

# Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2020

## Executive Summary

The Niger Delta peace and security landscape underwent significant changes in 2020. Diverse conflict risk factors contributed to the changing conflict and security dynamics during the period. These conflict risk factors included historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian). This report examines the trends and patterns of conflict risk and violence, and identifies key interrelated drivers and pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), CIEPD (<https://ciepdcwc.crowdmap.com>), IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), there was an increase in conflict risk and violence and a decrease in reported fatalities in 2020, compared to 2019. Organized criminality, gang violence, communal conflict, human rights violation, and mob justice were the primary causes of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the year. There was an increase in communal conflict and violent protests, and a decrease in criminality and gang violence during the period.

The most prevalent conflict and security issues in 2020 included kidnapping, robbery, piracy, clashes between rival cult gangs, herder/farmer clashes, land/boundary disputes, counter-insurgency operations, extra-judicial killings, mob violence, ethno-nationalist agitations, killing for ritualistic purposes, human trafficking, sexual violence, political tensions, and violent protests.

Gang violence, militancy/counter-insurgency operations, criminality, communal conflict, and mob violence were the most lethal forms of violence in 2020, as measured by fatalities per incident. According to data (see second graph on page 4), on average, every incident of gang violence and militancy/counter-insurgency operation resulted in at least two fatalities. This was followed by criminality with an average of 1.6 fatalities per incident.

Overall, the most reported incidents of violence related to criminality (including piracy, kidnapping, robbery, and killing for ritualistic purposes), with 341 fatalities in 219 incidents. This was followed by clashes/supremacy battles among rival cult gangs with 204 fatalities in 78 reported incidents.

Communal/ethnic tensions was the third most prevalent conflict issue in the region during the year, resulting in 130 fatalities in 87 reported incidents including farmer/herder conflicts, land disputes, leadership tussles, and ethnic separatist agitation.

In addition, human rights violations including sexual violence also caused more than 65 fatalities during the period, especially in Rivers, Delta, and Abia. Mob violence and violent protests were also prevalent and caused 56 and 25 fatalities respectively, during the year.

The hotspots of conflict in the region remained largely unchanged in 2020, compared to 2019. According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), the most violent states during the period, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities, were Delta, Rivers, Edo, and Cross River, respectively.

The most violent local government areas (LGAs) in 2020 were Oredo (Edo), Ughelli North (Delta), Yenagoa (Bayelsa), Oshimili North (Delta), Port Harcourt (Rivers), Biase (Cross River), Ethiope West (Delta), and Udu (Delta), respectively.

## Regional Dynamics of Conflict Risk and Insecurity

The Niger Delta of Nigeria is highly heterogeneous with over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local government areas and covers nine 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 more than 23 percent of Nigeria’s population.

The Niger Delta area contains vast reserves of oil and gas, which play an important role in the Nigerian economy. In spite of these abundant natural resources, the Niger Delta is marked by poverty, economic underdevelopment, inequality, environmental degradation, and violent conflict. Historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian) contribute to the changing conflict and security dynamics in the region.

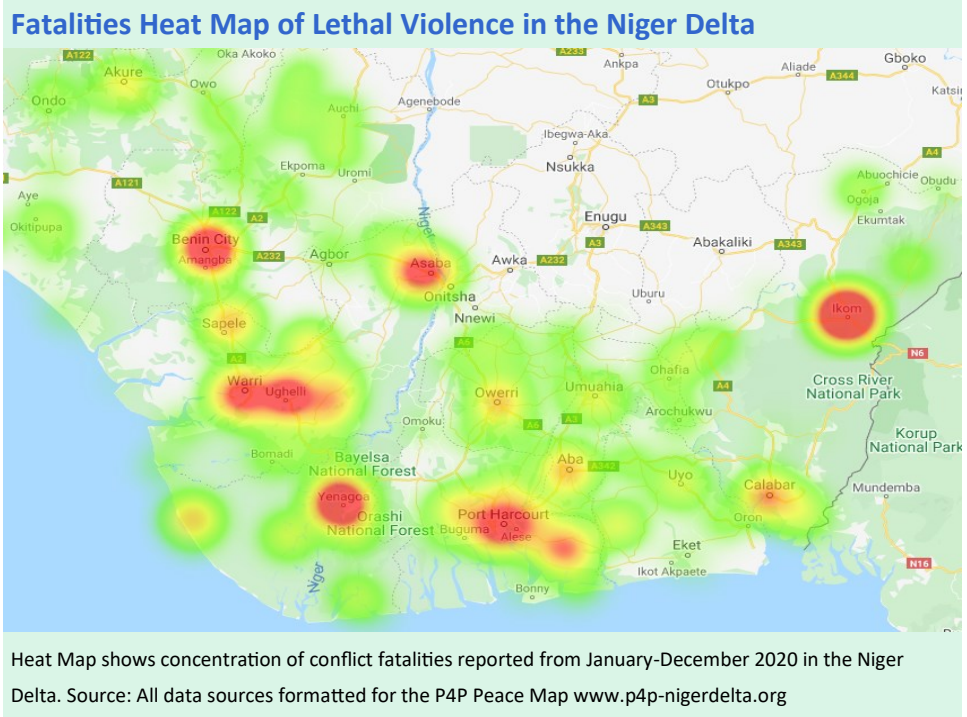
The peace and conflict landscape in the Niger Delta has undergone significant changes since 2009 when the federal government commenced a Presidential Amnesty Program for militants. The relative stability gained through the amnesty program has been eroded by the emergence of new militant groups in 2016 and the rise of other forms of violent conflict in the region. Conflict issues include organized criminality, communal tensions, political competition and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include piracy, militancy,

kidnapping, gang/cult supremacy clashes, armed robbery, ritual killing, mob violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, communal violence, land disputes, election violence, extra-judicial killings and protests.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), while the nature of conflict risk and violence in the region varies, organized criminality, cult clashes, mob violence, human rights violations, land disputes and communal clashes were the primary causes of lethal violence in 2020. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), VAWG (focused

on Violence Against Women and Girls), the IPDU SMS early warning system, CIEPD, and others.

This annual report looks at the trends and patterns of conflict risk factors and incidents of violence, and the related pressures on peace and stability in the Niger Delta. The report is not designed as a conflict analysis, but rather it is intended to update stakeholders on the annual patterns and trends in violence. An understanding of the deeper conflict drivers and related impact, allows stakeholders to proactively address emerging trends rather than only reactively respond to conflict incidents.



## Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2020

There was an increase in conflict risk and violence and a decrease in reported fatalities in the Niger Delta in 2020, compared to the trends in 2019. There were no significant changes in the levels of communal violence and cult related fatalities during the year, but there was a significant increase in violent protests and a decrease in criminality during the period, compared to 2019. At the state level, there was an increase in criminal and cult related fatalities in Delta during the year.

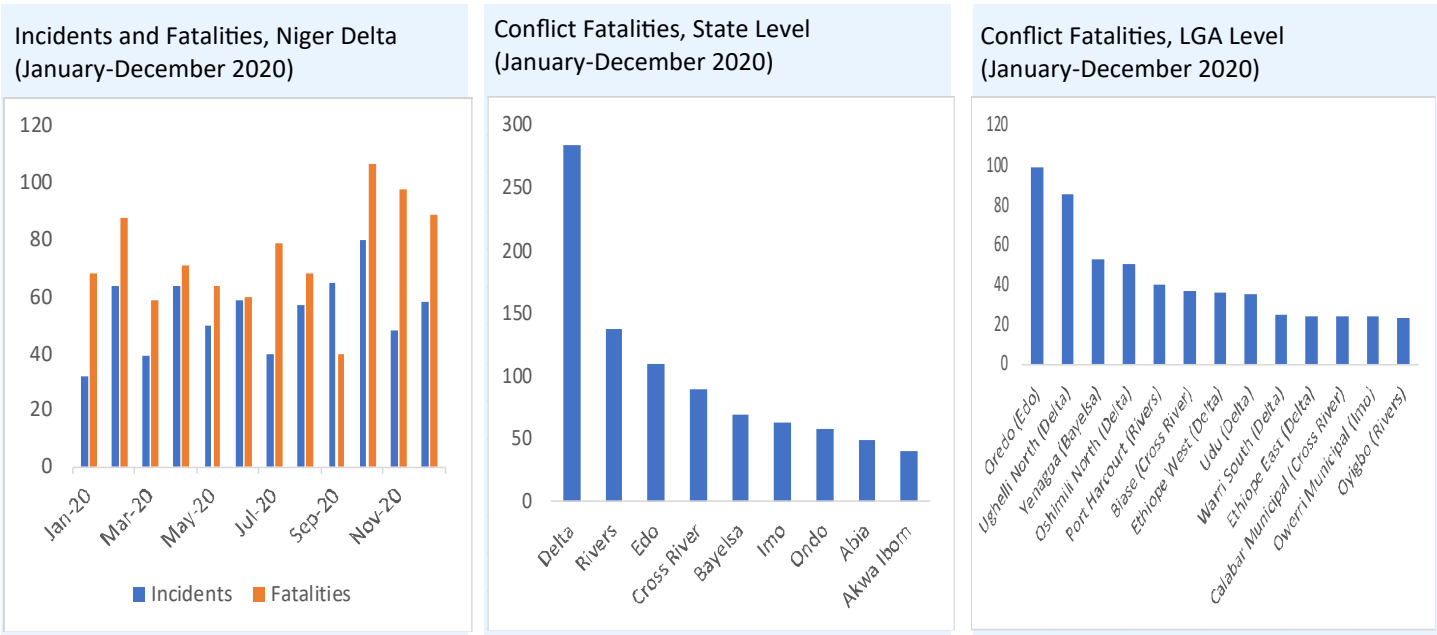
The most violent month during the year was October, with a total of 107 reported fatalities. In October, for instance, 9 people were reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Oleh and Ozoro communities in Isoko South and Isoko North LGAs respectively, in Delta State. Separately, in October, over 10 persons including 5

soldiers, 3 policemen and 2 civilians were reportedly killed during clashes between security forces and supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Oyiabo and Port Harcourt LGAs in Rivers State, in the aftermath of mass protests against police brutality across the country.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), the hotspots of conflict in the region remained largely the same during the year, compared to 2019. The states with the highest number of lethal violence during the year were Delta, Rivers and Edo, while the LGAs with the highest number of lethal violence were Oredo (Edo) and Ughelli North (Delta). Criminal violence and gang/cult supremacy clashes caused over 350 fatalities in Delta and Edo. In addition, communal conflict over land disputes caused over 90 fatalities in Delta.

Conflict risk and violence also impacted on the human rights of individuals during the year. Human rights violations including sexual violence was prevalent, particularly in Rivers, Delta, Abia and Imo. In addition, many of the criminal violence and communal conflicts also impacted on the safety and livelihoods of women and girls during the period, particularly in Delta, Edo and Ondo where there were several clashes between herders and farmers. Vigilante/mob violence was prevalent and caused over 50 fatalities during the year. Violent clashes between protesters and security forces were also frequent during the year.

The following pages provide a breakdown of prevalent conflict risk as it relates to the main issues reported in 2020 and the key conflict drivers.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2020

The Niger Delta conflict and security landscape in 2020 was dominated largely by organized criminality (including kidnapping and piracy), gang violence (clashes between rival cult gangs), communal conflict (including land disputes and farmer/herder clashes), human rights violations (including sexual violence), mob violence, violent protests, and militancy/counter-insurgency.

The most lethal conflict issues in 2020, based on the average number of fatalities per incident were gang violence, militancy/counter-insurgency, organized criminality, communal conflict, mob violence, and human rights violations including sexual violence and abuses by security forces.

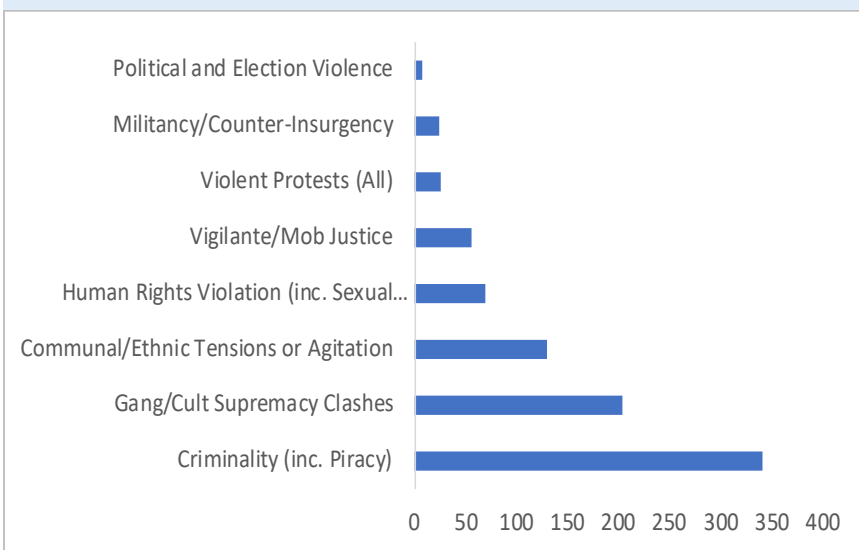
Gang/cult violence was prevalent during the year, particularly in Delta, Edo, Rivers, Bayelsa and Cross River, and driven mainly by rival cult clashes, and supremacy battles among rival cult groups, as well as communal conflict, political tensions and general criminality. Gang and cult violence caused over 200 fatalities during the period.

Organized criminality as well as clashes between hoodlums and public security forces caused over 340 fatalities during the year, particularly in Delta, Rivers and Edo state. In June, for instance, seven robbers were reportedly killed during a shootout with a team of policemen along the East-West Road in Ughelli North LGA, Delta state.

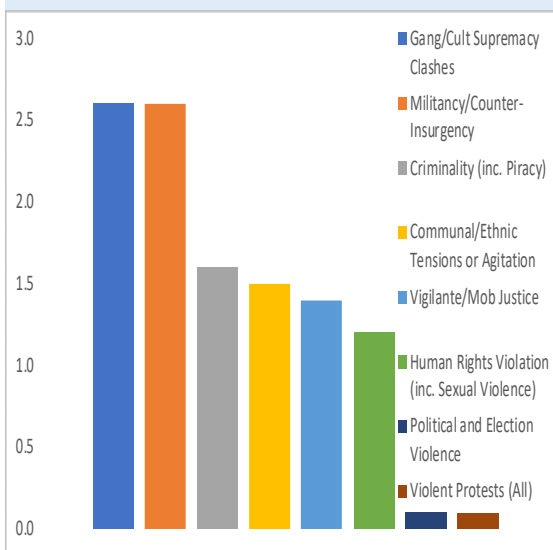
Communal violence was prevalent in 2020, particularly in Delta, Cross River, Edo and Ondo, driven largely by tensions over land and boundary disputes, as well as herder/farmer clashes. Communal violence was more prevalent and lethal in Delta during the year. In February, for example, 10 farmers were reportedly killed by herdsmen in Ughelli North LGA, Delta state.

Human rights violations, including sexual violence and abuses by security forces, was also prevalent during the period, especially in Rivers, Delta, Abia and Imo, and it caused more than 65 fatalities. In addition, mob violence was prevalent and resulted in over 50 fatalities during the year.

**Predominant Conflict Issues, Regional Level Fatalities (January-December 2020)**



**Most Lethal Conflict Issues, Fatalities Per Incident (January-December 2020)**



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Criminality

Criminality was the most prevalent security issue in the Niger Delta in 2020, driven primarily by armed robbery, kidnapping, piracy, and killing for ritualistic purposes. Criminal violence was a key security issue in the entire region during the year, but it was more deadly in Delta, Rivers, Edo and Bayelsa, and caused over 340 fatalities. Criminal violence reached the highest level in December, with 42 fatalities in 31 reported incidents.

### Delta

Criminality was prevalent in Delta during the year, particularly in Ughelli North, Oshimili North, Udu and Ethiope East LGAs. Criminal violence during the period involved mainly robbery, kidnapping, armed clashes and killings for ritualistic purposes. In January, for instance, the wife and son of a clergyman were reportedly killed by hoodlums in Owian, Udu LGA. In February, gunmen reportedly

killed three policemen at a security checkpoint along Ugbolu-Illah road, Oshimili North LGA. In September, a young girl was reportedly killed and some of her body parts removed for ritualistic purposes in Obiaruku, Ukwuani LGA.

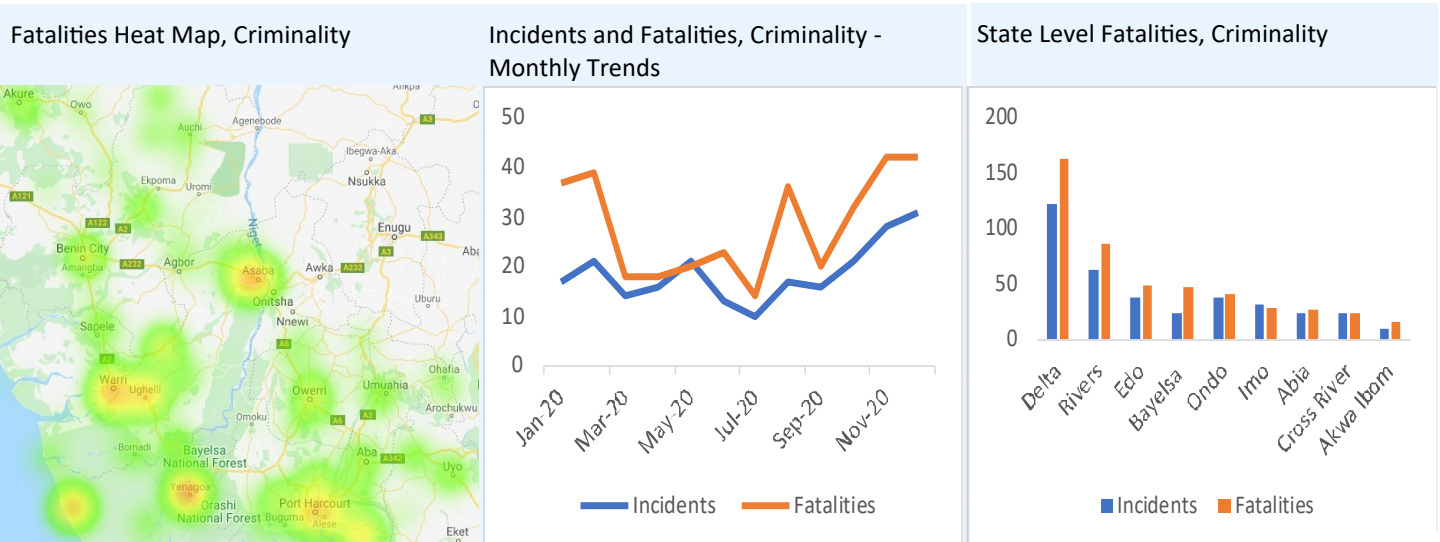
### Rivers

Criminality in Rivers State during the year related mainly to kidnapping, piracy, robbery, and clashes between hoodlums and security operatives. Criminal violence was prevalent in Port Harcourt, Obio/Akpor, Khana and Oyigbo LGAs. In January, for example, gunmen reportedly killed four persons including three members of a local vigilante group in Rumuodogo, Emohua LGA. In May, pirates reportedly clashed with policemen who were escorting a commercial boat, abducted two civilians and made away with a rifle belonging

to the policemen in Egelegele River, Degema LGA. In September, a notorious robber who doubles as a kidnap kingpin was reportedly killed during a gun battle with security operatives in Khana LGA.

### Edo

Several incidents of criminal violence were reported in Edo State during this year, particularly in Oredo, Uhumwonde and Akoko-Edo LGAs. Criminality in Edo during the period related mainly to armed banditry, kidnapping and clashes between bandits and security operatives. In April, for instance, a commissioner in the state was reportedly abducted by gunmen who also killed his two police orderlies along the Benin-Auchi Road, Ovia North East LGA. In May, an Inspector of Police was reportedly killed by hoodlums at a police station in Auchi, Etsako West LGA.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Gang Violence

Gang violence was among the most lethal conflict issues in the Niger Delta in 2020. There was a decrease in gang and cult related fatalities in 2020, compared to 2019. Gang related incidents and fatalities were reported in all the states in the region, but it was more lethal and prevalent in Delta, Edo, Rivers, and Bayelsa, driven primarily by clashes and supremacy battles among the numerous cult groups in the region, as well as political tensions and general criminality.

### Delta

Gang violence was a key conflict risk and security issue in Delta State during the year. Nearly 60 persons were reported killed in gang and cult related violence during the period. Gang violence during the period was driven mainly by supremacy battles among rival cult gangs and general criminality, particularly in Ughelli North, Oshimili North, Warri South, Ethiope East, and Udu LGAs. In April, for instance, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs at a bar in Agbarho, Ughelli North LGA. In

August, nine persons were reportedly killed during supremacy battles among rival cult gangs in Ibusa, Oshimili North LGA. In September, two people including a 14-year old male pupil were reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult gangs at Lower Erejuwa, Warri South LGA. The pupil was killed by a stray bullet during the incident.

Between October and December, over 15 persons were reportedly killed in a series of armed clashes reportedly involving Aiye, Arrow Baga, Black Axe, Eiye and Mafia cult gangs in the State. In October, for example, four persons were reported killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Abraka, Ethiope East LGA. In November, seven residents were reportedly killed and several others injured during clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Ughelli town, Ughelli North LGA.

### Edo

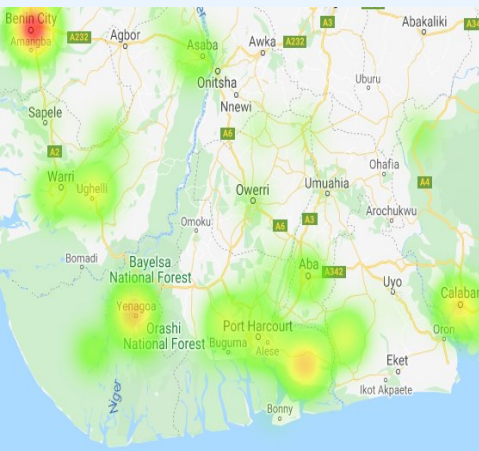
Gang violence was a major security issue in Edo State during the year. More than 50 persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes and battles for supremacy and territorial control among rival

cult gangs in the State, particularly in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In February, for instance, 15 persons were reportedly killed in a string of clashes between Aiye and Eiye confraternities at different locations in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In November, 18 persons, including a Commissioner of Police and two other policemen, were reportedly killed during clashes between Eiye and Aiye cult gangs at different locations in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

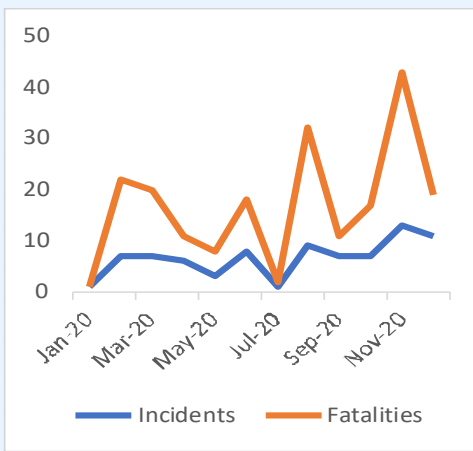
### Rivers

There was a decrease in gang and cult related incidents in Rivers State in 2020, compared to 2019. Over 30 persons were reportedly killed in gang and cult related violence in the State during the year, particularly in Khana, Port Harcourt, and Emohua LGAs. In March, for example, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash between two factions of the same cult group in Ogbakiri, Emohua LGA. In August, a gang of cultists reportedly attacked Luebe, Bangha and Loore communities in Khana LGA, and killed five residents including two community leaders.

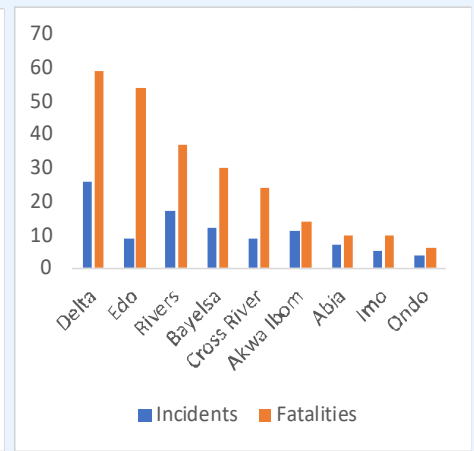
Fatalities Heat Map, Gang Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Gang Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Gang Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Communal Violence

There was an increase in incidents of communal violence and a decrease in related fatalities in the Niger Delta in 2020, compared to 2019. Communal violence caused over 120 fatalities during the year, and driven mainly by inter and intra-communal tensions over land disputes and leadership tussles, as well as herder/farmer conflict. Communal violence was reported in all the states in the region during the period, but it was more lethal and prevalent in Delta, Cross River, Edo and Ondo.

### Delta

There was an increase in incidents of communal conflict in Delta State in 2020, compared to 2019. Several incidents of communal conflicts were reported in the state during the year, especially in Ughelli North, Isoko South, Isoko North, Oshimili North, Aniocha South and Ethiopie East LGAs. Communal violence caused over 90 fatalities during this period, driven mainly by communal tensions over land and boundary disputes, leadership tussles, as well as herder/farmer clashes. In January, for instance, two residents were reportedly killed and several others injured during a leadership tussle in Agbarho town, Ughelli

North LGA. In February, 10 farmers were reportedly killed in a series of attacks by herdsmen in Uwheru and other communities in Ughelli North LGA. In October, nine residents were reportedly killed during a clash over land ownership and boundary dispute between two communities in Oleh and Ozoro towns in Isoko South and Isoko North LGAs, respectively.

### Cross River

There was a decrease in incidents of communal violence in Cross River State during the year. Communal violence caused nearly 50 fatalities in 2020, driven largely by land and boundary disputes. In May, for example, 15 persons were reportedly killed during clashes over a land dispute between militias from Afono and Ibini communities in Biase LGA. In June, four persons were reportedly killed during a renewed conflict over a boundary dispute between Bishiri community in Obanliku LGA, Cross River State and Mbakunu community in Kwande LGA, Benue State. Separately, in June, two persons were reportedly killed and five others abducted during a clash over a boundary dispute between Erei community in

Biase LGA, Cross River State and Ekoli Edda community in Afikpo LGA, Ebonyi State.

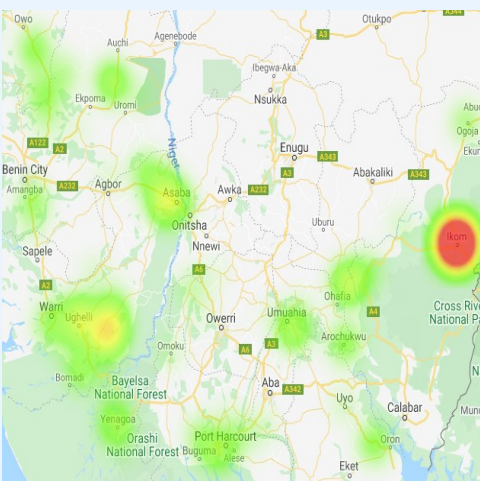
### Edo

Several people were reportedly killed in Edo State during the year in a series of incidents involving communal and criminal violence. In January, for instance, three persons including a policeman were reportedly killed during clashes between herdsmen and farmers in Owan community, Ovia North-East LGA. In August, two persons were reportedly killed and a policeman abducted during a clash between militias from Odekpe and Allah-Onugwa communities in Esan South-East LGA.

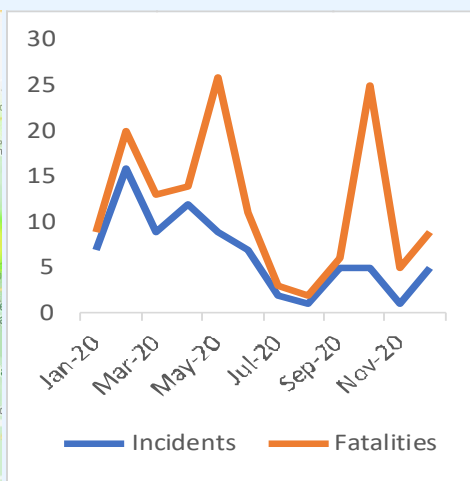
### Ondo

Communal violence caused several fatalities in Ondo State during the period. In March, for example, three farmers including a man and his son were reportedly killed by herdsmen in Arimogija community, Ose LGA. In December, two residents were reportedly killed and the palace of a traditional ruler set ablaze during a clash over a land dispute between Ude and Isinigbo communities, Akure North LGA.

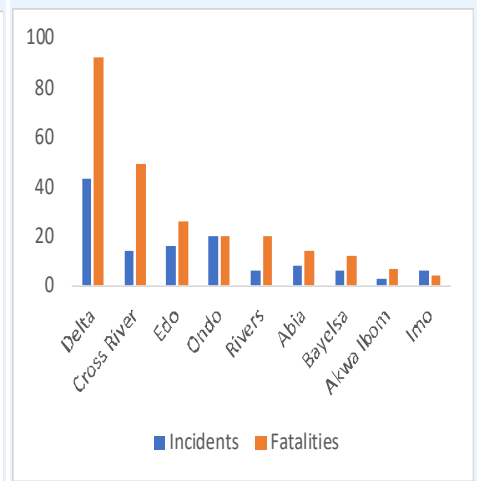
Fatalities Heat Map, Communal Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Communal Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Communal Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org) ; [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Sexual Violence and other Human Rights Violations

Human rights violations was a key conflict risk and security issue in the Niger Delta in 2020. Human rights violations caused nearly 70 fatalities in more than 60 reported incidents during the year. Incidents of human rights violation during the period mainly involved abuses by public security forces, child trafficking and sexual violence including rape and child sexual abuse, particularly in Rivers, Delta and Abia.

### Rivers

Human rights issues in River State during the year were mainly related to sexual violence, child trafficking, and abuses by public security forces. Several incidents of human rights violations were reported in the State during the period, particularly in Port Harcourt and Obio/Akpor LGAs. In February, for instance, a 4-year old boy was reportedly abused sexually by a 24-year old female nanny in Port Harcourt, the state capital. In September, three girls aged 5, 7 and 10 years, were reportedly defiled by their 38-year old father in Elekahia community, Port Harcourt LGA. In July, the police reportedly arrested five women while

they were negotiating the sale of a baby in Rumuokuta, Obio/Akpor LGA. In addition, in January, a male automobile mechanic was reportedly tortured to death by six police officers in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA. In September, a male musician was reportedly killed by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Elenenwo town, Port Harcourt LGA.

### Delta

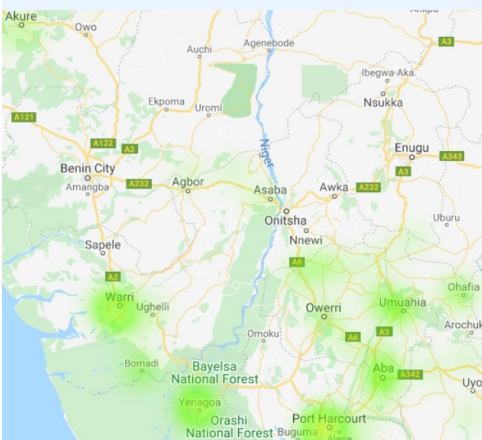
Incidents of human rights violation in Delta State during the year were mainly related to abuses by security forces, sexual violence, and killing for ritualistic purposes. Several incidents of human rights violation were reported in the State during the period, especially in Warri South, Udu, Bomadi, Oshimili North and Oshimili South LGAs. In March, for instance, 7-year old twin boys were reportedly killed by an 18-year old man who removed their body parts for money-making rituals in Oko-Ogbele, Oshimili South LGA. In April, a 16-year old girl was reportedly abducted and raped by two men in Asaba, Oshimili South LGA. In June, a 12-year old girl was reportedly drugged and raped by a 38-year old man in Sapele town,

Sapele LGA. In April, a commercial driver was reportedly shot dead by a soldier at a security checkpoint in Ubeji, Warri South LGA. In October, a young man was reportedly shot dead by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Ughelli town, Ughelli North LGA.

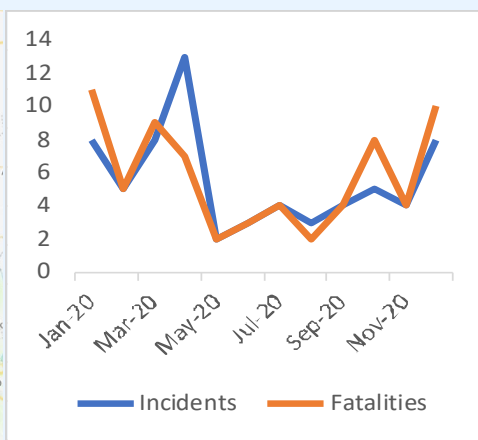
### Abia

Several incidents of extra-judicial killings by public security forces were reported in Abia State during the year, particularly in Umuahia North, Ohafia, Obi Ngwa, Isiala Ngwa North, Aba North and Aba South LGAs. In April, for instance, a commercial driver was reportedly killed by an operative of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) during a disagreement at a security checkpoint in Umuikaa community, Isiala Ngwa North LGA. Separately, in April, two persons were reportedly killed during clashes between residents and security operatives over issues relating to compliance with COVID-19 lockdown in Ebem Ohafia community, Ohafia LGA. In October, a policeman reportedly shot a bricklayer in his workshop in Umuahia town, Umuahia North LGA.

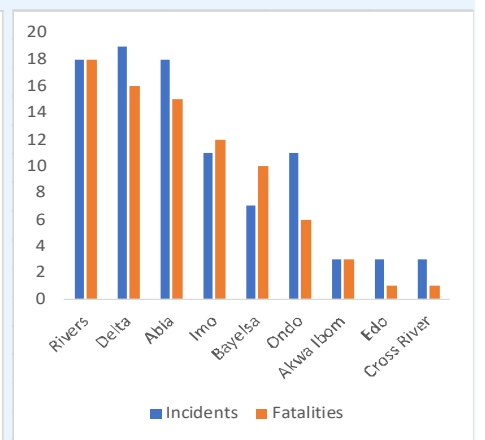
Fatalities Heat Map, Sexual Violence and other Human Rights Violation



Incidents and Fatalities, Sexual Violence and other Human Rights Violation



State Level Fatalities, Sexual Violence and other human Rights Violation



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)



## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Vigilante and Mob Violence

Mob violence was a major security issue in the Niger Delta in 2020, driven mainly by rising cases of criminality and the proliferation of vigilante groups and other informal security outfits. The prevalence of vigilantism and mob violence in the region was caused mainly by a lack of citizen’s trust in the country’s security apparatuses and perceived weaknesses in the judicial and penal system.

Individuals and communities are increasingly resorting to vigilantism and mob justice as a way of responding to criminality and other misconducts instead of following the formal legal process. Incidents of vigilante and mob violence were reported in all the states in the Niger Delta during the year. Vigilantism and mob justice caused several fatalities during the year, particularly in Delta, Edo, Cross River and Akwa Ibom.

### Delta

Many incidents of vigilante and mob violence were reported in Delta State during the year, especially in Ughelli North, Warri South, Oshimili North and Uvwie LGAs. In April, for instance, two residents

were reportedly killed by local vigilantes in Evwreni community, Ughelli North LGA. In November, two robbery suspects were reportedly lynched and set ablaze in Effurun town, Uvwie LGA. Also, in November, a 13-year old boy was reportedly shot dead by a member of a local vigilante group in Ibusa community, Oshimili North LGA. In December, a mob reportedly lynched and burned three robbery suspects in Emebiren and Eburu communities, Warri South LGA.

### Edo

Several incidents of mob lynching were reported in Edo State during the period. In February, for example, three middle-aged men and a woman were reportedly set ablaze by a mob over their alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of a female secondary school student for ritualistic purposes in Otuo community, Owan East LGA. In April, a mob reportedly killed a man who allegedly stole a motorcycle in Ekor community, Akoko Edo LGA. In November, two robbery suspects were reportedly burned to death by a mob in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

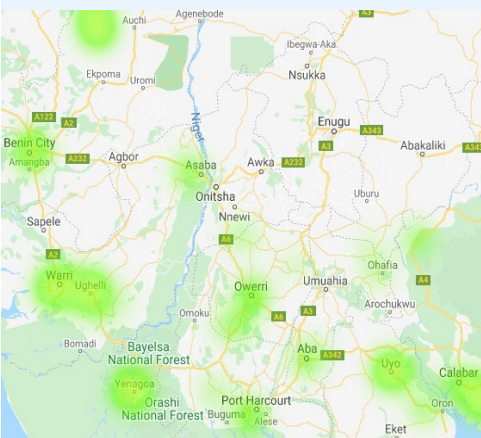
### Cross River

Mob violence caused several fatalities in Cross River State during the period. In January, for instance, two robbery suspects were reportedly burned to death by a mob in Calabar, the state capital. In April, a member of a cult gang was reportedly killed by a mob in Ugep town, Yakurr LGA. In May, over 20 elderly residents were reportedly set ablaze by a mob over allegations of witchcraft practices in Oku community, Boki LGA. Three of the victims including a woman reportedly died. In June, three robbery suspects were reportedly burned to death by a mob in Ogoja town, Ogoja LGA. In October, three kidnapping suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Ikot Effiom Okon Etim community, Akpabuyo LGA.

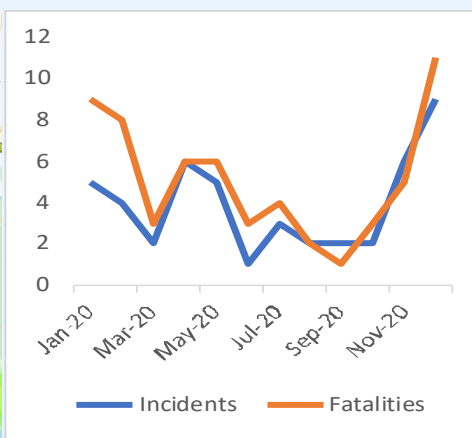
### Akwa Ibom

Mob violence caused many fatalities in Akwa Ibom State during the year. In January, for example, two robbery suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Uyo, the state capital. In July, two residents including a village head were reportedly killed by a mob in Nsie community, Okobo LGA.

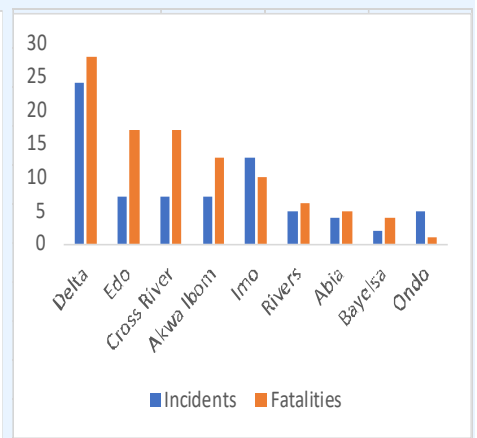
Fatalities Heat Map, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Violent Protests

There was an increase in violent protests in the Niger Delta in 2020, compared to 2019. Violent protests and demonstrations were key drivers of conflict risk and violence in the region during the year. Violent protests sparked off several armed clashes and caused over 20 fatalities as well as the destruction property during the period. The nationwide ‘EndSARS’ protests against police brutality reportedly started in Delta State in October 2020. The protests were reportedly triggered by the shooting of a young man by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Ughelli North LGA, Delta State.

The protests later snowballed into mass demonstrations, crackdown by security forces and destruction of infrastructure by hoodlums who hijacked the protests across the country. There were many reported incidents of arson, vandalism, looting, killings, jailbreaks, and disruption of public peace and order by hoodlums under the guise of the ‘EndSARS’ protests in the Niger Delta. Violent protests and demonstrations were prevalent in all the state in the Niger Delta during the period, but they were more deadly in Delta, Edo and Rivers.

### Delta

Several incidents of violent protests were reported in Delta State during the year. In August, for instance, a 23-year old boy was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by security operatives during a protest over alleged police brutality in Ozoro town, Isoko North LGA. In October, a young man was reportedly shot by operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in front of a hotel in Ughelli town, Ughelli North LGA. The incident sparked off violent protests against police brutality in the State. In October, for example, a policeman was reportedly killed and another sustained gunshot injuries during a clash between security operatives and ‘EndSARS’ protesters in Otovwodo community, Ughelli North LGA. A rifle belonging to one of the policemen was reportedly stolen and vehicles destroyed during the incident.

### Edo

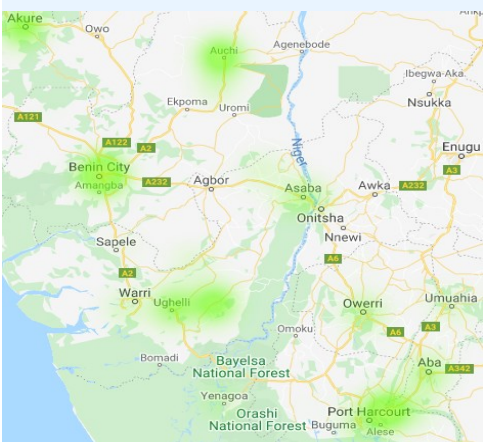
Violent protests caused several killings and destruction of property in Edo State during the year. In October, for instance, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between hoodlums

and ‘EndSARS’ protesters in Benin City, Oredo LGA. Separately, in October, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash between protesters and soldiers in Auchi town, Etsako West LGA. Additionally, in October, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash between ‘EndSARS’ protesters and the police in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

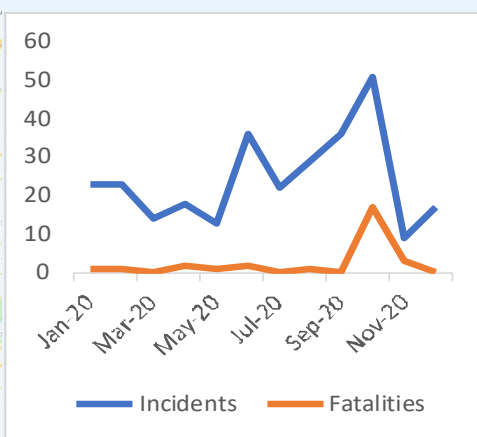
### Rivers

Many incidents of violent protests were reported in Rivers State during the year. Protests were the cause as well as the outcome of several violent clashes in the State during the period. In February, for instance, there was a protest by some traders over the death of their colleague during a clash with some members of the River State task force on illegal street trading in Port Harcourt, the state capital. In October, over 10 persons including five soldiers, three policemen and two civilians were reportedly killed and property destroyed during a series of clashes between security operatives and supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in parts of Oyiabo and Port Harcourt LGAs, in the aftermath of the ‘EndSARS’ protests.

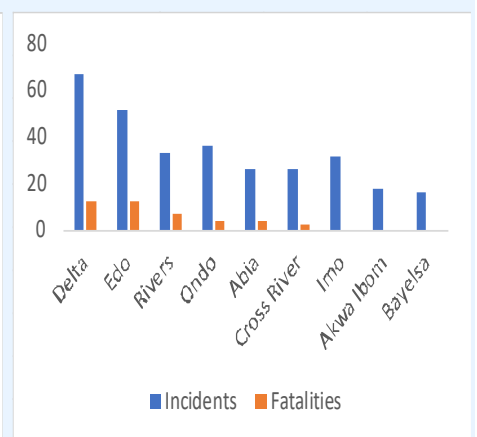
Fatalities Heat Map, Violent Protests



Incidents and Fatalities, Violent Protests - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Violent Protests



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## About Us

### PIND



The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a not-for-

profit organization that develops innovative partnerships for peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods in the Niger Delta. PIND has developed a Peace Map to bring together data on peace and conflict for validation, triangulation and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

### NDPI



The Niger Delta Partnership Initiative (NDPI) is a U.S.-based not-for-

profit organization that harnesses the power of the private and public sectors to help alleviate poverty and instability in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria through collaborative, market-based solutions that are community owned and implemented. NDPI work closely with her Nigeria-based implementing partner, the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND).

### The Projects



**IPDU:** The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND responds to

emerging threats and mobilizes appropriate actors and resources for preventive interventions.

**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.

## Contact Us

### Inquiries



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### Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text: **080 9936 2222**

*Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description*