Niger Delta Quarterly

Conflict Trends

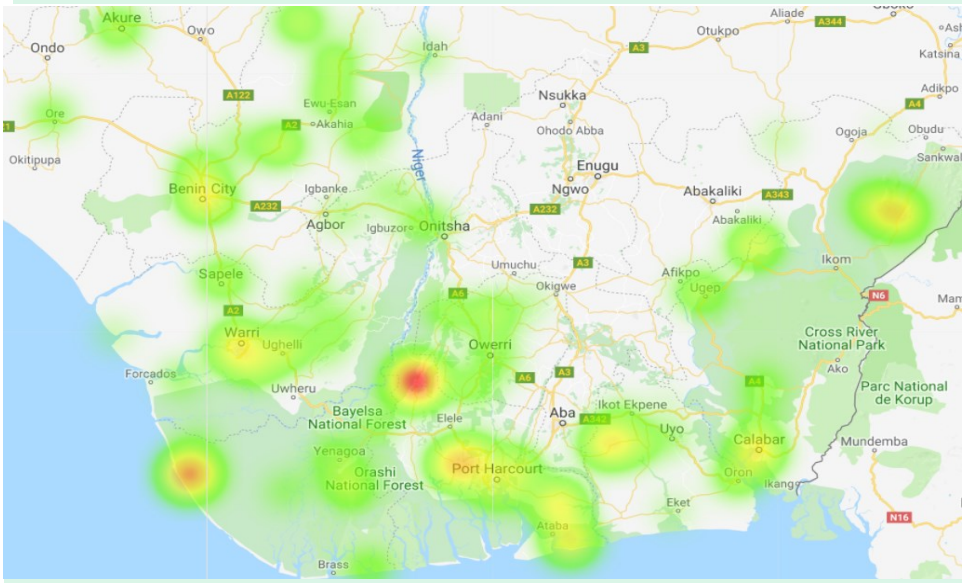
January to March 2018

There has been a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta since Q4 2017, and the trend continues in Q1 2018 (See page 2). The conflict landscape remained largely unchanged in the first quarter of 2018, compared to the fourth quarter of 2017. According to data (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org), criminality, communal clashes and land disputes were the primary causes of lethal violence during the period.

This quarterly tracker looks at the trends and patterns of conflict risk factors and incidents of violence, and the related pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. It is not designed as a conflict analysis, but rather it is intended to update stakeholders on patterns and trends in violence. Understanding the deeper conflict drivers, implications, and mitigating options requires a robust participatory, qualitative analysis of these trends by local stakeholders in affected communities, including women, traditional authorities, political leaders, youths, private sector actors, and others.

Conflict issues in the Niger Delta include organized criminality, communal tensions, political competition, and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include piracy, militancy, cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping, election violence, communal violence, land disputes, and mob violence. Data sources include ACLED (www.acleddata.com), Nigeria Watch (www.nigeriawatch.org), NSRP Sources (focused on Violence Against Women and Girls), CIEPD (https://ciepdcwc.crowdmap.com), the IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported from January-March 2018 in the Niger Delta.
Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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

Fishing and farming are historically the main occupations in the region. The region contains vast reserves of oil and gas, which play an important role in the Nigerian economy. In spite of these abundant natural resources, the Niger Delta is marked by poverty, economic underdevelopment, inequality, and environmental degradation. 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 2018

There was no significant change in the level of conflict risk and lethal violence in the first quarter of 2018, compared to the trend in the fourth quarter of 2017. Insecurity in the region in Q1 2018 was driven mainly by criminality, communal conflict, militancy, gang violence, protests, and mob violence.

Criminality was prevalent in the Niger Delta during the quarter, especially armed robbery, piracy, and kidnapping for ransom. The response of public security forces to the spate of organized criminality resulted in several fatalities during the period, particularly in Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Imo, and Rivers states.

There was a decrease in gang/cult-related violence at the regional level, but it was widespread in some states, particularly Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Cross Rivers, driven largely by rival cult clashes and supremacy battles among the numerous cult groups in the region, as well as general criminality.

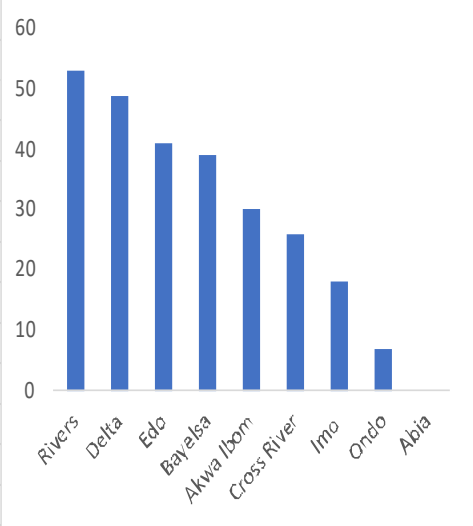
Communal conflict over land disputes resulted in several fatalities in Cross River and Delta state. Herder/farmer clashes were prevalent in Delta, Edo, and Ondo state. Militancy, mob violence, labor strikes/protests, political violence, child trafficking as well as Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) were also prevalent during the quarter.

Based on reported fatalities, Rivers was the most violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. The most violent LGAs during the quarter were Ekeremor (Bayelsa), Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni (Rivers), Etim Ekpo (Akwa Ibom), Boki (Cross River), Oredo (Edo), Egor (Edo), Andoni (Rivers), Ughelli North (Delta), Emohua (Rivers), and Calabar Municipal (Cross River).

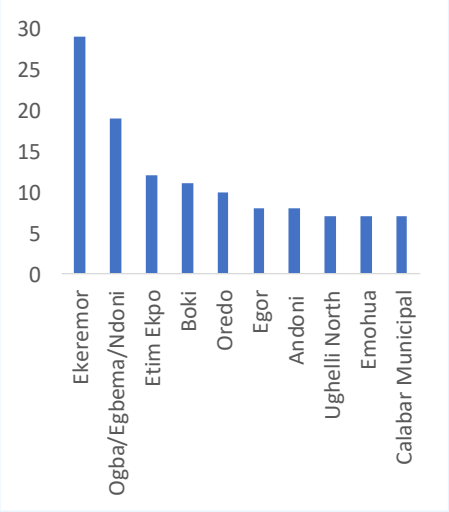
The following pages provide a breakdown by state as to the main issues reported during the quarter and the trends in those issues over time.

Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q1 2017 - Q1 2018)

Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January-March 2018)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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 that the tracker is comprehensive, please contribute your knowledge by reporting any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU Early Warning System by texting a message to **080 9936 2222**.

Kindly include the relevant state, LGA, town, date, and brief description of the incident. To read the latest monthly tracker, please visit: www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Abia State

There has been a sharp decrease in lethal violence in Abia state since Q4 2017. Based on reported fatalities, Abia was the least violent state in the Niger Delta during the period. Very few conflict incidents were reported in the state during the period. Incidents during the quarter included criminality, communal conflict, and child trafficking, and were mostly prevalent in Aba South LGA.

Communal Conflict

In January, communal tension was reportedly elevated in Umuahia North LGA following alleged threats by herdsmen to attack an agrarian community for refusing to allow their cattle to graze on their farm land. The planned attack was averted by the intervention of a team of public security forces.

Criminality

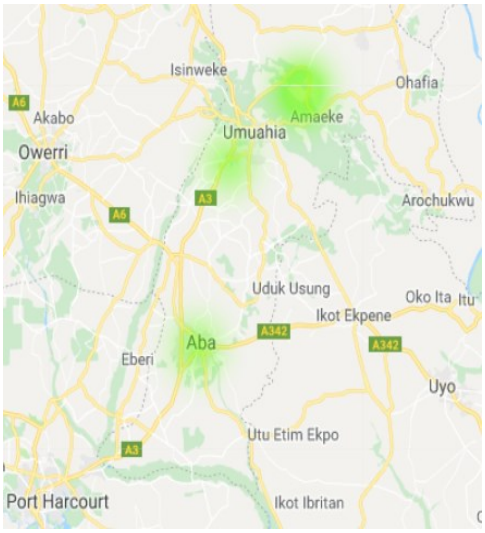
In January, several people reportedly attacked and set ablaze a police station in Umuahia South LGA. A police patrol van and a commercial tricycle parked within the premises were destroyed during the attack.

Child Trafficking

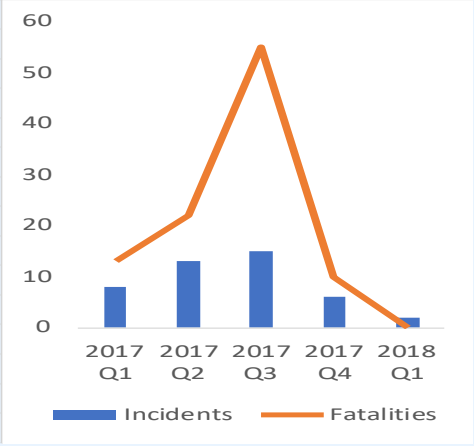
In January, a 12-year old girl was reportedly arrested for kidnapping and trafficking her stepbrothers, aged two and three in Aba South LGA. In March, two women and a nurse were arrested by the police for child trafficking in Aba South LGA. The suspects were arrested with two baby boys.

Other Incidents

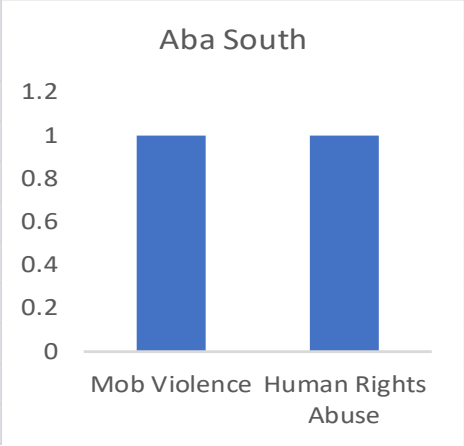
In March, policemen reportedly killed three youths in a community in Isiala Ngwa North LGA. Separately, a woman was reportedly killed by a stray bullet from the rifle of a female soldier along the expressway in Aba. The soldier was reportedly struggling with a truck pusher when her riffle accidentally went off. Two fire incidents were reported in the state during the period. Fourteen shops and goods worth several millions of Naira were destroyed by fire at a market in Aba South LGA. Separately, fire destroyed two hostels at a high school in Aba South LGA. The fire destroyed property belonging to the students, who were on midterm holiday during the incident.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State (January-March 2018



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Akwa Ibom State

There has been a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom since the third quarter of 2017. There was no significant change in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Q1 2018, compared to Q4 2017. Etim Ekpo LGA had the highest levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in the state during the quarter. Reported incidents during the quarter included criminality, cult violence, militancy, sexual and domestic violence.

Criminality

In January, three robbers were reportedly killed during a shootout with the police in Uyo, the state capital. Separately, a 27-year old member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was reportedly shot dead by unknown assailants in Eket LGA. In another incident, a former councilor was reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Etim Ekpo LGA. In February, a village head was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen in Etim Ekpo LGA. The kidnapper abducted the monarch after a gun duel with security operatives in the area. Separately, four smugglers were reportedly arrested by operatives of the Nigerian Navy along the waterways of Akwa Ibom state. Sixty-two drums of oil and boats used for illegal bunkering and smuggling business were recovered from the suspects. In March, a pastor and a businessman were reportedly abducted by kidnappers at different locations in Ukanafun LGA. Separately, operatives of the Nigerian Navy reportedly arrested three suspects for illegal oil bunkering activities in Mbo LGA. In another incident, the police reportedly arrested four members of a six-man gang of robbers in Uyo. The suspects robbed a resident of over three million Naira in the area before they were arrested.

Militancy

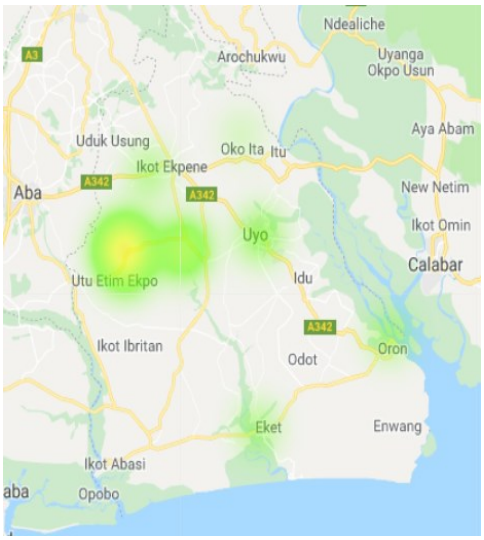
In January, two militants and kidnappers were reportedly killed during a gun battle with soldiers in Etim Ekpo LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

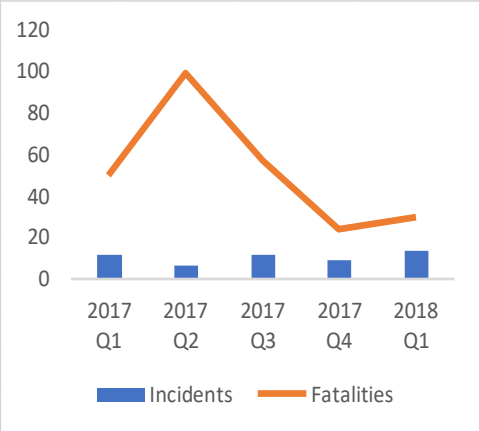
In January, four were reportedly killed during a clash involving members of Vikings, Dey Bam and Black Axe confraternities in Oron LGA. Separately, three were reportedly killed in a clash between Dey Bam and Aro Baggers cult groups in Ikot Ekpene LGA. In March, three people including a police officer were reportedly killed during a clash between Iceland and Dey Bam cult groups in three communities in Etim Ekpo LGA. Separately, a community youth leader was reportedly killed by members of Iceland cult group in Etim Ekpo LGA. The incident happened two days after the state government outlawed 33 cult groups in the area.

Other Violence

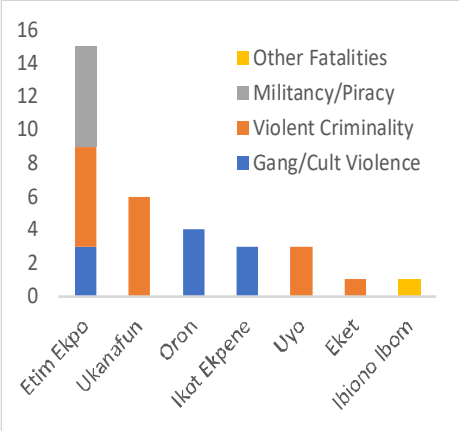
In February, a 30-year old woman was reportedly killed by her husband in Ibiono Ibom LGA. In March, two men, aged 65 and 27, were reportedly arrested by the police for raping an 11-year old girl in Uyo, the state capital.



Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Bayelsa State

There has been an rise in lethal violence in Bayelsa since the fourth quarter of 2017. There was no significant change in the level of lethal violence in Q1 2018, compared to Q4 2017. Ekeremor LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state during the quarter. Reported incidents included criminality, militancy, cult violence, and political tensions.

Violent Criminality

In January, pirates reportedly attacked a police marine base at a riverine town, killed two policemen and injured an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Ogbia LGA. The pirates made away with rifles and a speedboat. Separately, an employee of the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB) was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along the waterways in Brass LGA. The kidnappers later demanded a 30-million Naira ransom. In February, two contractors of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ogbia LGA. The gunmen kidnapped the contractors after a gun battle with soldiers. In March, pirates reportedly attacked a community, killed two and injured three others in Ayama, Ogbia LGA. The pirates abducted a woman and made away with over 10 speedboats. Separately, pirates reportedly attacked a passenger boat and shot a man and a pregnant woman in Koluama, Southern Ijaw LGA.

Militancy

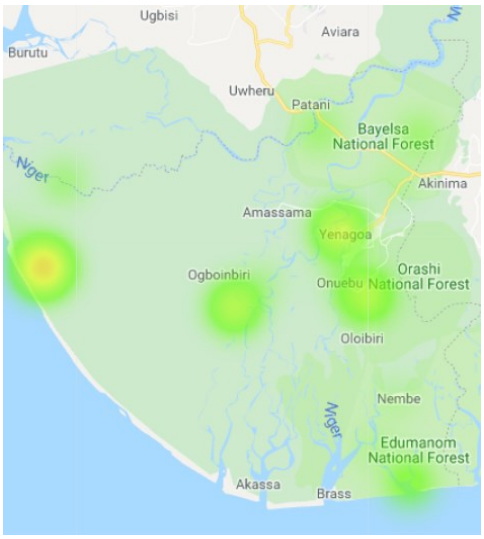
In January, four soldiers and 14 militants were reportedly killed during a military operation against militants in Ekeremor LGA. The operation was initiated in reaction to the killing of a soldier by militants in the area. A militant leader was arrested during the military operation and later died during a gun battle between soldiers and his gang members. In March, a prominent militant and kidnapper was reportedly killed by operatives of the Inspector General of Police's Intelligence Response Team in Yenagoa, the state capital. The suspect was enrolled in the Federal Government Amnesty program, but was secretly involved in militancy and extorting money from vessels that passes through the Nembe creek.

Cult Violence

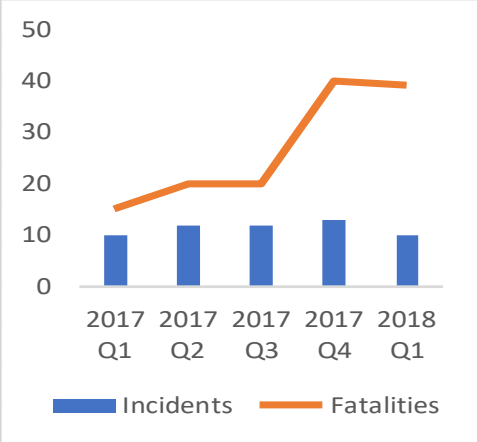
In February, two youths were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult groups in Yenagoa LGA. In March, suspected cultists attacked a police station, set it on fire, and injured two police officers in Oporoma, Southern Ijaw LGA. The cultists reportedly attacked the police station in protest over the death of their leader in police custody.

Political Tensions

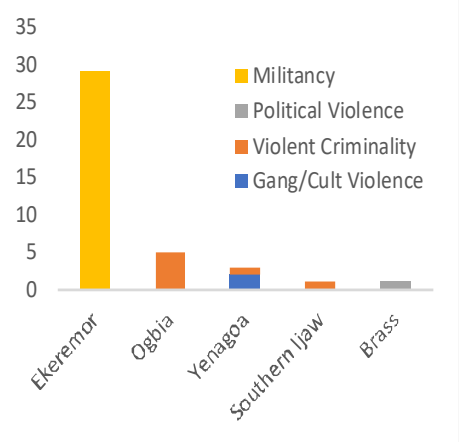
In February, one was reportedly killed and several others injured during a clash among youths in Okpoama, Brass LGA. The clash was believed to have occurred between youths belonging to two different political parties in the area.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Cross River State

There has been a decrease in lethal violence in Cross River since the fourth quarter of 2017. There was no significant change in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Q1 2018, compared to Q4 2017. Boki LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state during the period. Conflict issues in the state during this quarter were driven mainly by inter-communal tensions over land disputes, criminality, and cult violence.

Communal Violence

Several persons were killed in clashes over land disputes in the state during the quarter. In February, a community leader was reportedly killed by the police during a protest by youths in Abi LGA. The youths were protesting the detention of some village chiefs and a youth leader over a missing cattle belonging to some herdsmen in the area. In March, eight people were reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Okwabang and Beebo communities in Boki LGA. Separately, over two thousand economic trees including palm trees and raffia palms were reportedly destroyed following renewed tensions over land dispute between Etap Ayip, Kasuk Qua clan II and Ikot Ansa communities in Calabar Municipal LGA.

Violent Criminality

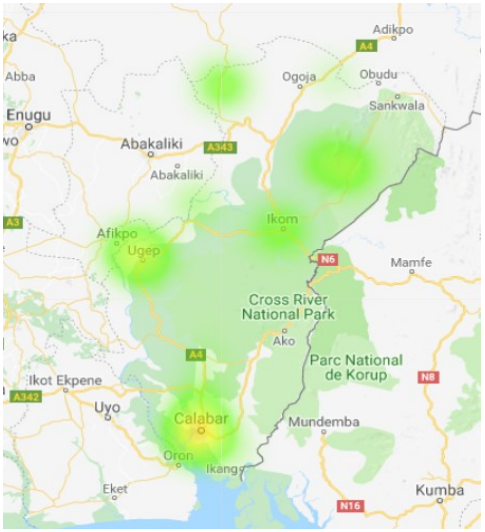
Several incidents of criminality were reported in the state during the quarter, particularly robbery and kidnapping for ransom. In January, a robber was reportedly killed during a gun battle between members of his gang and the police in Calabar South LGA. The gang had robbed a sport betting shop, a beer distributor and a bank before they were confronted by the police. Separately, a male medical doctor was kidnapped and later released by gunmen in Akamkpa LGA. In another incident, a pastor was reportedly kidnapped on the highway in Itu LGA. The kidnapper demanded a 50-million Naira ransom. In Calabar Municipal, a female medical doctor with the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) was abducted. In February, three businessmen were reportedly kidnapped at different locations in Calabar South. Separately, a 62-year old businessman was killed by assassins in his house in Calabar Municipal.

Cult Violence

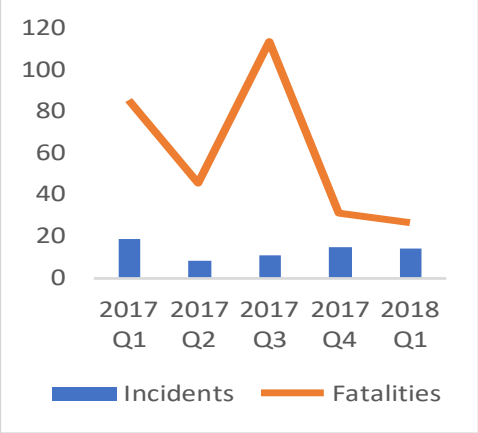
In January, four people were reportedly killed during a rival cult clash between Bendeghe Mafia and another local cult group in Boki LGA. A policeman was reportedly injured during a shootout with the cultists. Separately, a man was reportedly shot dead by members of a cult group known as the King Crackers during a political assembly in Calabar South LGA. In March, three people were reportedly killed during a clash between the KKK and the Vikings cult groups in Calabar Municipal. The clash was part of an ongoing supremacy battle between rival cult groups on the campus of the University of Calabar.

Other Violence

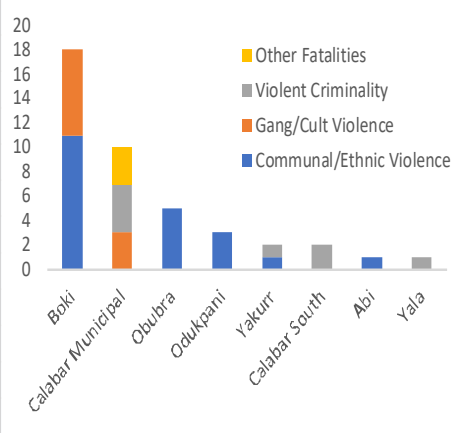
In February, Cameroonian gendarmes reportedly killed three fishermen and injured two others in a border community in Ikom LGA. The incident happened while the gendarmes were in pursuit of separatists agitating for Ambazonia Republic in Southern Cameroon.



Incidents and Fatalities, Cross River State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Cross River (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Delta State

Although there has been a decrease in the levels of lethal violence in Delta state since the third quarter of 2017, there was no significant change in Q1 2018, compared to Q4 2017. Delta was the second most violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Ughelli South and Ughelli North LGAs had the highest numbers of reported fatalities during the period. Reported incident included communal violence, criminality and militancy.

Communal Violence

In January, two villagers were reportedly killed by herdsmen in Ika North LGA. Separately, herdsmen reportedly killed a farmer and raped a woman in Aniocha North LGA. In another incident, five were reportedly killed and several property destroyed during a clash between rival youth factions over leadership tussle in Uvwie LGA. In February, two residents were reportedly killed during a security operation in response to a longstanding dispute over a leadership tussle in Ugborodo, Warri South West LGA. Separately, two persons including a male primary school pupil, were reported killed and 16 others injured during a clash between Aladja community in Udu LGA and Ogbe-Ijoh community in Warri South West LGA. In March, herdsmen reportedly chopped off fingers and toes of a 45-year old farmer in Ethiope East LGA. Separately, a farmer was reportedly beheaded by herdsmen in Ughelli North LGA. In another incident, herdsmen reportedly killed four men who were on a fishing expedition in Ughelli North.

Violent Criminality

In January, a man was reportedly killed by two men over a 2-million Naira transaction in Oshimili North LGA. In February, four robbers were reportedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Sapele LGA. Separately, a 23-year old cultist was reportedly killed for leaving the group to join another cult group in Ughelli South LGA. In March, a leader of a vigilante group was reportedly killed by gunmen in Ndokwa West LGA. Separately, a member of a community vigilante group, suspected to be on drugs, reportedly killed three people during a funeral ceremony in Otokutu, Ughelli South LGA.

Militancy/Kidnapping

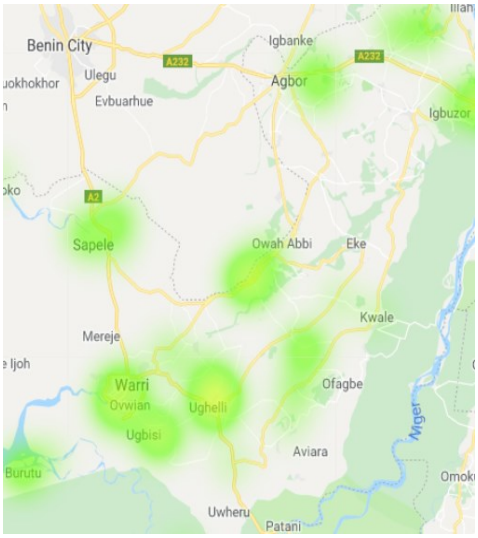
In January, a prominent militant who doubles as a kidnap kingpin was reportedly killed during a gun battle between his gang and soldiers in Burutu LGA. Separately, five workers of an indigenous oil servicing firm were reportedly abducted by gunmen at a waterside community in Warri North LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

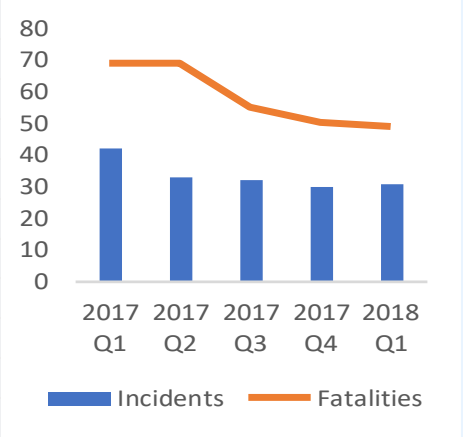
In addition to the impact of communal conflict and criminality on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence were also reported during the quarter. In January, a 74-year old woman was reportedly killed for ritualistic purposes in Oshimili South LGA. In February, a female student of a polytechnic in the state was found dead in Ozoro, Isoko North LGA, with missing body parts. She was believed to have been killed for ritualistic purposes. Separately, a middle-aged man cut his wife with a cutlass, and later committed suicide in Oshimili South LGA. In March, an 18-year old boy was arrested by the police for defiling his 6-year old sister and killing his 8-year old half-brother in Ofagbe, Isoko South LGA.

Political Violence

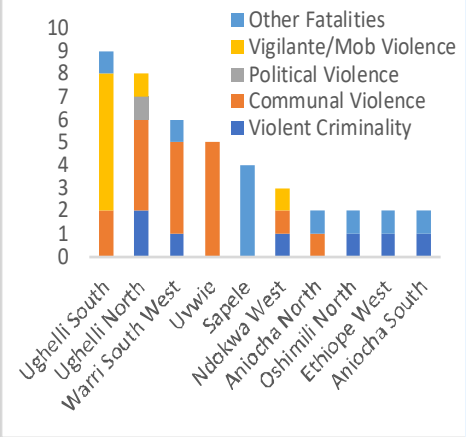
In January, an ad hoc staff of the Delta State Independent Electoral Commission (DSIEC) was reportedly killed by political thugs during a local government council elections in Ughelli North.



Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Edo State

There was an increase in conflict risk and lethal violence in Edo state in Q1 2018. Based on reported fatalities, Edo was the third most violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Oredo LGA had the highest levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in the state during the period. Incidents reported during the quarter were mainly related to violent criminality, communal conflict, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Violent Criminality

Several incidents of criminality were reported in the state during the quarter. In January, a university lecturer was killed by robbers at his residence in Oredo LGA. Separately, an 87-year old man was kidnapped and killed by his driver who dumped his body in a pit toilet after he had collected two million Naira ransom from the deceased's children in Ovia North-East LGA. In Etsako East LGA, the police reportedly arrested a couple and another for illegally manufacturing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in their apartment. One of the bombs exploded and killed one of the suspects.

Communal Violence

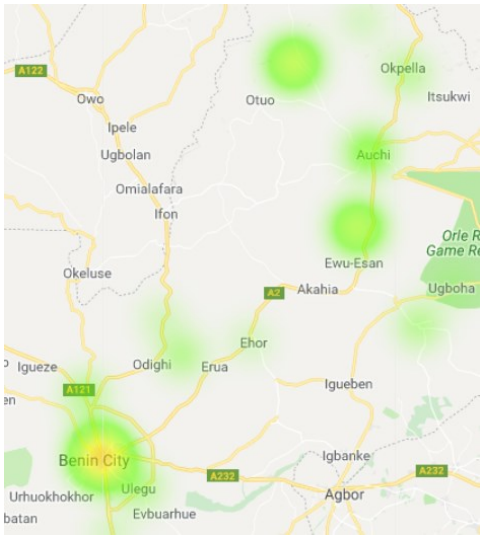
In January, herdsmen reportedly inflicted a fatal injury on a woman at her farm in Akoko-Edo LGA. Separately, a local vigilante arrested nine herdsmen allegedly responsible for killings and kidnapping in their community, and handed them over to the police in Akoko-Edo LGA. In February, soldiers reportedly shot dead a vigilante who was watching over some herdsmen arrested for alleged armed robbery in Ikpoba-Okha LGA. The incident led to heightened tensions in the area. In March, residents of Odighi and Odiguetue communities in Oredo LGA protested at the palace of the Oba of Benin over frequent attacks by herdsmen in the area.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

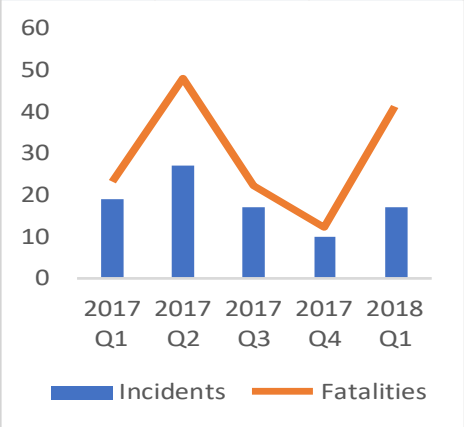
In addition to the impact of criminality and communal violence on women and girls listed above, other forms of violence affecting women and girls were also reported during the quarter. In January, for instance, two brothers reportedly killed their grandmother for ritualistic purposes in Ikpoba-Okha LGA. Separately, a retired female military officer was reportedly killed and set ablaze in her house by her security guard in Benin City, the state capital. In March, a 9-year old girl was reportedly defiled by a 70-year old grandfather and his two sons in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

Other Violence

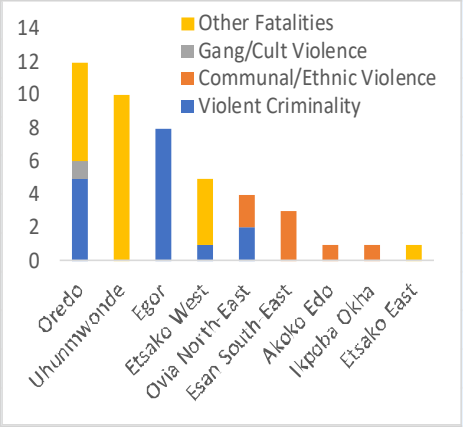
In February, four people including a policeman were reported dead during a protest over the death of a 26-year old commercial driver in Benin City. The driver reportedly died when he was pushed into a moving truck by a policeman during a disagreement. In another incident, a man reportedly set ablaze the house he inherited from his father over payment of rent in Oredo LGA. Over 20 shops were destroyed. In March, a 64-year old man was reportedly arrested by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) over illicit drug trafficking in Egor LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Imo State

There was no significant change in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Imo state in the first quarter of 2018, compared to the fourth quarter of 2017. Based on reported fatalities, Imo was one of the least violent states in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Very few incidents of lethal conflict were reported in the state during the period. Conflict risk and violence during the quarter were mainly driven by criminality and communal violence. Ohaji/Egbema LGA had the highest number of reported incidents of lethal violence in the state during the quarter.

Violent Criminality

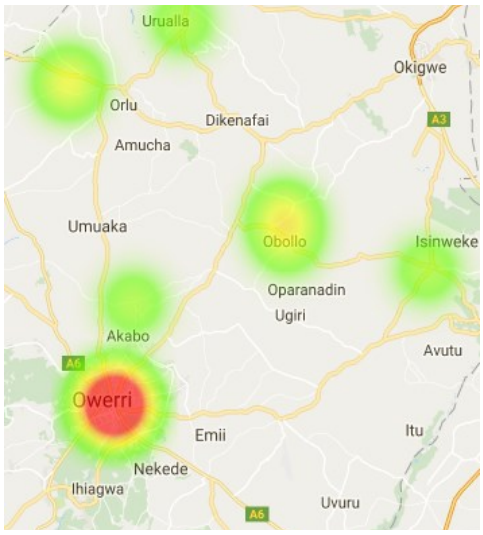
In January, three kidnappers were reportedly killed in a gun battle with operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Njaba LGA. Separately, six hoodlums were reportedly killed during a shootout with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. In February, a 95-year old man and his 13-year old granddaughter were reportedly kidnapped in Owerri West LGA. It was believed that the victims were kidnapped for a ransom because five of the old man's children reside outside Nigeria. Separately, over a hundred women protested at the Imo State Police Headquarters in Owerri, the state capital, over insecurity in their community. The protesters complained of incessant kidnappings in their community in Okigwe LGA. In another incident, operatives of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) reportedly arrested five suspects for illegal oil bunkering and vandalism in Oru West LGA. A truck loaded with petroleum products was recovered from the suspects. Also, in February, many criminals in the state reportedly accepted amnesty offered to them by the Imo state government and surrendered their arms in Owerri, the state capital. Some of the criminals reportedly included those that escaped from neighboring Rivers state after they had been declared wanted by the government for crimes committed in the state.

Communal Violence

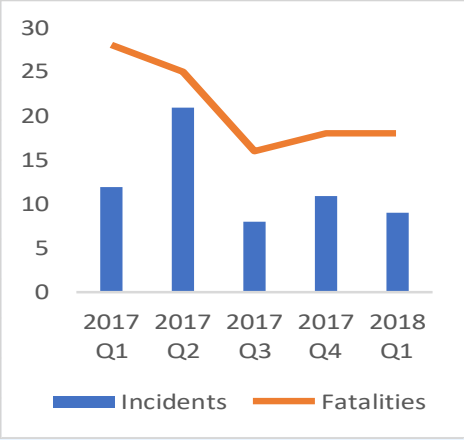
In January, two people, including a female octogenarian, were reportedly killed in a clash between two masquerade groups during a festival in Oguta LGA. Members of a masquerade cult attacked masquerades from another village to avenge their colleague's death during a masquerade festival. In March, there was a protest by residents of several communities in Okigwe LGA over incessant attacks by herdsmen in the area. The protesters called on the state governor to direct the Bureau for Peace and Conflict Resolution to investigate the activities of herdsmen in the LGA and their relationship with host communities.

Other Violence

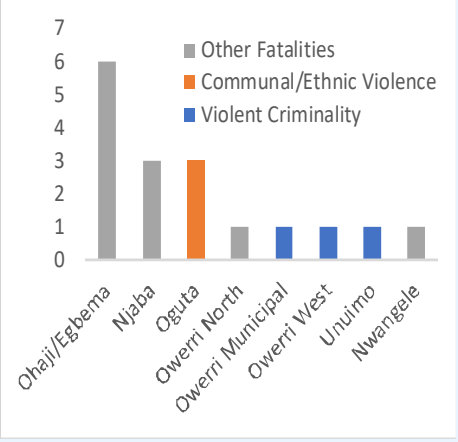
In January, the official residence of the Imo state deputy governor in Owerri, the state capital, was reportedly razed by fire. In March, two women reportedly stole a 5-year old girl and sold her to a 45-year old woman for three hundred and fifty thousand Naira in Owerri Municipal LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Ondo State

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Ondo state in Q1 2018. Based on reported incidents, Ondo was the second least violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. There has been a decrease in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in the state since Q4 2017, following a rise in lethal violence in Q3 2017. Conflict risk and violence in Q1 2018 were largely driven by communal conflict and criminality. Odigbo LGA had the highest level of lethal violence in the state during the quarter.

Communal Violence

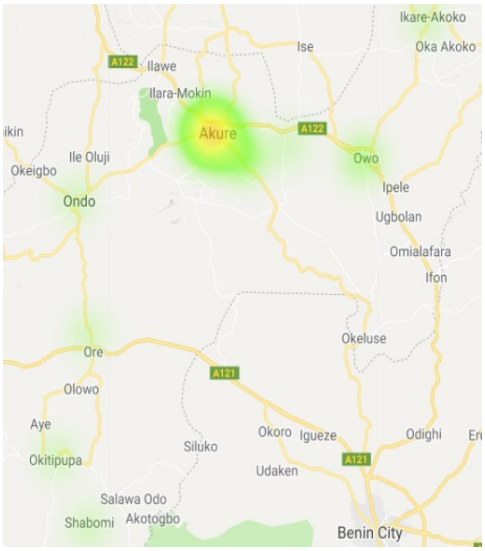
In January, tension between herdsmen and farmers was elevated in the state. In Akure South LGA, herdsmen reportedly attacked a farm belonging to a former Secretary to the Federal Government (SFG) and set it on fire. About five hectare of palm oil plantation was destroyed during the attack. In February, a local vigilante group reportedly arrested four herdsmen for criminality in Ese-Odo LGA. Weapons were recovered from the suspects. Separately, tension was reportedly heightened among residents of Akunu community, Akoko North East LGA, following the arrival of herdsmen in four trailer trucks. In Akure South LGA, over 30 herdsmen reportedly attacked the council secretariat and chased out officials following a confrontation between a staff and a herdsman. Also, in Akure South LGA, herdsmen reportedly attacked a farm belonging to the Speaker of the Ondo State House of Assembly, and destroyed a maize plantation.

Criminality

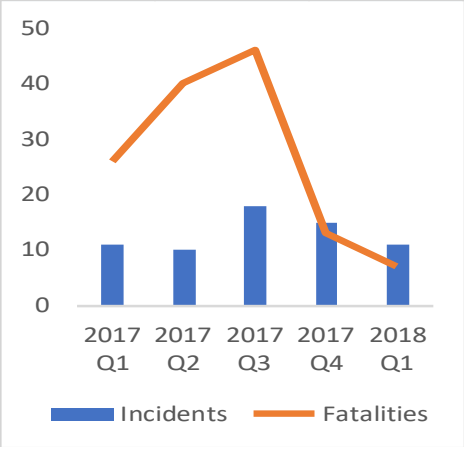
In January, members of a 10-man kidnapping/ robbery gang which included two soldiers, were reportedly arrested by the police in Owo LGA. A kidnapped victim was also rescued by the police. Separately, a hotel director and a guest were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Akoko South LGA. In another incident, a commercial bus driver was stabbed to death by a herdsman during a misunderstanding in Akure South LGA. In February, a couple reportedly kidnapped two of their landlady's children, a boy and girl, in Owo LGA. Separately, a 40-year old lawyer was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen in Akoko South LGA. The victim was waylaid and abducted while he was travelling in a commercial bus. The driver and other passengers were robbed by the kidnappers. In March, a 40-year old man reportedly killed and secretly buried his son in Akoko North East LGA. The man hit the boy with a plank for releasing his younger sibling who was tied up and locked in a room by his father as punishment.

Sexual Violence

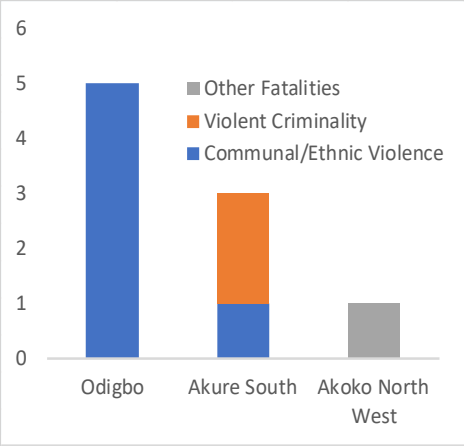
In March, a 17-year old male secondary school student was arrested for sodomizing an 8-year old boy in Akure South LGA. Separately, in Akure South LGA, a 35-year old male commercial bus driver was arrested for raping a 28-year old female student of a university in the state.



Incidents and Fatalities, Ondo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Ondo State (January-March 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Rivers State

There was a decrease in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers state in Q1 2018. However, based on reported fatalities, Rivers was the most violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Reported incidents of conflict risk and violence during the quarter were mainly related to criminality, cult violence, and communal tensions. Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state during the quarter.

Violent Criminality

In January, gunmen reportedly attacked a community and killed 22 residents who were returning from a night church service in Ogba/ Egbema/Ndoni LGA. The attack was believed to be targeted at members of a community vigilante group who destroyed a house belonging to the mother of a prominent criminal in the area. Separately, the police reportedly raided a hotel used by robbers as a hideout, and killed four suspects in Oyigbo LGA. In another incident, four people were reportedly killed by members of the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni (ONELGA) Security Planning Advisory Committee (OSPAC) in Ahoada West LGA. They were killed during a raid on their hideout by members of OSPAC. In February, the police reportedly arrested members of a gang of kidnappers that abducted the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a company in the state. The suspects included the son of a police officer and the driver of the abducted CEO.

Communal Tensions

In January, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash between Gwara and Gwure communities in Khana LGA. The clash reportedly resulted from a misunderstanding over a young Gwara girl that was allegedly abducted and raped by some Gwure youths. In March, there was a protest by residents of about six communities over the destruction of their land and poor amenities in their communities in Tai LGA. The protesters marched to the Rivers State Government House, and called on the Federal government to rebuild their land that was destroyed over 24 years ago.

Gang/Cult Violence

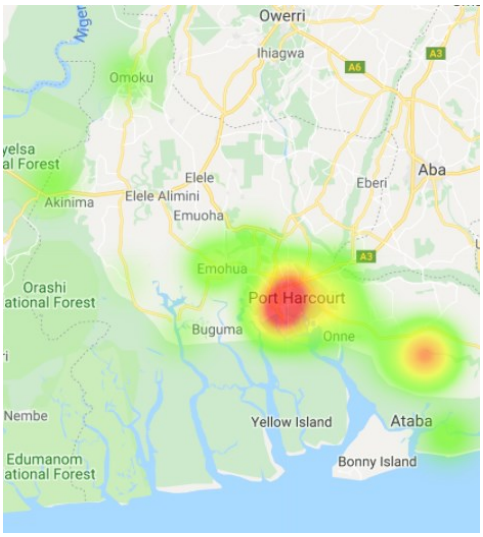
In January, seven people were reportedly killed during a gun battle between members of two rival cult groups in Andoni LGA.

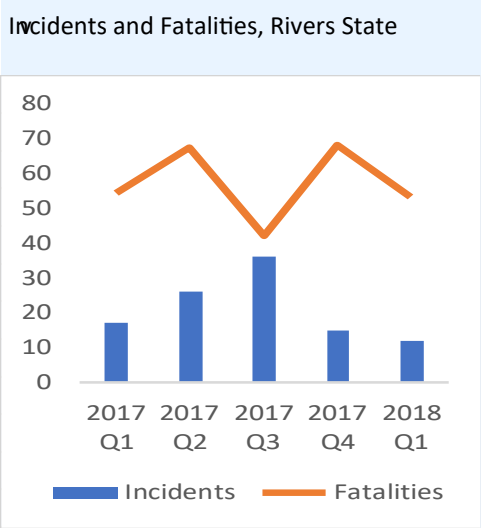
Protests

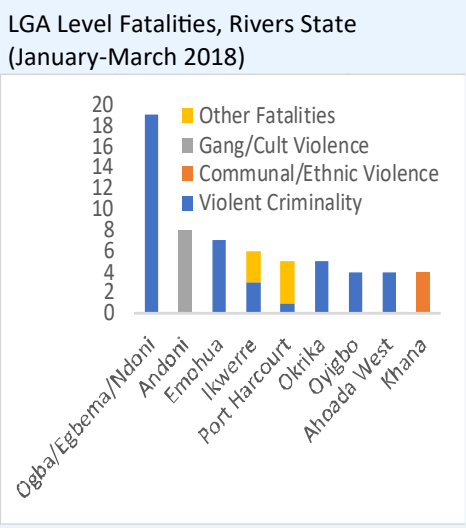
In February, there was a protest at the reception center of the Port Harcourt International Airport by a group of Nigerians who have been evacuated from Libya by the Nigerian government. The returnees protested over poor welfare at the center where they were camped, and delay by their various state governments to evacuate them. In March, youths protested against a noodle manufacturing company over issues relating to employment in Choba community, Obio/Akpor LGA. The protesting youths accused the company of casualization of workers, and threatened to shut down a factory belonging to the company in the area.

Other Violence

In January, a 19-year old girl was reportedly killed and her body dumped in a septic tank in Port Harcourt. Separately, a day-old baby that was reportedly dumped in a refuse bin in front of a church by the mother was found dead in Port Harcourt.







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About Us

PIND

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a not-for-profit organization that develops innovative partnerships for peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods in the Niger Delta. PIND has developed a Peace Map to bring together data on peace and conflict for validation, triangulation and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The Fund For Peace

The Fund for Peace (FFP) is an independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational organization founded over five decades ago, headquartered in Washington D.C. FFP works to prevent conflict and promote sustainable security by building relationships and trust across diverse sectors and by developing innovative technologies and tools.

The Projects

IPDU: The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND responds to emerging threats and mobilizes appropriate actors and resources for preventive interventions.

P4P: Partners for Peace (P4P) is a network of peace actors whose mission is to build social capital around peacebuilding by amplifying the voices of positive actors, and collaborating on activities for conflict early warning, management, and prevention.

Contact Us

Inquiries

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Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

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

Text: 080 9936 2222

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