma community, Port Harcourt LGA, gunmen opened fire, resulting in three fatalities and several injuries. Additionally, two suspected oil pipeline vandals were allegedly killed during a clash with government security forces in Upatabo community, Ahoada West LGA.

Political Violence

Political tensions escalated in Rivers State during the period, fueled by power struggles among political actors in the lead-up to the October 2024 local government elections. These tensions led to several politically motivated violent clashes. In July, supporters of two factional leaders of a political party reportedly clashed during a political event in Eliozu community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In August, an unidentified armed group reportedly threw dynamites at the secretariat of a political

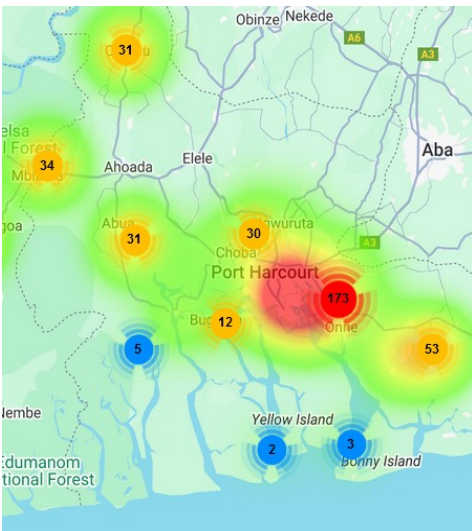
party in Port Harcourt LGA, causing damage to windows and other properties in the building.

Gang/Cult Violence

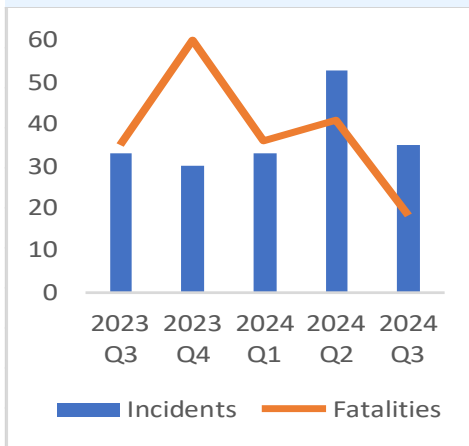
Cashes between rival cult gangs, and related criminal violence were major drivers of insecurity in the State during the quarter. In July, suspected cultists abducted and killed a 47-year-old man from his boat in Bakana community, Degema LGA. In August, a clash between members of the rival Vikings and Iceland cult gangs in Rumuolumene community, Obio/Akpor LGA, resulted in a fatality. In September, a clash over supremacy between two factions of the Vikings cult gang at the University of Port Harcourt in Obio/Akpor LGA left one student injured.

Other Incidents

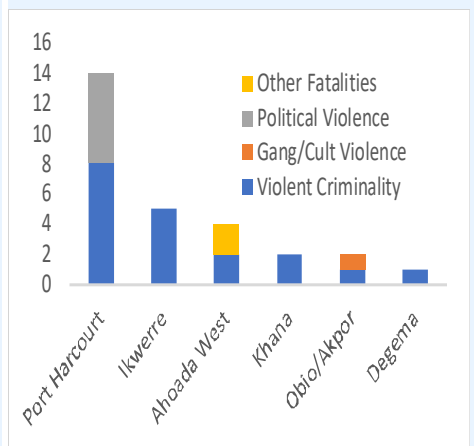
Other notable incidents occurred during the quarter. In July, a day-old baby was reportedly found dead in a manhole in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. In August, protesters alleging bad governance and high cost of living vandalized the headquarters of a major political party along Aba - Port Harcourt Road in Port Harcourt LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State (July - September 2024)



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](mailto:info@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 / 091 2233 4455.**

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