

# Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

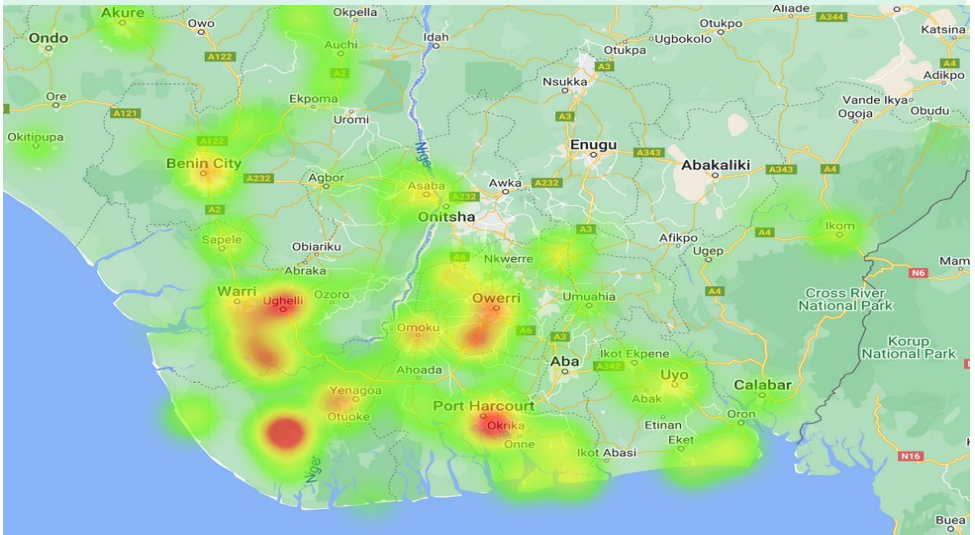
January to March 2024

The Niger Delta peace and security landscape was relatively stable in the first quarter of 2024. There was a decline in lethal violence during the period compared to the fourth quarter of 2023 (see page 2). Recent data shows a decrease in lethal violence since the second quarter of 2023, although challenges remain. Stakeholders, including civil society organizations, international development organizations, local peace actors, and government agencies, implemented many interventions that helped mitigate the drivers of violent conflict and insecurity in the region during the period. According to data formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map ([www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)), criminality, communal conflict, supremacy fights between rival cult gangs, clashes between security forces and hoodlums, separatist agitation, and human rights violations were the major causes of lethal violence during the period.

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

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

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



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from January - March 2024.

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

robbery, piracy, militancy, cult/gang violence, political violence, sexual violence, illicit drugs and human trafficking, ritual killing, mob violence, land disputes, separatist agitation, violence against security operatives, and disasters. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), VAWG Sources (focused on Violence against Women and Girls), CIEPD (<https://ciepdwc.crowdmap.com>), PIND's 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 involved mainly farming and fishing. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local government

areas (LGAs), and covers 9 out of the 36 states of Nigeria: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. With over 30 million people, according to a 2006 population census, and an estimated population density of 265 people per square kilometer, the region 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 of the conflict dynamics described in the following pages.

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — January to March 2024

There was an improvement in the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. Incidents of lethal violence decreased by 10% from 173 in Q4 of 2023 to 155 in Q1 of 2024, while conflict fatalities decreased by 12.8% from 234 in Q4 of 2023 to 204 in Q1 of 2024.

Criminal violence, including kidnapping decreased during the period. Data shows a 24.8% decrease in criminal violence from 169 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 127 in Q1 of 2024. Separatist agitation also declined. According to data, violence associated with separatist agitation decreased by 41.6% from 24 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 14 in Q1 of 2024.

Conversely, there was a rise in communal violence and clashes between rival cult gangs in the region during the quarter. Data shows a 37.5% increase in communal violence from 32 fatalities in the last quarter of 2023 to 44 in Q1 of 2024. Several incidents of communal violence were reported during the quarter, especially in Cross River and Delta States. Communal conflict over land disputes reportedly caused the killing of over 15 soldiers and, consequently, the deployment of government security forces in conflict-affected communities and displacement of many residents in Delta State.

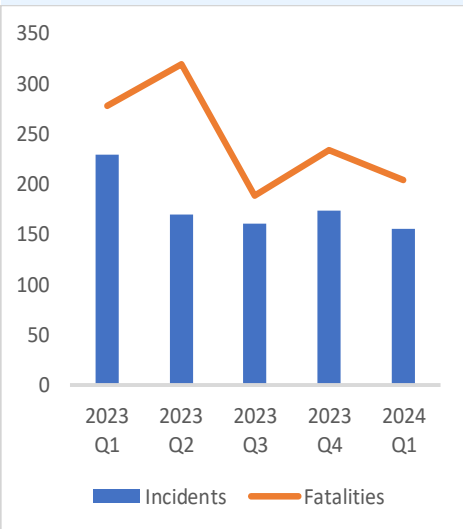
At the regional level, clashes between rival cult gangs increased by 30.4% from 23 fatalities in Q4

of 2023 to 30 in Q1 of 2024. At the state level, violent clashes between rival cult gangs were prevalent in Rivers, Edo, and Delta States, where the situation escalated and resulted in targeted killing of local vigilantes and community leaders.

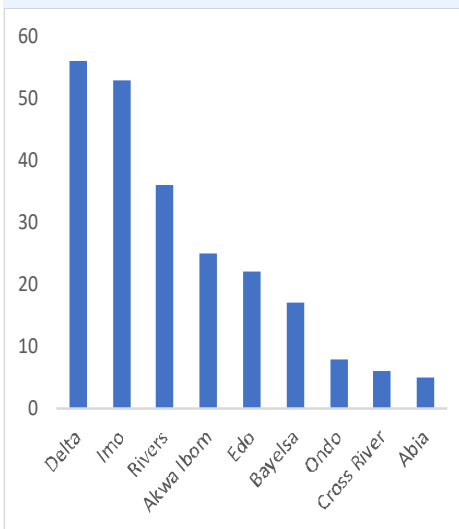
Delta, followed by Imo and Rivers ranked highest in lethal violence during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. The LGAs with the highest number of reported conflict fatalities were Ohaji/Egbema (Imo) and Ughelli South (Delta).

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.

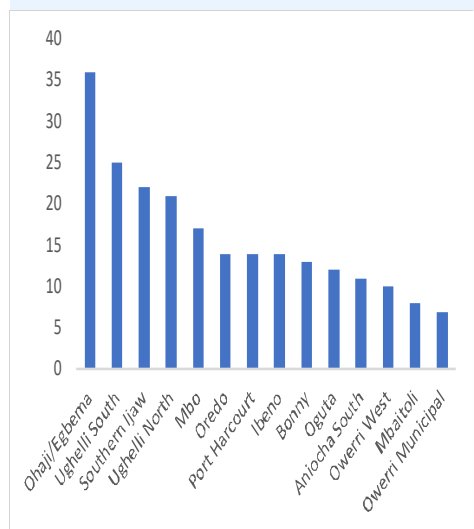
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q1 2023 - Q1 2024)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January - March 2024)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January - March 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](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

### About this Conflict Tracker

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

To ensure 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map)

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

There was a decrease in conflict risk and violence in Abia State in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the last quarter of 2023. Recent data shows a progressive decline in lethal violence in the State since the second quarter of 2023. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia 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 clashes between cult gangs. Isiala Ngwa North, Umunneochi and Isuikwuato LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminality was a primary driver of conflict risk and insecurity in the State during the quarter. Several incidents of criminal violence, including homicide and kidnap for ransom, were reported in the

State. In January, for example, the deputy vice-chancellor of a university was reportedly abducted by kidnappers at a petrol station in Amachara, Umuahia South LGA. In March, a personnel of the Abia State Vigilante Services (AVS) was reportedly killed by armed kidnappers at Onyeocha Street along Port Harcourt Road in Aba South LGA. The vigilante was allegedly killed during an attempted abduction of a businessman by kidnappers in the area.

### Gang/Cult Violence

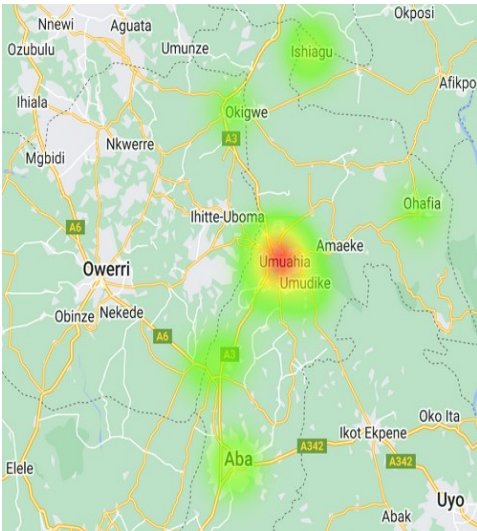
Cult gang-related violence was a major driver of insecurity in the State during the period. In March, for instance, a male student was reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs at a university in Uturu, Isuikwuato LGA.

### Domestic Violence/Homicide

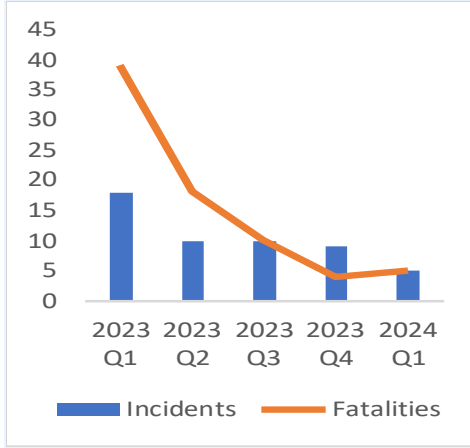
Several incidents of domestic violence-related homicide were reported in the State during the period. In February, for instance, a 27-year-old man reportedly killed his 57-year-old father and removed one of his eyes for alleged money-making rituals in Amuzukwu, Umuahia North LGA. Also, in February, a 70-year-old man reportedly killed his 27-year-old son during a quarrel over food in Eziama Lokpaukwu, Umunneochi LGA.

### Other Incidents

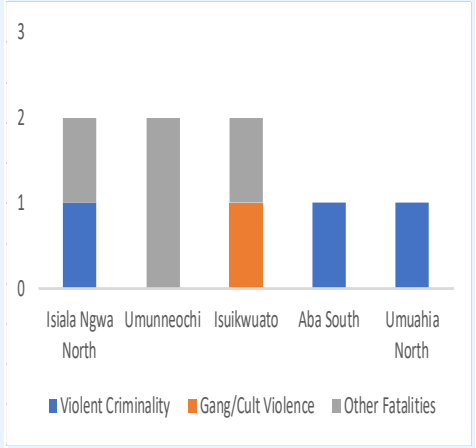
In February, a man was allegedly shot dead by a naval officer during a disagreement at a security checkpoint along Umuezegwu-Mbawsi Road in Isiala Ngwa North LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

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

There was an upsurge in conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the last quarter of 2023. Lethal violence increased by 66.67% from 15 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 25 in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Akwa Ibom was one of the States that ranked high in lethal violence in the region during the quarter, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by criminal violence, communal conflict and clashes between cult gangs. Mbo followed by Ibeno LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including homicide, was a major driver of conflict risk and insecurity in the State during the quarter. Criminal violence caused over 18 fatalities in the State during the period. In February, for example, unknown assailants allegedly killed two brothers aged 70 and 50 years

at their residence in Afaha Offiong, Nsit Ibom LGA. In March, a 75-year-old man was reportedly killed by his son in Uruting community, Okobo LGA. Separately, in March, two clerics were allegedly killed by suspected assassins at a church premises in Ikot Ekang community, Abak LGA. Also, in March a local government official and his wife were reportedly abducted by kidnapers in front of their residence along Oron Road in Uyo, the state capital.

### Communal Violence

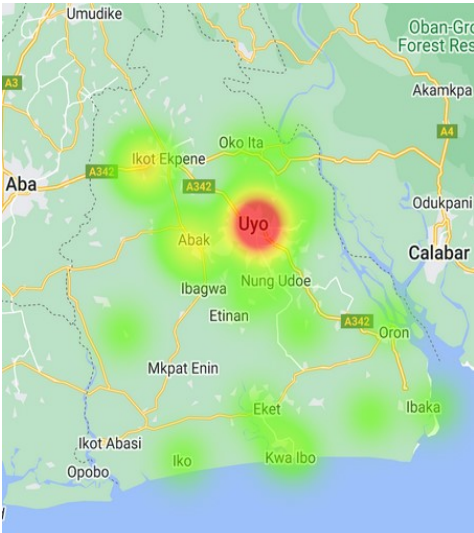
Conflict over communal land dispute was a major driver of lethal violence and instability in the State during the quarter. In February, for instance, two residents were reportedly killed, several others injured and many houses including a church destroyed in Iwuochang, Ibeno LGA, in a series of clashes over a land dispute between communities in Eket, Esit Eket and Ibeno LGAs.

### Gang/Cult Violence

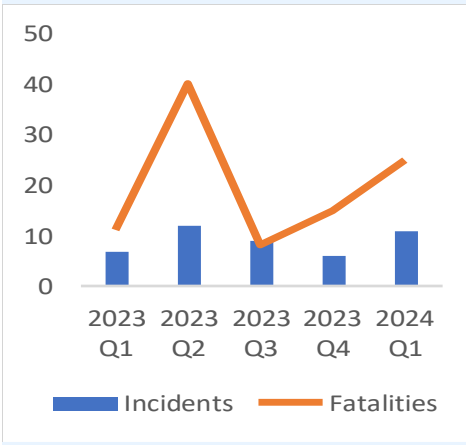
Cult gang-related violence was a key security issue in the State during the quarter. In February, suspected members of a cult gang allegedly killed a police officer at his residence in Afaha Ube along Ikot Ekpene Road in Uyo LGA. Also, in February, hoodlums suspected to be members of a cult gang reportedly killed a male university student at his off-campus residence in Idak Okpo community, Itu LGA. One of the suspects was reportedly apprehended and lynched by a mob in Ita, Itu LGA.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

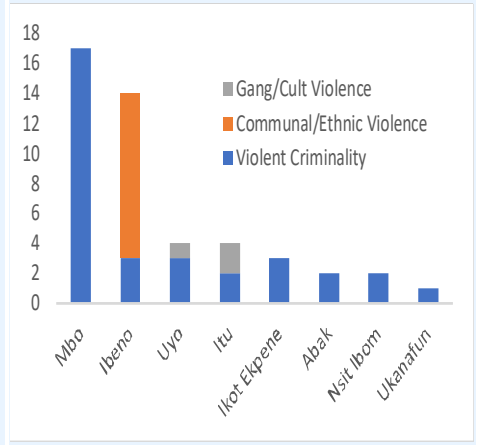
In addition to the impact of communal violence and criminality on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence against women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In January, for example, a woman was allegedly killed and decapitated by unknown assailants at Udo Udoma Avenue in Uyo, the state capital.



Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (January - March 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](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

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

There was a rise in the number of conflict fatalities in Bayelsa State in the first quarter of 2024. However, reported incidents of lethal violence reduced significantly during the period compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. Data shows that incidents of deadly violence decreased by 68% from 25 incidents in Q4 of 2023 to 8 in Q1 of 2024, while conflict fatalities increased by 21.43% from 14 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 17 in Q1 of 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 communal conflict. Southern Ijaw LGA recorded the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnap for ransom, was a major security issue in the State during the quarter. In January, for instance, gunmen allegedly kidnaped a 40-year-old businesswoman and later

demanded a ransom of 10 million naira in Opolo community, Yenagoa LGA. In March, a man was reportedly killed during a clash between hoodlums and officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Okaka community, Yenagoa LGA. The man was allegedly killed by a stray bullet fired by one of the law enforcement officers in an attempt to scare off a mob that attacked the team during a raid on hideouts of illicit drug peddlers.

### Communal Violence

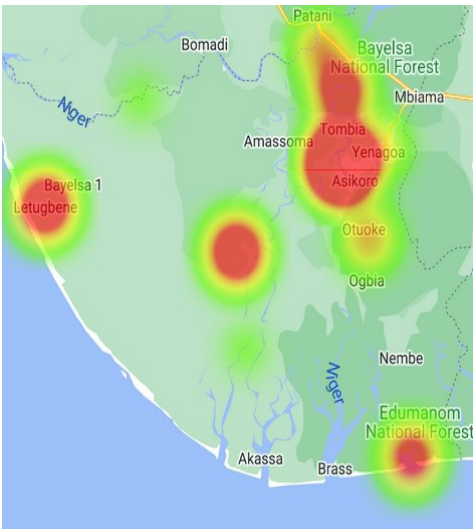
Communal conflict was a major cause of violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In February, for example, two residents were reportedly killed, several others injured and properties destroyed during a clash over a boundary dispute between Opolo and Okutukutu communities in Yenagoa LGA. In March, a man was allegedly killed during a communal conflict involving two private security firms in Egbemo-Angalabiri, Ekeremor LGA.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

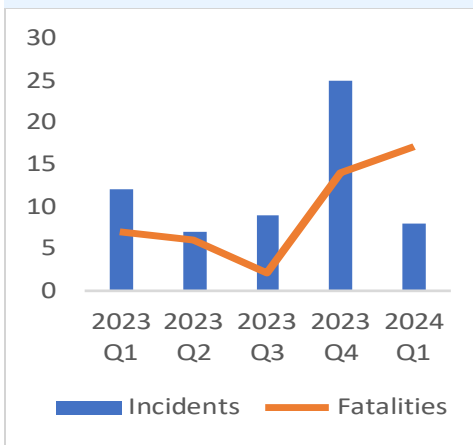
In addition to the impact of communal violence and criminality on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the quarter. In February, for instance, a woman was reportedly killed and decapitated by her boyfriend in Kabeama community, Sagbama LGA.

### Other Incidents

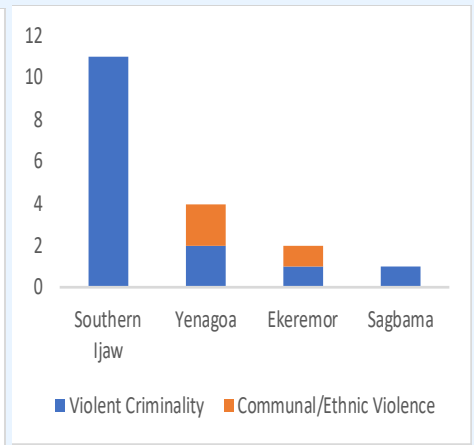
In March, a 15-year-old boy was reported to have accidentally killed his uncle with his grandfather's hunting gun in Ogbotobo, Ekeremor LGA. Separately, in March, a 14-year-old girl who allegedly lodged in a hotel with her 17-year-old boyfriend was reportedly found dead in her hotel room in Yenagoa, the state capital.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)



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

Conflict risk and lethal violence decreased significantly in Cross River State in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. Lethal violence decreased by 81.25% from 32 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 6 fatalities in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Cross River was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on the number of reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by criminality and communal conflict over land and boundary disputes. Ikom and Obubra LGAs had the highest conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, including kidnap for ransom, was a major security issue in the State during the quarter. Several incidents of kidnap for ransom were reported during the period. In January, for instance, many travelers were reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Akparabong, Ikom LGA. In February, gunmen suspected to be illegal miners allegedly ambushed and attacked some soldiers and forest guards in Ifumkpa

community, Akamkpa LGA. In March, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers reportedly abducted three students from their hostels at a university in Calabar, the state capital.

### Communal Violence

Seasonal outbreaks of communal conflict over land ownership and boundary disputes have been one of the primary drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in Cross River State. Renewed clashes over communal land disputes caused many fatalities and the destruction of properties during the quarter. In March, for instance, three persons, including a 10-year-old girl, were reportedly killed in a series of clashes over a land dispute between Ofunokpan in Obubra LGA and Nnaorokpa in Ikom LGA.

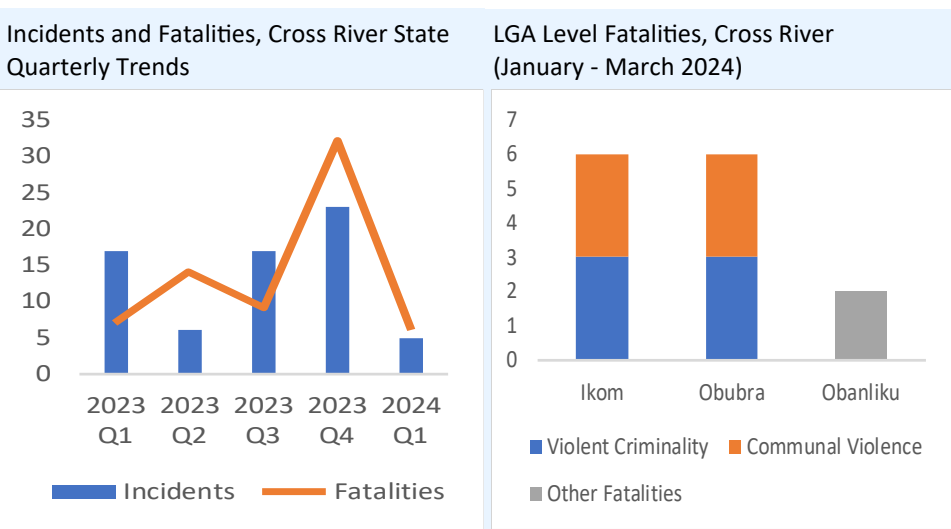
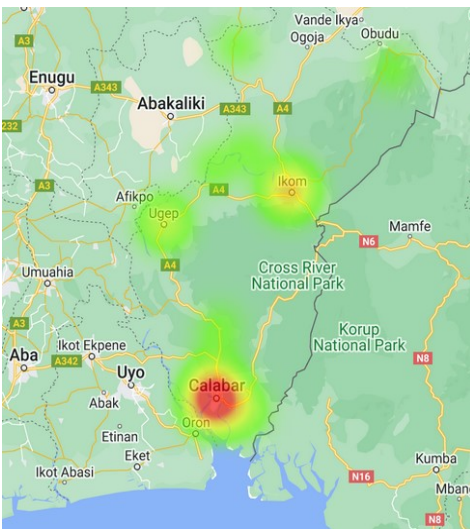
### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

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 February, for instance, a 29-year-old man reportedly killed his 62-year-old mother during a quarrel at Asuquo Street in Calabar South LGA. Separately, in February, a 30-year-old man reportedly attacked his 25-year-old girlfriend with a machete and inflicted various degrees of injuries on her body during a disagreement on Valentine’s Day in Okuni, Ikom LGA.

### Other Incidents

In March, two suspected illegal miners reportedly died, and three others hospitalized after a well they dug for mining activities collapsed on them in Buya community, Obanliku LGA. Separately, in March, confirmed cases of Lassa fever and related fatalities were reported in Cross River State. In its March 2014 Lassa fever situation report, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) highlighted Cross River as one of the states where confirmed cases of Lassa fever and related fatalities were reported.



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

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

Violent conflict and insecurity escalated in Delta State in the first quarter of 2024. There was an increase in the level of conflict risk and lethal violence in the State during the period compared to the third and fourth quarters of 2023. Data shows that lethal violence increased by 107% from 27 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 56 in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Delta ranked highest in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Conflict risk and deadly violence in the State during the period were mainly driven by criminality, communal conflict, and clashes between rival cult gangs. Ughelli South, followed by Ughelli North LGA, had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnap for ransom, was a key security issue in the State during the quarter. Criminal violence caused over 30 fatalities during the period. In February, for instance, armed herdsmen who doubled as kidnappers reportedly ambushed and killed nine policemen in Agadama, Ughelli North LGA. Also, in February, gunmen reportedly killed a local politician at his residence in Udu community, Udu LGA.

### Communal Violence

Communal conflict was a major driver of violence and insecurity in the State during the period. Communal violence caused several fatalities and the displacement of many residents during the period. In January, for instance, six residents were allegedly killed during renewed clashes over a long-standing land dispute between Okoloba and Okuama communities in Bomadi and Ughelli South LGAs respectively. Separately, in January, two youth leaders were allegedly killed in a series of clashes over a leadership tussle in Mosogar, Ethiope West LGA. Also, in January, properties were reportedly destroyed, several residents injured and many others displaced following a clash between two local vigilante groups at Bonaac area in Asaba, Oshimili South LGA. In March, some armed youths allegedly killed over 15 soldiers who were responding to a distress call during renewed clashes over the land dispute between Okuama and Okoloba communities in Ughelli South and Bomadi LGAs respectively.

### Gang/Cult Violence

Struggle for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs was one of the primary causes of lethal violence and insecurity in the

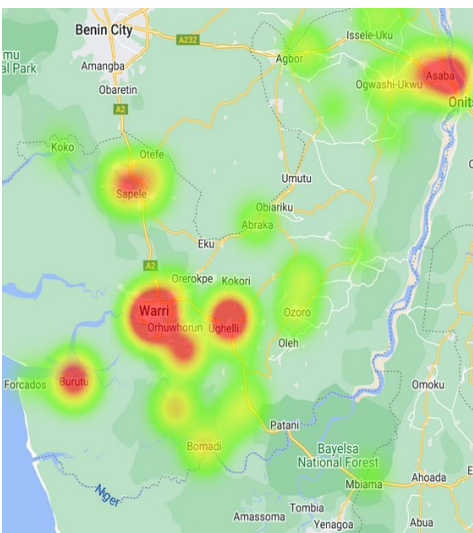
State during the period. In February, the leader of a cult gang was reportedly killed and three others injured during a clash between rival cult gangs in Ogwashi-Uku, Aniocha South LGA. In the aftermath of the killing of the gang leader, about six persons were reportedly killed in a series of reprisal attacks in the community. In March, for instance, a man and his wife were reportedly killed by members of a cult gang in Ogwashi-Uku.

### Violence Against Women & Girls

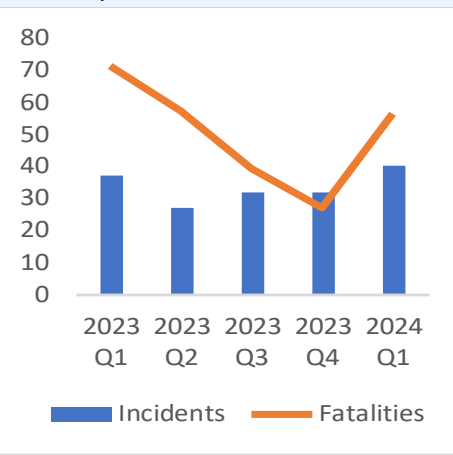
In addition to the impact of criminality and communal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls was reported during the period. In February, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked a hostel at a polytechnic, killed a resident, and raped three female students in Ogwashi-Uku, Aniocha South LGA.

### Other Incidents

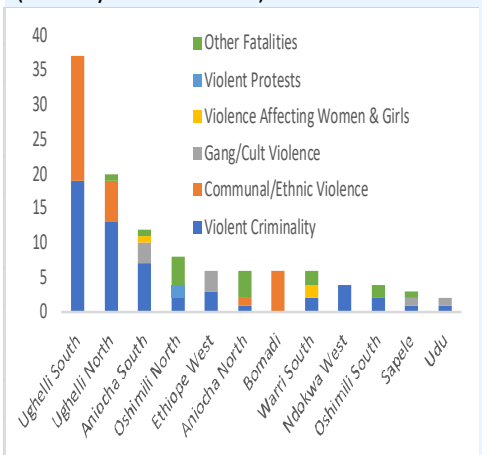
In March, three residents were reportedly killed and properties destroyed during a protest by commercial motorcycle and tricycle riders in Asaba and Okpanam communities in Oshimili South and Oshimili North LGAs.



Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

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

There was a rise in incidents of lethal violence, but a decrease in conflict fatalities in Edo State in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. Data shows a 21% decrease in lethal violence from 28 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 22 in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Edo was one of the States that recorded a relative reduction in lethal violence in the Niger during the period, based on reported fatalities. Lethal violence during the quarter was mainly driven by organized criminality, communal conflict, and clashes between rival cult gangs. Oredo, followed by Ikpoba Okha LGA, had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnap for ransom, was a major cause of conflict and insecurity in the State during the quarter. There was a surge in kidnapping during the period, especially the targeted abduction of travelers and political figures in the State. In February, for instance, nine members of a political party who were on their way to a meeting were reportedly abducted by

gunmen in Jattu community, Etsako West LGA. Separately, in February, robbers reportedly killed a truck driver and his assistant, and stole his truck containing 45,000 liters of petrol along Benin-Agbor Road in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In March, the chairman of a political party was allegedly abducted by gunmen in Benin City, the state capital. Separately, a man was allegedly shot dead while attempting to escape from kidnappers along Ohen Road in Uromi community, Esan North-East LGA. Also, in March, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers reportedly attacked travelers and abducted 10 persons along Sobe-Ifon Road in Owan West LGA. In a separate incident in March, two policemen were allegedly lynched by a mob in Ikpeshi, Akoko Edo LGA.

### Communal Violence

Several incidents of communal violence, including clashes over land disputes, were reported in the State during the period. In March, for example, gunmen suspected to be herdsmen reportedly killed a middle-aged man at his farm in Ubunelviario community, Owan East LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

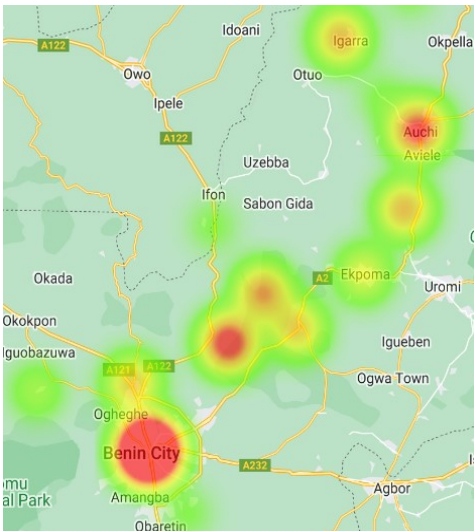
Clashes between cult gangs was a major security issue during the period. In January, three persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In March, a man was allegedly killed by suspected members of a cult gang at a church along Murtala Muhammed Way in Benin City, the state capital.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

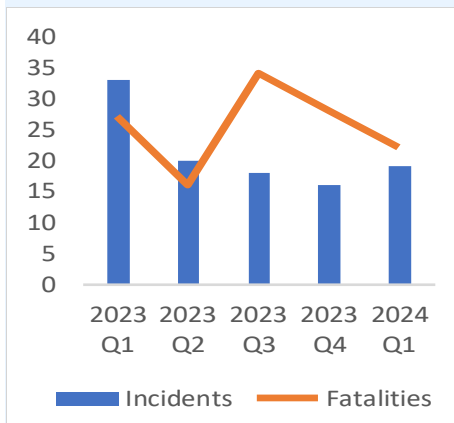
In addition to the impact of criminality, communal violence, and cult clashes on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls was reported during the period. In February, for example, a 35-year-old man allegedly killed his 28-year-old wife and two children during a quarrel in Owegie, Ovia North-East LGA.

### Other Incidents

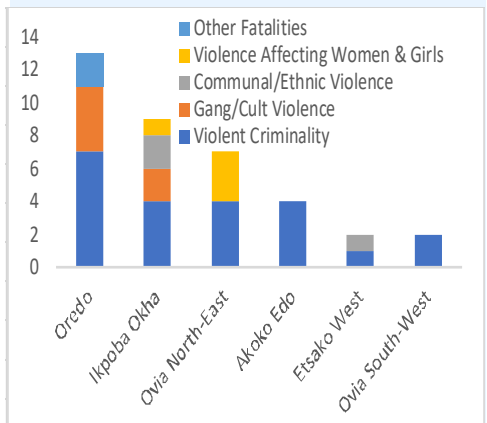
In January, a local vigilante reportedly killed a commercial motorcyclist during a disagreement at a security checkpoint along Ogbiyokho Road in Benin City, Oredo LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)



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

There was an upsurge in conflict fatalities in Imo State in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the third and fourth quarters of 2023. Data shows an 82.7% increase in lethal violence from 29 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 53 in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Imo was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Deadly violence and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality and separatist agitation. Ohaji/Egbema LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, including criminal insurgency and targeted killing of residents, was a major driver of insecurity in the State during the period. In January, for instance, four persons, including two police officers and two civilians, were reportedly killed by gunmen at Ohii Junction along Owerri-Orlu Road in Mbaitoli LGA. Separately, in January, a traditional ruler was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Oredo community, Mbaitoli LGA. In February, gunmen reportedly attacked a correctional farm settlement, killed a police officer, and released

seven inmates in Umualomoke, Okigwe LGA. Separately, in February, a businessman was reportedly killed by kidnappers who allegedly abducted his brother at Umungada Junction in Irete community, Owerri West LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly killed a woman at her residence in Umudiaku Egbuoma community, Oguta LGA. Also, in March, three residents, including a grilled meat seller, were reportedly killed by gunmen at Ohii Junction in Mbaitoli LGA.

### Separatist Agitation

Separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and government security forces, was a major security issue during the period. In January, for instance, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias allegedly ambushed and killed two police officers along Gariki Road in Okigwe LGA. Also, in January, a fatality was reported during a clash between separatist militias and government security forces in Owerri, the state capital. In February, a lawyer was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias along Okigwe/Uturu Road in Okigwe LGA. In March, 20 persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between government security forces and members of the Eastern Security

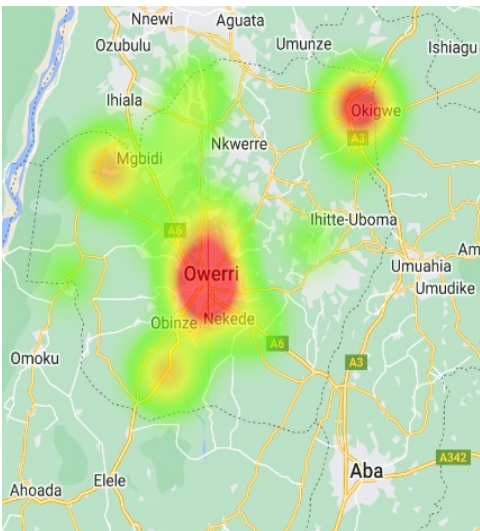
Network (ESN), the militant wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Mother Valley in Orsu LGA. Also, in March, five persons were reportedly killed in a clash between security forces and IPOB militias in Ejemekuru community, Oguta, LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

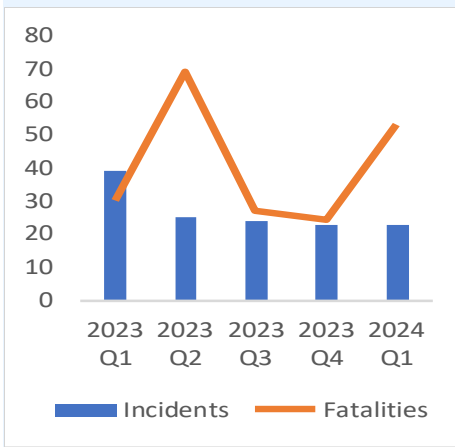
In March, a student was reportedly killed and several others injured during a clash between rival cult gangs at the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO) in Owerri West LGA. Also, in March, masked gunmen on motorcycles reportedly killed four young men in Abacheke, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. The masked gunmen were alleged to be members of a cult gang.

### Other Incidents

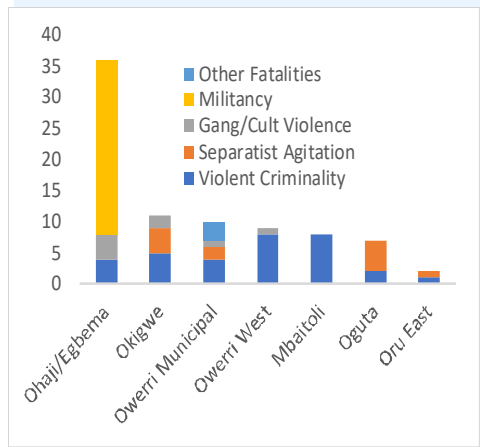
In January, over 20 persons were reportedly killed after a petrol tanker allegedly used for illegal oil bunkering exploded at Obitti Rubber Estate in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. In March, a man was allegedly killed by a stray bullet fired by a member of the Ebubeagu Security Network in Awomamma, Oru East LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

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

There was a decline in lethal violence in Ondo State in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the third and fourth quarters of 2023. Data shows a 71.4% decrease in lethal violence from 28 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 8 in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Ondo was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. Lethal violence during the period was mainly driven by criminality and violence against women and girls. Akure North LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including homicide and kidnap for ransom, was the leading cause of conflict fatalities and insecurity in the State during the period. In January, for example, an unspecified number of travelers were allegedly abducted by kidnappers along Akure-Ikere Highway in Akure South LGA. In February, a man reportedly killed his friend after taking a hard drug at Irekari-Oloko

Junction in Akure, the state capital. Separately, in February, gunmen allegedly attacked a passenger bus, killed the driver, and abducted all the passengers in Akunu, Akoko North-East LGA. In March, a 39-year-old man reportedly killed his 34-year-old friend and stole his motorcycle in Oke-Igbo community, Oke-Igbo/Ile-Oluji LGA. Also, in March, a 27-year-old male trader was reportedly stabbed to death by a soldier during a disagreement over payment for services rendered at Arakale Market in Akure, the state capital.

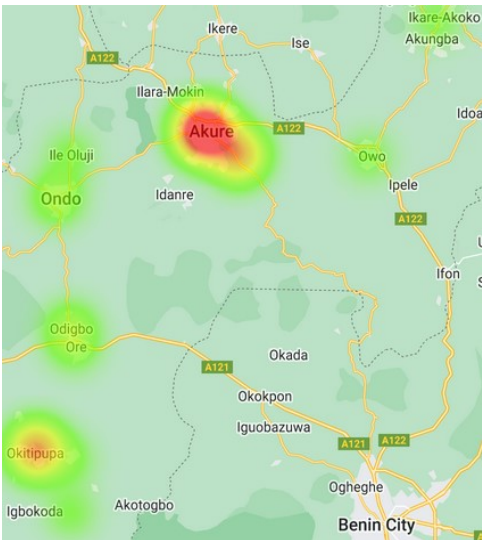
### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of organized criminal violence on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence targeting women and girls were also reported in the State during the period. In January, for instance, a 55-year-old woman was allegedly raped and killed by a 35-year-old man in Ilere community, Akure South LGA. In February, a 20-year-old female student was reportedly killed by a 21-year-old male student during a disagreement in Akungba-Akoko community, Akoko South-

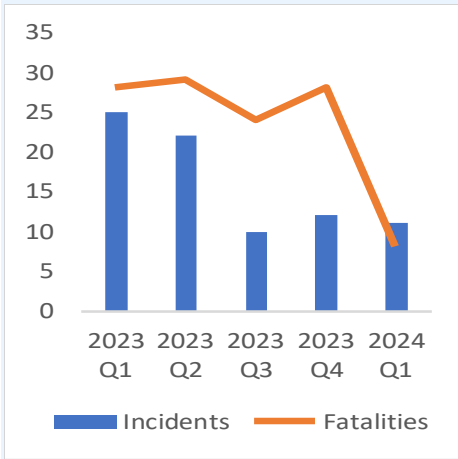
West LGA. Separately, in February, a famous businessman allegedly macheted his wife to death during a quarrel over a private matter at their residence in Alagbaka community in Akure, the Ondo State capital. In March, a 42-year-old woman was reportedly strangled by a 35-year-old commercial motorcyclist at Ijoka Street in Akure North LGA. Separately, in March, a 45-year-old woman was reportedly raped and killed by an ex-convict in Lakere community, Ondo West LGA.

### Other Incidents

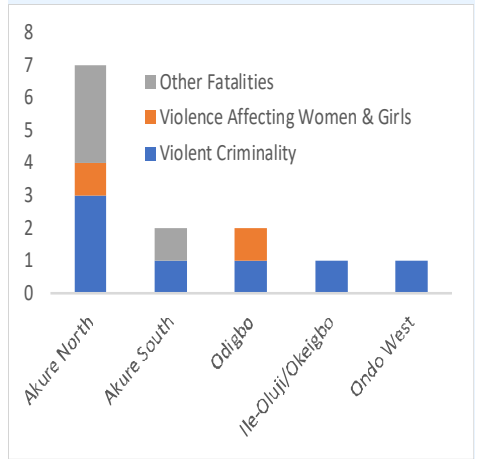
In February, a woman was reportedly killed and over 200 houses were destroyed during a rainstorm in Ita-Ogbolu community, Akure North LGA. A palm tree uprooted by the storm reportedly fell on the woman on her way from the farm. In March, a 17-year-old female secondary school student allegedly stabbed her 54-year-old foster mother to death in their residence at Premier Estate in Oda community, Akure South LGA. The girl is alleged to have mental challenges.



Incidents and Fatalities, Ondo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Ondo State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

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

There was a decrease in conflict fatalities but there were no significant changes in the intensity of lethal violence in Rivers State in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. Data indicates a 40% decrease in lethal violence from 60 fatalities in Q4 of 2023 to 36 in Q1 of 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), at the regional level, Rivers was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta based on reported fatalities during the quarter. Deadly violence and insecurity during the period were mainly driven by criminality, clashes between cult gangs, and disasters. Port Harcourt, followed by Bonny LGA, had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, including kidnap for ransom and clashes between government security forces and hoodlums, was a major security issue in Rivers State during the period. In January, for example, an armed robber who doubles as the leader of a cult gang was allegedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Oderereke community, Ahoada West LGA. Separately, in January, gunmen reportedly killed the chairman of a Community Development Committee (CDC) in Rumueme community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Also, in January,

gunmen suspected to be assassins allegedly killed a traditional ruler at his residence in Odimeneyi community, Ahoada East LGA. In February, gunmen allegedly ambushed and killed a police inspector at a security checkpoint in Elioizu community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In March, two carjackers were reportedly killed by a mob along Stadium Road in Port Harcourt LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between cult gangs were major drivers of violence and insecurity during the period. In January, suspected members of a cult gang reportedly killed two residents and injured six others in Ikem community, Etche LGA. In February, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. In March, two residents including a businessman were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. Also, in March, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between two factions of Deebam cult group over the control of an illicit market at Mile 1 in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA.

### Communal Violence

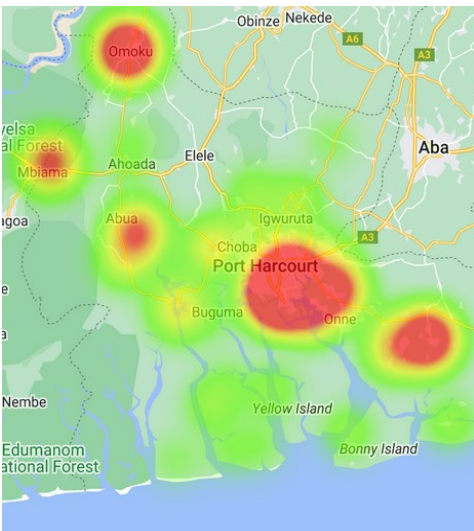
Communal violence over land disputes caused some fatalities in the State during the quarter. In January, gunmen reportedly killed two persons over a land dispute in Akpajo community, Eleme LGA. In March, a resident was reportedly killed over a land dispute in Ledor, Tai LGA.

### Disasters

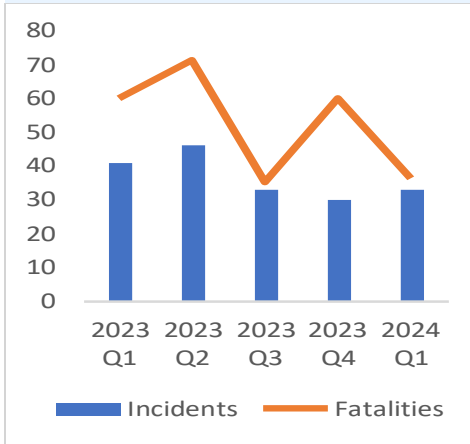
Disasters, including oil pipeline explosions and fire outbreaks, caused several fatalities in the State during the quarter. In January, a gas pipeline belonging to a multinational oil company allegedly exploded and destroyed farmlands and economic trees in Obagi, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. Also, in January, 11 residents, including five infants and six adults, were reportedly killed, and four boats were destroyed by fire at the Bonny/Nembe/Bille Jetty along a Creek in Port Harcourt LGA.

### Other Fatalities

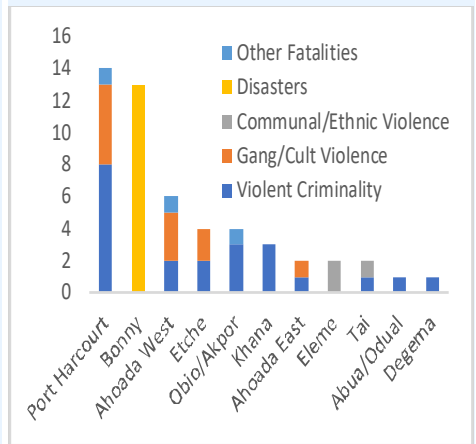
In February, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between some youths and local vigilantes during a funeral in Degema LGA. In March, a 32-year-old woman was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Mile 4 in Obio/Akpor LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State (January - March 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](http://www.tgpcloud.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](mailto:info@PINDfoundation.org) +234 (0) 9 291 0454.

**What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)**

### Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

**Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:** Text report to **080 9936 2222 / 091 2233 4455**.

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