

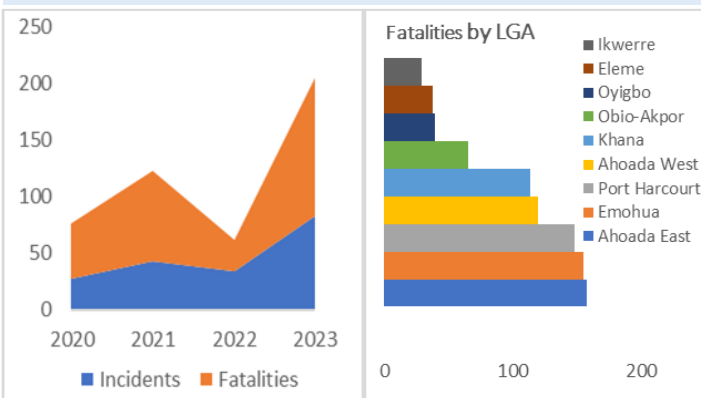
# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Organized Criminal Violence and Homicide in Rivers State

December 01-07, 2024

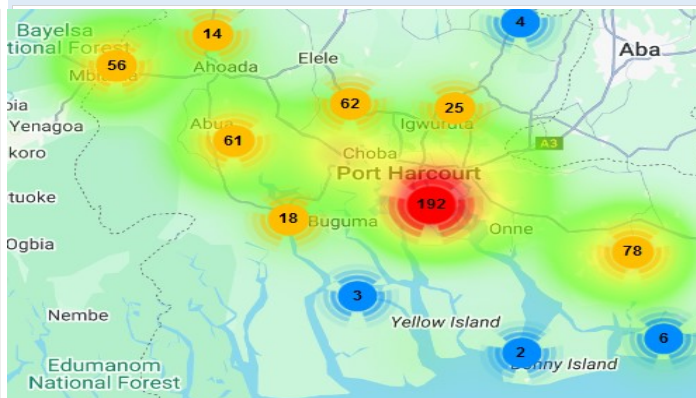
## Background

This week's update highlights lethal violence in the Niger Delta, with a focus on criminal violence and homicides in Rivers State. According to data (see map below), over 300 fatalities were recorded in Rivers State between January 2020 and September 2024, resulting from homicides and organized criminal violence, including kidnappings, armed clashes, and cult-related killings. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of such violence in the state. In October 2024, gunmen reportedly attacked a commercial bus along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA, abducting all passengers. In November, members of a cult gang reportedly killed a local vigilante member and injured four others, including the victim's brother, in Obele Community, Emohua LGA. Separately, in November, a man was reportedly found dead with machete wounds at Ikoku Market in Port Harcourt LGA. The victim's vital organs were allegedly removed, raising suspicions of ritual killing. Most recently, on November 13, 2024, a 65-year-old man was stabbed and injured by a middle-aged neighbor during a dispute in Mile 2, Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Violence and Homicide in Rivers State



## Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence and Homicide in Rivers State, Nigeria



Data shows that Ahoada East and Emohua LGAs had the highest number of fatalities caused by criminal violence and homicide. Sources: Nigeria Watch and ACLED data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of criminal violence and homicide in Rivers State from January 2020 - September 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The recent surge in criminal violence and homicides presents serious risks to peace and security in Rivers State. This escalation coincides with heightened political tensions driven by disagreement among political elites following the October 2024 local council elections. This could trigger reprisal killings, heavy-handed security responses, and human rights violations. Such a situation risks triggering severe socio-economic and political disruptions, further destabilizing the state and undermining efforts to maintain peace and security.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Organized criminal violence and homicides pose significant security challenges in Rivers State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government and non-governmental agencies to address the underlying drivers and implement preventive measures. Raising awareness and engaging traditional institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) can transform attitudes condoning criminal violence and strengthen ongoing efforts to tackle the structural drivers and triggers of the recent wave of violence in the state.

## Contact Us

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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 report to **080 9936 2222/0912 233 4455**

**Incident Details:** Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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