

Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

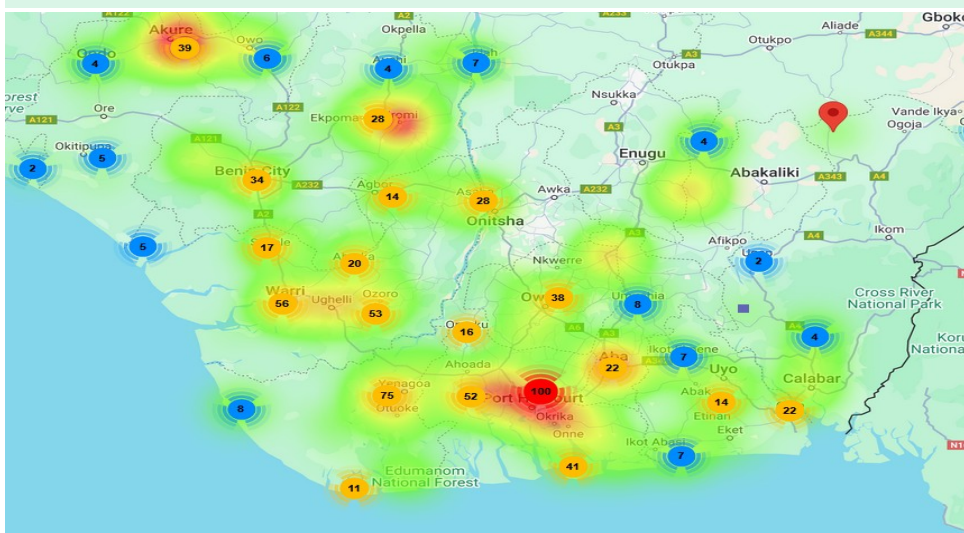
January to March 2025

During the first quarter (Q1) of 2025, Nigeria's Niger Delta experienced a marginal increase in lethal violence, despite a decline in the overall number of reported conflict incidents compared to all four quarters of 2024. Data indicates an 8.3% reduction in conflict incidents alongside a 27.7% rise in conflict-related fatalities, which increased from 173 in Q4 2024 to 221 in Q1 2025 (see page 2 for details). According to PIND's [P4P Peace Map](#), the primary drivers of lethal violence during this period included criminal activities, communal clashes, gang violence, mob justice, disasters, separatist agitation, arms proliferation, and armed clashes between hoodlums and security forces.

This quarterly tracker analyzes patterns and trends of conflict risk and lethal violence, as well as the pressures they place on peace and stability across regional, state, and local levels. It is not intended to serve as a comprehensive conflict analysis, but rather as an update for stakeholders on emerging trends and patterns of violence. Gaining deeper insights into the underlying drivers, implications, and potential mitigation strategies require a more in-depth, participatory qualitative analysis involving all relevant stakeholders.

Prevailing conflict issues in the Niger Delta include organized crime, political competition, communal tensions, resource-based disputes, and human rights violations. Reported incidents span a wide range of violent and criminal activities, such as kidnapping, piracy, armed robbery, gang violence, political violence, militancy, and land-related conflicts. Other major incidents include separatist

Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from January - March 2025.

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

agitation, attacks on security personnel, sexual and gender-based violence, mob justice, illicit drug and human trafficking, cybercrime, 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 — January to March 2025

The overall peace and security situation in the region remained relatively stable in Q1 2025, despite increased lethal violence. While the overall number of conflict incidents declined compared to Q4 2024, conflict-related fatalities rose significantly by 27.7%, increasing from 173 in Q4 2024 to 221 in Q1 2025.

Fatalities associated with criminal violence, communal conflict, mob violence, and disasters increased significantly during the period. Notably, fatalities from communal violence surged by 962.5%, rising from eight in Q4 2024 to 85 in Q1 2025. Deaths linked to criminal violence also rose by 10.6%, from 94 to 104. Mob violence saw a

30.4% increase in fatalities, from 23 in Q4 2024 to 30 in Q1 2025. Additionally, fatalities resulting from natural and human-induced disasters increased by 88.2%, rising from 17 to 32 over the same period.

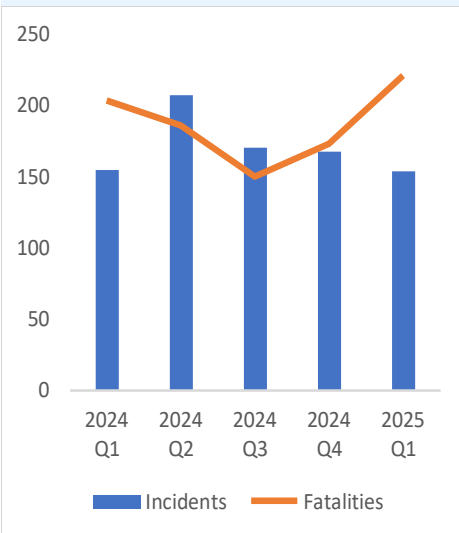
Conversely, there was a significant decline in violent separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and security forces, during the period. Separatist-related violence recorded the most notable reduction, with fatalities dropping by 72.9%, from 37 in Q4 2024 to 10 in Q1 2025. At the regional level, there was no significant change in the number of cult and gang-related fatalities. However, the number of

reported incidents decreased by 30%, dropping from 30 in Q4 2024 to 21 in Q1 2025.

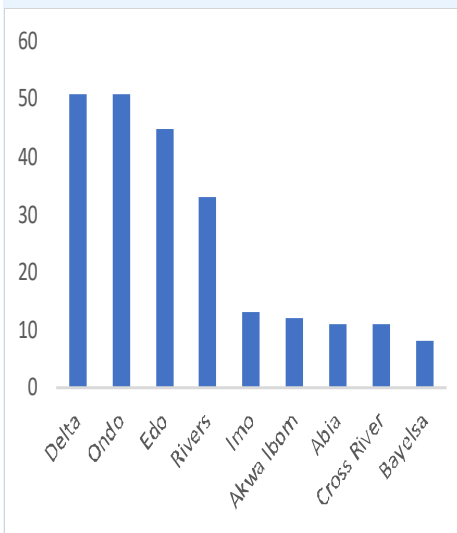
Based on reported conflict-related fatalities, Delta and Imo States, followed by Edo and Rivers, recorded the highest levels of lethal violence in the region during the period. Akure North in Ondo State and Emohua in Rivers State were the most affected local government areas (LGAs), recording the highest number of conflict-related deaths.

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

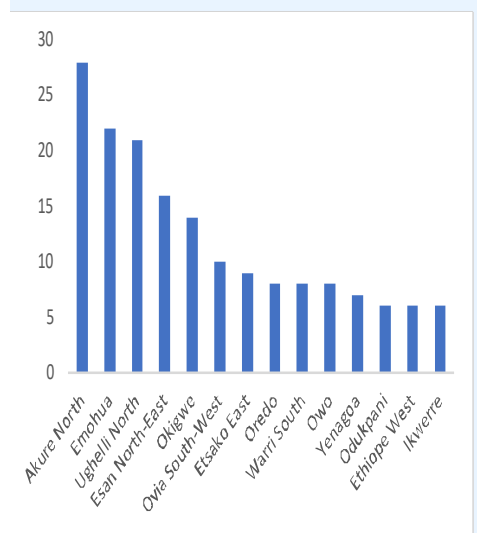
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January - March 2025)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

About this Conflict Tracker

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 conflict incident of conflict to PIND's IPDU Early Warning System by texting a message to any of the hotlines: **091 2233 4455 / 080 9936 2222**.

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 declined significantly in Abia State in Q1 2025, with reported fatalities dropping by 81% from 26 in Q4 2024 to 11 in Q1 2025. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia ranked among the least violent states in the region during the quarter. The main drivers of insecurity included criminal activities, cult gang clashes, communal conflict, and violence against women and girls. Aba North and Umuahia North LGAs recorded the highest fatalities during the period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnapping, was a major driver of conflict and insecurity in Abia State in Q1 2025. In March, four people were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Umuokahia, Obi Ngwa LGA. That same month, a mob reportedly attacked

three morticians and vandalized a mortuary in Afo-Ukwu and Abayi Okoroata, also in Obi Ngwa LGA, over allegations of missing testicles from a corpse.

Communal Violence

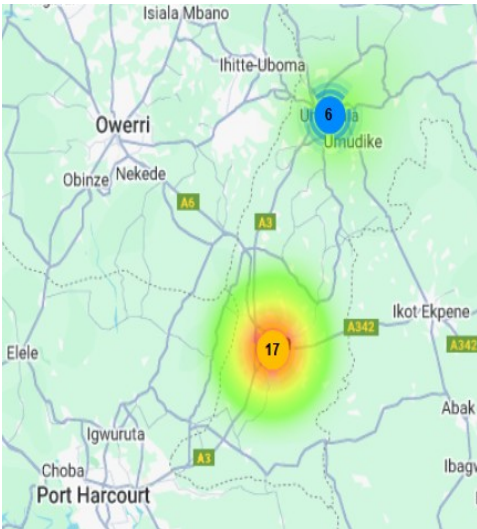
There was a resurgence of communal violence in Abia State during the quarter. In February, one person was reportedly killed, three injured, and another declared missing following a clash over a long-standing boundary dispute between Ariam in Ikwuano LGA, Abia State, and Ikot Okum in Obot Akara LGA, Akwa Ibom State. In Isuikwuato LGA, the traditional ruler of Ezizama Nunya was allegedly killed in his residence by a man over a land dispute. Similarly, in March, a man was reportedly killed during a fight over land in Obi Ngwa LG.

Gang/Cult Violence

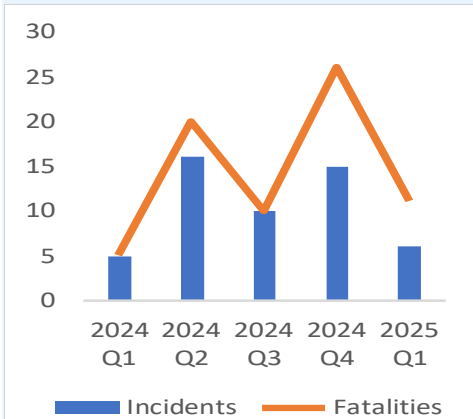
Cult gang-related violence caused several fatalities in Abia State during the period. In February, two suspected cultists were reportedly killed during a series of clashes between rival gangs at different locations in Aba North LGA. In a related incident, three residents were allegedly killed in retaliatory attacks believed to be linked to the earlier killing of the two cult members in the same area.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

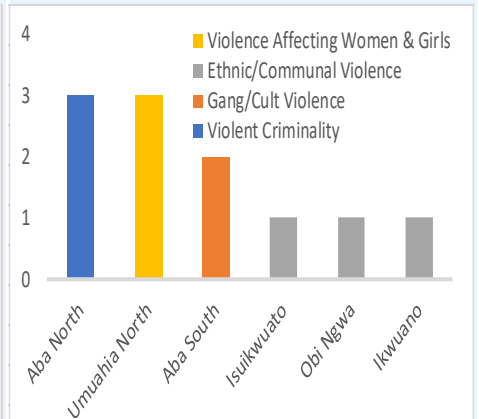
In addition to the impact of communal and criminal violence on women and girls, other forms of gender-based violence were reported. In February, for instance, a woman and her twin babies were reportedly killed by her younger brother in Ndagbo Afara, Umuahia North LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State
Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State
(January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

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

There were no significant changes in conflict risks or lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), the state remained one of the least violent in the region based on reported fatalities. Criminal activities and cult gang clashes were the main drivers of insecurity during the quarter. Etinan, Uyo and Ikot Ekpene LGAs, recorded the highest number of fatalities.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnappings for ransom, was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in Akwa Ibom State in Q1 2025. In February, police reportedly clashed with a kidnapping gang and rescued a victim in Ikot Ekpene LGA. In March, security forces allegedly killed a suspected kidnapper and armed robber during a clash in Ikpe Ikot Akpan, Ikot Inyang, and Ikpe Anang communities in Essien Udim LGA. Four suspects were injured, five others arrested, and

weapons were recovered during the operation.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs were a major source of lethal violence and insecurity in Akwa Ibom State during the period. In January, a 23-year-old businessman was allegedly beaten to death by cultists following a disagreement at a drinking spot in Oruk Anam LGA. In a separate incident that same month, suspected cult members reportedly killed a polytechnic student in Ikot Osurua, Ikot Ekpene LGA.

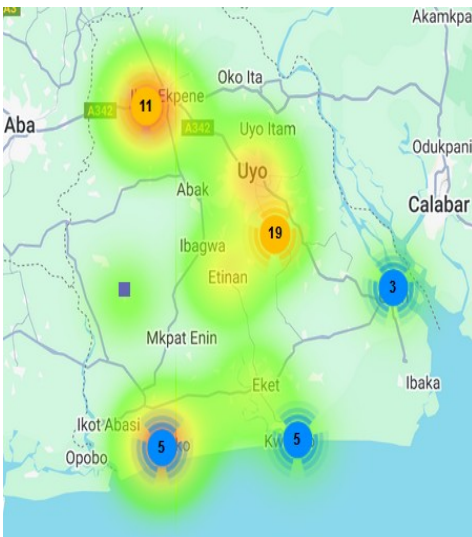
Other Incidents

In February, a robbery suspect was burned to death by a mob in Obio Offot, Uyo LGA. That same month, militias reportedly killed one resident and injured several others in a long-standing land dispute between Inua Eyet and Edor communities in Ibene LGA. Also in February, a soldier attached

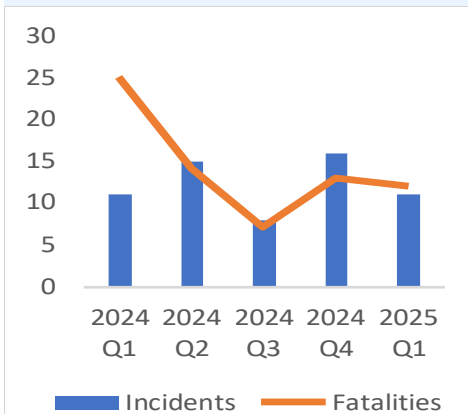
to a multinational oil company was allegedly attacked by a mob in Ette community, Ikot Abasi LGA, after he accidentally shot a resident while pursuing a man suspected of stealing diesel from the company. In March, a bridge collapse in Ikot Mfon-Ndiya, Etinan LGA, reportedly killed at least three people.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

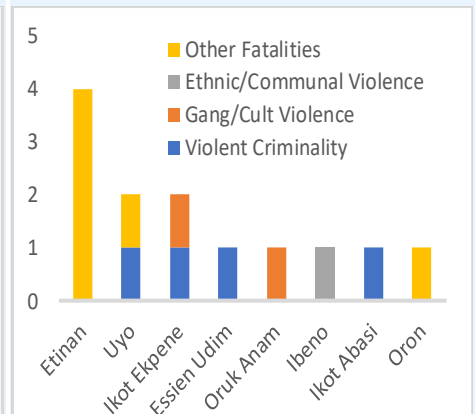
Beyond the impact of criminal violence, other forms of violence against women and girls were reported during the period. For instance, in February, a makeup artist was allegedly killed by her boyfriend in Uyo, the state capital. In March, a 38-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her 42-year-old husband during a domestic dispute in Oron LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.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 Q1 2025, with fatalities increasing by 120%, from two in Q4 2024 to eight in Q1 2025. Despite this rise, Peace Map data (see page 2) shows that Bayelsa recorded the lowest level of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported fatalities. Clashes between rival cult gangs and organized criminal activities were the main drivers of insecurity, with most incidents, particularly cult-related clashes, concentrated in Yenagoa, the state capital.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs were a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in Bayelsa State during the period, resulting in multiple fatalities. In January, three people, including the son of a former community defense militia leader, were reportedly killed in a clash between the Greenlanders and Bobos cult gangs over control of a new motor park in Igbogene, Yenagoa LGA. A reprisal attack in the nearby Amarata community

later claimed another life.

In February, a woman was reportedly killed by a stray bullet during a cult clash at Swali Market in Yenagoa. That same month, another resident was killed in a clash between the Greenlanders and Bobos in Agudama-Epie, Yenagoa LGA, while a 30-year-old man was reportedly stoned to death by suspected rival cult members in Yenagoa. In March, the ongoing cult conflict claimed the life of another 30-year-old man in Yenagoa.

Violent Criminality

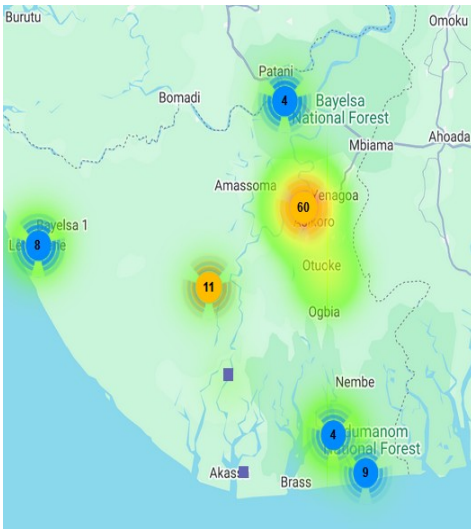
Organized criminality remained a leading security challenge in Bayelsa State during the quarter, with multiple incidents of criminal and interpersonal violence reported. In January, Nigerian Navy operatives clashed with a gang of pirates in Fununu community, Brass LGA, recovering a large cache of arms and ammunition, including rifles.

In March, gunmen allegedly attacked a passenger boat along the creeks of River Ayakoro in Ogbia

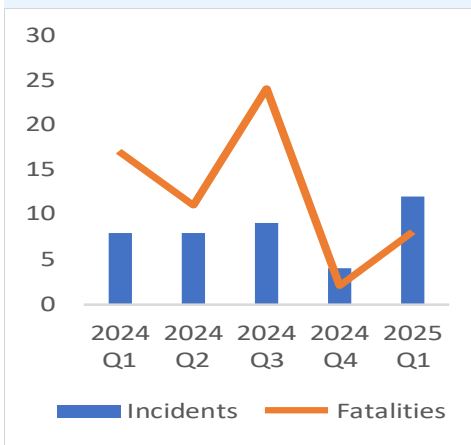
LGA, abducting two staff members of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). Also in March, pirates reportedly attacked private security operatives escorting an oil company crew in Lasukugbene, Southern Ijaw LGA. During the attack, one crew member was killed, the driver injured, and their 200-horsepower engine speedboat stolen.

Other Incidents

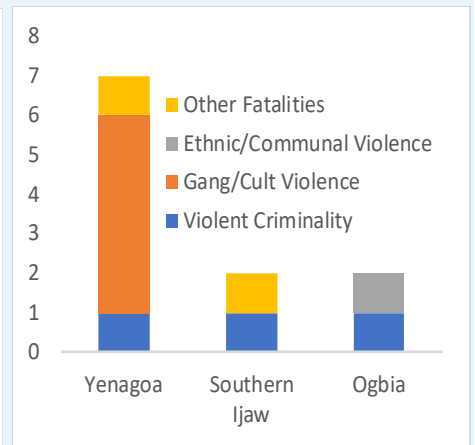
In February, a six-year-old girl reportedly drowned after being allegedly thrown into a river by her mother as punishment in Southern Ijaw LGA. In March, a resident was killed during a clash with cattle herders in Ogbia LGA. Separately, herders allegedly attacked and raped a woman on her farm in Amarata community, Yenagoa LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

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

Conflict risks and insecurity declined in Cross River State in Q1 of 2025 compared to Q4 of 2024, with reported conflict incidents dropping by 50%, from 10 incidents in Q4 2024 to five in Q1 2025. Despite this reduction in incidents, the number of reported fatalities remained unchanged. 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. Communal conflict remained the primary driver of lethal violence, with cases concentrated mainly in Akamkpa and Odukpani LGAs.

Communal Violence

Communal tensions were a primary driver of lethal violence and insecurity in Cross River State during the quarter. Communal violence accounted for over six fatalities in the state within the reporting period. For example, in January, two persons were reportedly killed in a boundary dispute between Isu community in Arochukwu LGA, Abia State, and Ukwu Mbiabong community in Odukpani LGA, Cross River State. The victims were allegedly ambushed and killed by community militias while

on their way to the farm. In February, three persons were reportedly killed and several others injured during a clash between two factions in Iko Esai community, Akamkpa LGA, over a leadership tussle. In March, a woman and her daughter were allegedly killed by militias during a clash over a land dispute between Odukpani Qua and New Netim communities in Odukpani LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs also contributed to fatalities in the state during the reporting period. In February, a young man was reportedly killed by suspected cult members in Calabar town, Calabar Municipal LGA. The assailants allegedly transferred money from the victim's bank account and placed parts of his dismembered body in a bag, which was then delivered to his grandmother.

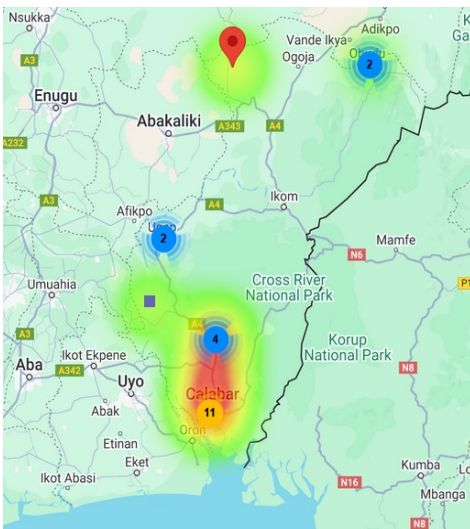
Violence Affecting Women & Girls

Violence against women and girls remains a serious threat to peace and human security in Cross River State. Beyond the effects of communal

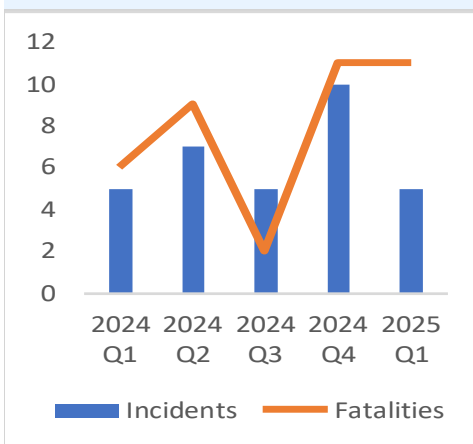
conflict and gang-related violence, various forms of gender-based violence were also reported during the period. In January, a 29-year-old man was reportedly arrested for allegedly killing his mother for ritual purposes in Batriko, Boki LGA. The same month, a 25-year-old woman was reportedly abducted and assaulted by a suspected gang leader on Edem Street in Calabar South LGA. She was allegedly held captive and brutalized for a week before being rescued by the police.

Other Incidents

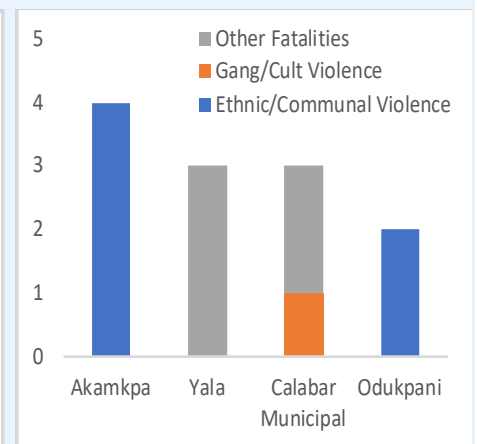
In March, four individuals, including a 41-year-old woman, were reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by a police inspector at a divisional police headquarters in Atakpa, Calabar, the state capital. Separately, in March, three residents, a man and two women, were reportedly killed, and over 21 houses destroyed following a torrential rainfall that affected Ezekwe, Okpodon, and Wanoko villages in Yala LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Cross River State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Cross River (January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's 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 increase in lethal violence in Q1 of 2025 compared to Q4 of 2024. Conflict-related fatalities rose by 31%, from 37 deaths in Q4 2024 to 51 in Q1 2025. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Delta was among the states with the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the Niger Delta during this period. The main drivers of conflict and lethal violence were criminal activities, communal clashes, and cult gang violence. Ughelli North LGA accounted for the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the state during the quarter.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom and homicide, remained a major security concern in Delta State during the reporting quarter. In January, a 71-year-old man was reportedly killed by his 23-year-old son, allegedly under the influence of drugs, in Sapele, Sapele LGA. That same month, a university professor was reportedly shot dead by gunmen at his residence in Asaba, the state capital. In a separate incident, a man was lynched by a mob in Amai, Ndokwa West LGA, after he allegedly killed a man and his daughter over a land dispute.

Communal Violence

Several incidents of communal violence were reported during the quarter, resulting in over 10 fatalities. In January, clashes between herders and youths in Mbiri, Ika North East LGA, reportedly led to the deaths of two persons and the destruction of several houses. In February, a male farmer was reportedly killed during a clash between farmers and herders on a farm in Agadama, Ughelli North LGA. In March, tensions reportedly escalated between Itsekiri and Ijaw communities in Abiteye and Benikrukru, Warri South-West LGA, following a court ruling on compensation payments by an oil company. Militant groups in the area allegedly issued threats to the communities involved.

Gang/Cult Violence

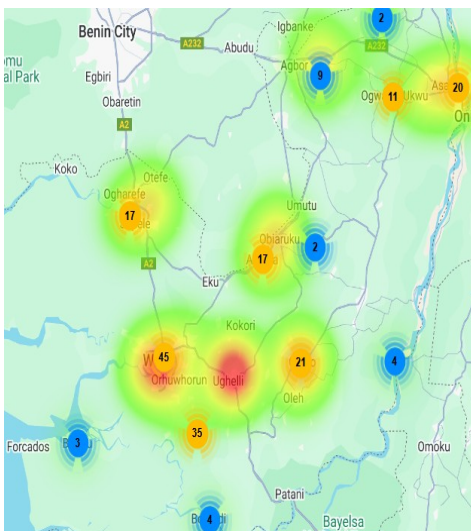
Clashes between rival cult gangs remained a major security concern in the state during the period, resulting in multiple fatalities. In February, a suspected cultist was reportedly killed during a clash between rival Vikings and Black Axe cult groups in a university community in Ozoro, Isoko North LGA. In separate incidents that same month, two suspected cultists were also reportedly killed in clashes involving rival cult gangs at different locations in Ughelli town, Ughelli North LGA.

Violence Against Women & Girls

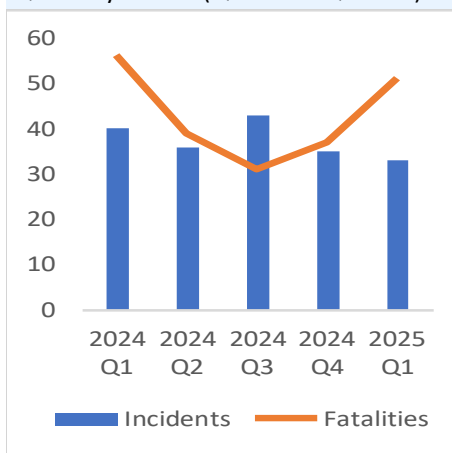
In addition to the impact of criminal and communal violence on women and girls, several other incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In January, a young woman was reportedly raped and murdered in her home by unidentified assailants in Asaba, the state capital. That same month, a 10-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped and killed for ritual purposes by two young men in Orhoakpo, Ethiope East LGA. In a separate incident, a woman was reportedly murdered and decapitated by an internet fraudster, commonly referred to as a 'Yahoo Boy', at her farm in Otor-Owhe, Isoko North LGA. In March, two elderly women were allegedly killed and their bodies mutilated for ritual purposes in Ujevwu and Obubu communities, Udu LGA.

Other Incidents

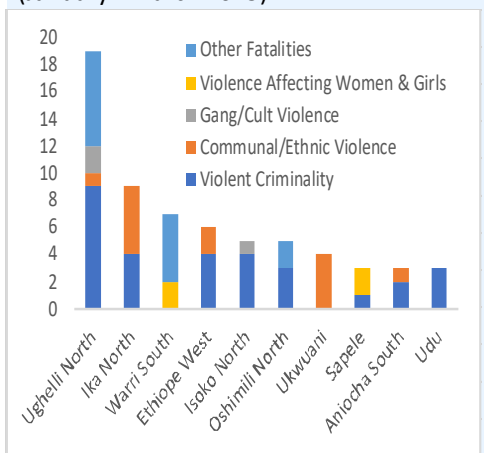
In February, five persons were reported killed and 20 others declared missing after two speedboats collided and capsized along the waterways in Warri South West LGA. In a separate incident that same month, a 19-month-old pupil was allegedly flogged to death by his teacher for being "troublesome" in Sapele, Sapele LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Edo State

In Q1 2025, Edo State experienced an increase in conflict-related fatalities, with a 15% rise compared to Q4 2024. The reported fatalities rose from 39 in Q4 2024 to 45 in Q1 2025, despite a 27% decline in reported incidents, from 29 in Q4 2024 to 21 in Q1 2025. Although this reflects a notable reduction in the frequency of violence, the lethality of incidents increased. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Edo State ranked among the states with the highest levels of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period. The primary drivers of violence and insecurity were communal conflict and criminal activities, with Esan North East LGA recording the highest levels of lethal violence in the state.

Communal Violence

Several incidents of communal violence were reported in the State during the period, resulting in the deaths of over 25 people, particularly in February. In one incident, 22 persons were reportedly killed in clashes between cocoa farmers and ethnic militias over alleged farm theft in Gbelemoti, Ovia South-West LGA. Also, in

February, two residents were allegedly killed and many others displaced during clashes between herders and farmers in Okpekpe, Etsako East LGA. In a separate incident, a 50-year-old local vigilante commander was reportedly killed on his farm by suspected herders in Erah, Owan East LGA. That same month, two farmers were reportedly killed and one injured by suspected herders in Eware, Etsako West LGA. In March, communal tensions escalated following the lynching of approximately 16 traveling hunters from northern Nigeria by local vigilantes and a mob in Uromi, Esan North East LGA, who reportedly mistook them for bandits.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom and homicide, remained a significant source of insecurity in Edo State during the quarter. In February, a seven-year-old boy was reportedly killed and mutilated by a 45-year-old pastor and a 23-year-old accomplice in Irrua, Esan Central LGA. In March, a 43-year-old man was allegedly beheaded by suspected ritualists while returning from a burial in Evbuotubu, Egor LGA. That same

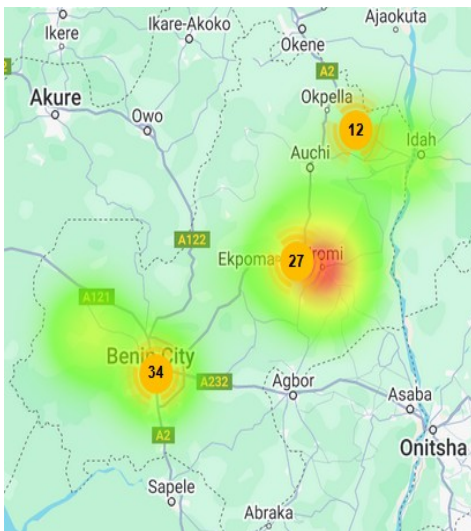
month, gunmen suspected to be herders reportedly abducted a Catholic priest and a seminarian in Iviukwe, Etsako East LGA. One of the suspected herders was allegedly killed during a clash with local vigilantes, while the seminarian was later reportedly killed by the kidnappers.

Violence Affecting Women & Girls

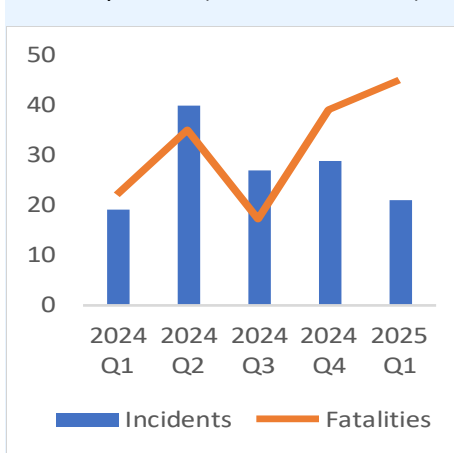
In addition to the broader impacts of criminality and communal violence on women and girls, other acts of gender-based violence were also reported. For instance, in February, a 38-year-old pregnant woman was allegedly killed by her husband during a domestic dispute in Benin City, the state capital.

Other Incidents

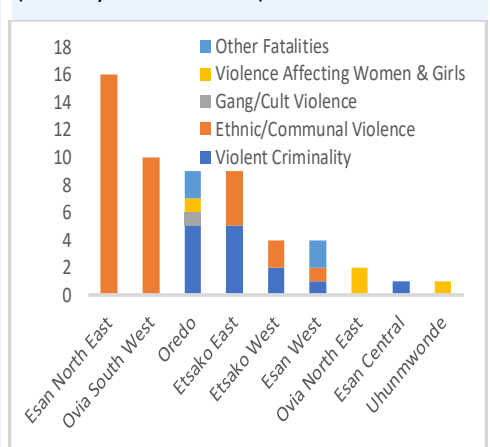
In February, a taxi driver reportedly died from injuries sustained during an altercation with operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in Benin City, the state capital. In March, an 18-year-old man was allegedly shot and killed by police officers at a security checkpoint in Ekpoma, Esan West LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State
Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State
(January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Imo State

Lethal violence in Imo State decreased slightly in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024, with a 40% reduction in reported fatalities, from 22 in Q4 2024 to 13 in Q1 2025. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), this placed Imo among the Niger Delta states that experienced a decline in lethal violence during the period. The primary drivers of violence and insecurity were criminal activities and violent separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and government security forces. Okigwe LGA recorded the highest level of lethal violence in the state, followed by Owerri West LGA.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom and targeted killings by gunmen, was a major driver of insecurity in Imo State during the period. In January, two suspected kidnappers were reportedly killed in a clash with police operatives in Umuokanne, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. That same month, over 18 residents were reportedly killed in a series of coordinated attacks by gunmen across multiple communities in Orsu LGA. Also in January, gunmen allegedly killed a lawyer after intercepting his vehicle along the Mgbidi Highway in Oru West LGA. In a separate incident, the chairperson of the

Abia State Independent Electoral Commission was allegedly abducted from his residence in Okigwe community, Okigwe LGA. In February, gunmen reportedly abducted the President of the Ohanaeze Youth Council at IMSU Junction near Works Layout in Owerri, the state capital.

Separatist Agitation

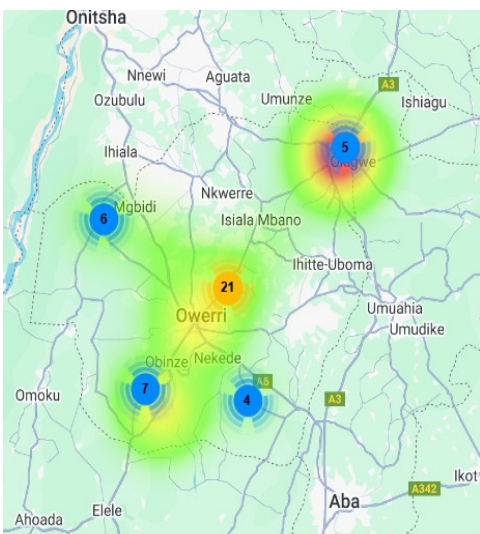
Separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and government security forces, remained a major security challenge in Imo State during the period. In January, about eight suspected militias were reportedly killed, several weapons, including rifles and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), were recovered during a series of clashes between government forces and separatist militias allegedly affiliated with the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the paramilitary wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), in Ihube, Okigwe LGA. In February, a separatist militia was reportedly killed during a clash with security forces in Eziamia Obiato, Mbaitoli LGA. In another incident security forces allegedly clashed with separatist militias in a forest near Ubachima, Oru East LGA, killing a militia leader and recovering arms and ammunition.

Communal Violence

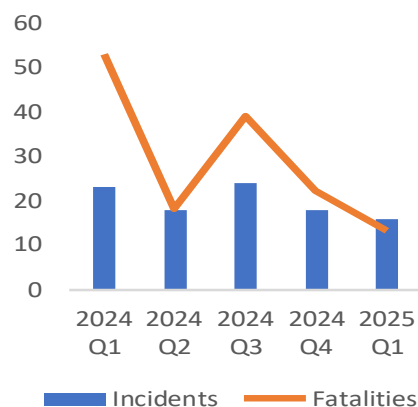
Communal violence resulted in several fatalities in Imo State during the period. In February, armed herdsmen reportedly abducted and killed a man at his pig farm in Amakohia-Ubi, Owerri West LGA. In March, an unidentified armed group allegedly attacked and killed the newly elected youth leader of Umusi Olokwa community, also in Owerri West LGA, amid controversy surrounding the outcome of the youth leadership election. The victim had just been declared the winner when the attack occurred. The assailants also reportedly injured four of his siblings and set fire to nine houses.

Other Incidents

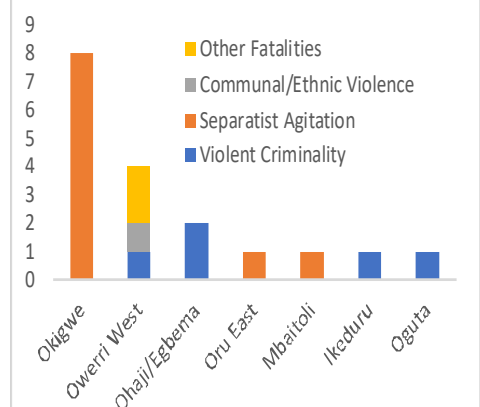
In January, a 35-year-old man was allegedly set ablaze by his kinsmen over allegations of theft in Nnebugwu, Oguta LGA. In a separate incident, a 20-year-old boy was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by a Catholic priest attempting to stop the throwing of fireworks into a church on New Year's Eve in Amaimo, Ikeduru LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State
Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State
(January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's 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 rose sharply in Ondo State in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024. Conflict-related fatalities increased by 325%, from 12 deaths in Q4 2024 to 51 in Q1 2025. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Ondo ranked among the states with the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the Niger Delta during this period. The primary drivers of violence were communal conflict and criminal activities. Akure North LGA recorded the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the state during the quarter.

Communal Violence

Communal violence was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity during the period, resulting in over 20 fatalities across the state. In January, suspected herdsmen reportedly killed five farmers while they were working on their farms in Ajegunle-Powerline, Akure North LGA. That same month, four persons were allegedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Gbalegi community in Idanre LGA and Akure community in Akure South LGA. In March, gunmen suspected to

be herdsmen allegedly invaded four communities in Akure North LGA, killing over 20 farmers. The affected communities included Aba Alajido, Aba Pastor, Aba Sunday, and Ademekun Camp.

Violent Criminality

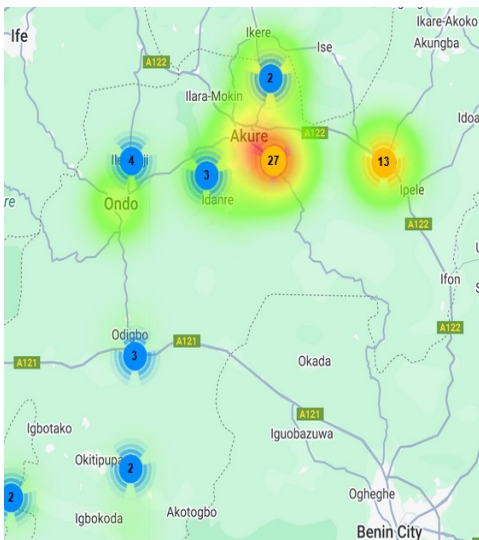
Criminal violence, particularly kidnapping for ransom, posed a major security challenge in the State during the period. In January, kidnappers reportedly ambushed and abducted 10 passengers along the Benin-Owo Expressway in Ipele, Owo LGA. In February, three graduate interns from a College of Agriculture were allegedly kidnapped while returning from their farm in the Oke Oge area of Oba Ile, Akure North LGA. The kidnappers reportedly demanded a ₦300 million ransom. In a separate incident that same month, gunmen abducted a farmer and a laborer in Oke Oge, also in Akure North LGA, demanding a ₦15 million ransom. In March, a 60-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a laborer she had hired to work on her kolanut farm at Laje Camp in Ondo West LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

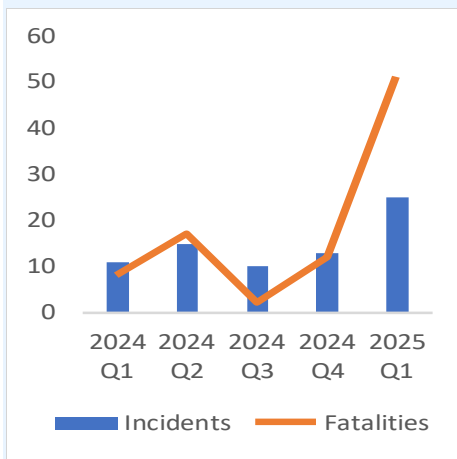
In January, about six people were reportedly killed during a rival cult clash in Owo community, Owo Local Government Area (LGA). Among the victims were a former local government vice chairman of the major political party and his mother, as well as a woman and her baby, who were allegedly hit by stray bullets. In a separate incident later that month, the leader of a cult gang was reportedly killed by a rival group in the same community.

Protests

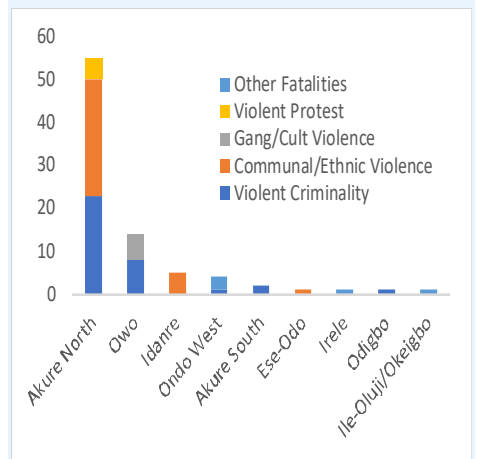
Several protests occurred across the State during the reporting period. In February, tensions escalated in Ifon, Ose LGA, where youths reportedly set fire to a police station and a house in protest over the death of a man in police custody. In March, farmers in Akure North LGA staged a protest following the alleged killing of five people by suspected herdsmen, further heightening tensions in the area.



Incidents and Fatalities, Ondo State
Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Ondo State
(January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Rivers State

Rivers State experienced a marginal increase in lethal violence in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024. Reported fatalities rose by 22%, from 27 deaths in Q4 2024 to 33 in Q1 2025. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Rivers was among the states in the Niger Delta with a high incidence of lethal violence during this period. The primary drivers of insecurity were criminal activities and clashes between rival cult gangs. Emohua LGA recorded the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the state during the quarter.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence remained a major security concern in the State during the first quarter of 2025, resulting in multiple fatalities and abductions. In January, gunmen reportedly killed the Chief Security Officer of a stadium and his 23-year-old son at their residence in Igwuruta-Ali, Ikwerre LGA. That same month, a Dutch entrepreneur was attacked near the Aleto-Elеме bridge in Elеме LGA. The victim drowned after his vehicle plunged into the river while attempting to escape the assailants. In February, pirates reportedly intercepted a passenger boat and abducted 20 travelers along the Bonny-Okrika waterways in Isaka, Okrika LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs and related criminal violence were major drivers of insecurity in the State during the quarter. In January, suspected cultists reportedly killed a local vigilante member during a routine patrol along Hospital Road in Ahoada town, Ahoada East LGA. Also in January, three people, including a notorious cultist, were killed during a rival cult clash in Onne, Elеме LGA. In February, seven individuals, including a known cult kingpin, were reportedly killed in violent clashes between Deebam and Icelanders cult groups over control of levies from an oil company in Obelle, Emohua LGA.

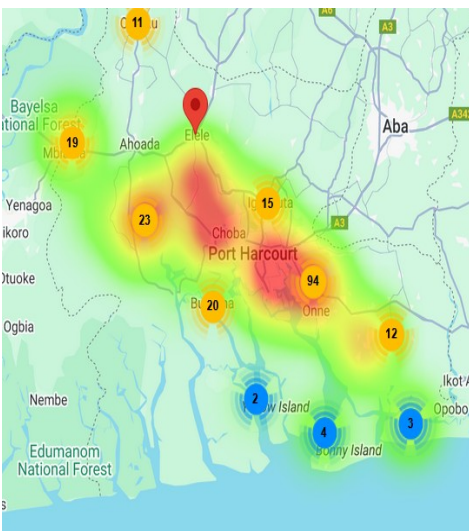
Political Tensions

Political tensions escalated significantly in Rivers State during the first quarter of 2025, driven by intense power struggles among political actors. In January, tensions rose following a court ruling that nullified the executive leadership of a major political party in the state. In February, a Supreme Court ruling reportedly deepened the crisis by affirming one faction, freezing state funds, and nullifying local government elections. In March, the governor's directive for heads of local government areas (LGAs) to assume control

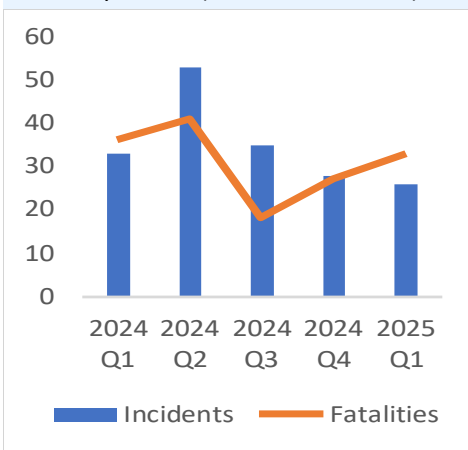
further heightened tensions amid ongoing disputes between rival factions. That same month, many residents protested the nullification of local elections and the suspension of federal allocations to the state. Later in March, the political crisis reached a climax when the president declared a state of emergency, suspended the state governor, and appointed a sole administrator to oversee the state's affairs. This development triggered widespread protests and threats of violence by various militant groups.

Militancy/Insurgency

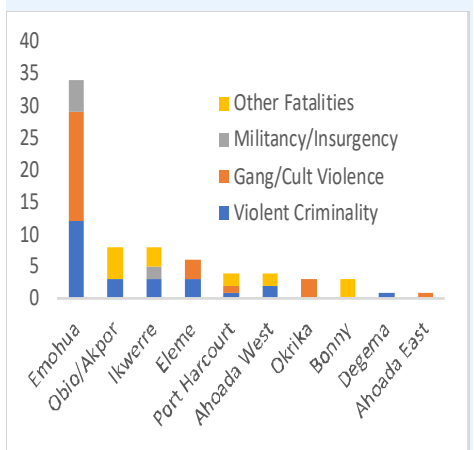
Attacks by militants and insurgents were reported during the period, occurring within the broader context of heightened political tensions. In March, security forces reportedly killed an unspecified number of armed men attempting to bomb an oil pipeline in Rumuekpe, Emohua LGA. That same month, a vandal reportedly died while trying to detonate explosives on a pipeline in Aluu, Ikwerre LGA. Also in March, suspected militants allegedly detonated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), destroying a section of the Trans-Niger Pipeline in Bodo, Gokana LGA. The attack reportedly followed earlier threats by militant groups to target oil installations unless the state's withheld monthly financial allocation was released.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State
Quarterly Trends (Q1 2024 - Q1 2025)



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State
(January - March 2025)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's 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



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.

IPDU: The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND's Peacebuilding Program responds to emerging threats by mobilizing relevant actors and resources for preventive interventions. It provides operational-level support to stakeholders through research, capacity building, and applied learning, all aimed at the early identification and mitigation of potential drivers of conflict and instability.

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

Report any verified conflict incident to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text report to **091 2233 4455 / 080 9936 2222.**

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