# Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

#### April to June 2018

There was an increase in lethal violence in the Niger Delta in Q2 2018 (See page 2). Based on reported incidents, the conflict landscape remained largely unchanged in the second quarter of 2018, compared to the first quarter of the year. According to data uploaded to the P4P Peace Map (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org), criminality, communal conflict 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, political communal tensions. competition and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include piracy, militancy, cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping, election violence, sexual 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



Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta

Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported from April - June 2018 in the Niger Delta. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map <u>www.p4p-nigerdelta.org</u>

(https://ciepdcwc.crowdmap.com), the IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

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 — April to June 2018

There was an increase in the levels of lethal violence in the second quarter of 2018, compared to the trend in the first quarter of the year. Insecurity in the region in Q2 2018 was driven mainly by criminality, communal conflict, and gang violence.

Criminality was prevalent in the Niger Delta during the quarter, especially armed robbery 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, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers states. Gang/cult related violence decreased significantly at the regional level, but it was prevalent in some states, particularly Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, and 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 was widespread, resulting in over a hundred fatalities during the quarter, particularly in Cross River, Abia and Akwa Ibom states. Political violence, labor strikes/protests, mob violence, human trafficking and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) were also prevalent during the period. Based on reported fatalities, Akwa Ibom was the most violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. The most violent LGAs during the quarter were Arochukwu (Abia), Itu (Akwa Ibom), Oron (Akwa Ibom), Yenagoa (Bayelsa), Port Harcourt (Rivers), Emohua (Rivers), Ughelli North (Delta), Southern Ijaw (Bayelsa), Calabar Municipal (Cross River), and Akure North (Ondo).

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 (Q2 2017 - Q2 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.p4pnigerdelta.org

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

There was an increase in lethal violence in Abia state in Q2 2018. Arochukwu LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence during the quarter. Reported incidents during the quarter included communal conflict, criminality, and ethnonationalism. Many incidents during this period involved Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

#### **Communal Conflict**

In April, 30 people were reportedly killed in a clash over a boundary dispute between Isu community in Arochukwu LGA, Abia state and Utuma community in Biase LGA, Cross River state. The clash was triggered by the discovery of limestone in the disputed land by a construction company.

#### Criminality

In April, hoodlums reportedly broke into a secondary school and robbed students in Aba South LGA. Over 40 students sustained injuries during the attack. In May, a 24-year old man was arrested by the police for killing a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Ukwa West LGA. In June, soldiers reportedly rescued a pastor and a nursing mother during a raid on the hideout of kidnappers in Osisioma Ngwa LGA. A female member of the gang was arrested. Separately, soldiers reportedly arrested three kidnapping suspects, rescued a victim and recovered ammunition in Aba South.

#### Ethno-nationalism

In May, eight supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) were reportedly arrested by the police in Aba South LGA. The arrested was reportedly in connection with IPOB's declaration of 30th May 2018 as a sit-at-home day. Separately, over 50 supporters of the Biafra Independence Movement (BIM) were reportedly arrested by the police in Osisioma Ngwa LGA.

#### Other Incidents

In April, several persons were reported injured during a clash between factions of the All Progressives Congress (APC) over the control of the party's secretariat in Umuahia, the state capital. In a separate incident, a community woman leader was reportedly stripped and paraded by a mob over allegation of witchcraft practices in Umuneochi LGA. Also, in April, a couple were arrested for selling their baby girl in Umuahia South LGA.



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

There was an increase in reported conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom state in Q2 2018. Based on reported fatalities, Akwa Ibom was the most violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Itu LGA had the highest levels of conflict risk and lethal violence during the period. Reported incidents during the quarter included communal conflict, criminality, and cult violence.

#### Communal Conflict

In May, 30 fishermen were reportedly killed during renewed clash over boundary dispute between Oku-Iboku community in Itu LGA. Akwa Ibom state and neighboring Ikot Offiong community in Odukpani LGA, Cross River state.

#### Violent Criminality

In April, the police reportedly killed the leader of a criminal gang that was responsible for several killings, kidnappings, rape and arsons in Etim Ekpo and Ukanafun LGAs. Separately, a 50-year old man was reportedly killed by gunmen at his farm in

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Ukanafun LGA. In a separate incident, two brothers were arrested by the police for killing their brother over allegation of witchcraft practices in Ibesikpo Asutan LGA. In June, an official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Ukanafun LGA. The kidnappers later demanded a 10-million Naira ransom.

In June, several incidents of criminality were reported in Etim Ekpo LGA. Gunmen reportedly attacked a commercial bus conveying people to a funeral and killed three. A 65-year old man was reportedly killed by gunmen for allegedly working as an informant for the police. The gunmen exchanged gunfire with the police in the area before they chased the deceased to his home and killed him. Hoodlums reportedly attacked a church and abducted a clergyman and two elders. Also, in Etim Ekpo, hoodlums reportedly attacked a female hostel in a university and abducted three girls.

#### Gang/Cult Violence

In June, three were reportedly killed in a renewed battle for supremacy between members of Vikings and Black Axe rival cult groups in Eket LGA.

#### Other Violence

In April, three robbers were reportedly burned to death by a mob in Itu LGA. In May, a patrol vehicle belonging to the Nigeria customs Service (NCS) was reportedly set ablaze by a mob over the death of a commercial motorcyclist and two passengers in Oron LGA. The crash was allegedly caused by operatives of NCS who shot at a vehicle that was conveying bags of rice. Also, in May, two suspected child traffickers were arrested by the police for abducting and selling a 5-year old girl in Eket LGA. The suspects confessed to have sold the girl for three hundred thousand Naira in Uyo, the state capital.





#### LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (April-June 2018)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org PARTNERS FOR PEACE 1 FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA I THE FUND FOR PEACE

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

There has been a rise in lethal violence in Bayelsa state since the fourth quarter of 2017. There was no significant change in the levels of lethal violence in Q2 2018, compared to Q1 2018. Bayelsa was the third most violent state in the Niger Delta during the period. Yenagoa LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state during the quarter. Reported incidents included criminality, cult violence, and militancy. Many incidents during this period involved Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

#### Violent Criminality

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In April, a 23-year old robber was reportedly killed during a gun battle between the police and his gang in Yenagoa LGA. One of the robbers, a 22year old male, was injured during the incident, and later confessed that they are members of a cult group, the Bobos. In May, an aide to the Bayelsa state governor was killed by assassins in Kaiama, Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA. The victim was ambushed and shot in front of his house. Separately, a helipad belonging to the Nigerian Airforce was reportedly attacked by gunmen in Yenagoa LGA. An airman was shot dead during a shootout between the gunmen and Airforce personnel at the facility. In another incident, two women who were abducted by kidnappers were rescued by the police in Yenagoa LGA. In June, pirates reportedly attacked an oil flow station and killed three soldiers in Ekeremor LGA. One of the pirates was killed during a gun battle with the soldiers.

### Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In April, a 22-year old girl was reportedly raped by two men in Yenagoa LGA. In May, operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) rescued two girls, aged 16 and 27, who were allegedly forced into prostitution in Ghana by a human trafficking syndicate in Yenagoa LGA. In June, a female member of the national Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was reportedly robbed and raped by hoodlums in Yenagoa LGA.



In April, a cultists stabbed a commercial tricycle operator to death in an attempt to rob him in Yenagoa LGA. In June, three were reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult groups in Odi community, Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA.

#### Militancy

In June, seven people, including a nursing mother and her 6-month old baby girl, were reportedly killed during a clash between militants and soldiers in Nembe LGA.

#### Other Violence

In May, three were reported killed and several others injured during a clash between security operatives and protesting community youths and women, over employment issues and the closure of a state-owned university in Amassoma, Southern Ijaw LGA.





Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State

LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (April-June 2018)



#### Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk - Cross River State

There was an increase in lethal violence in Cross River state in Q2 2018. Odukpani and Calabar Municipal LGAs had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state during the quarter. Conflict issues in the state during the quarter were driven mainly by inter-communal tensions over land disputes, criminality, and cult violence.

#### **Communal Violence**

Several persons were reportedly killed in clashes over land and boundary disputes in the state during the quarter. In May, eleven people, mainly women and children, were reportedly killed during renewed clashes over a boundary dispute between Ikot Offiong community in Odukpani LGA, Cross River state and Oku-Iboku community in Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom state. The clashes resulted in destruction of houses, property, and displacement of over 2,000 people. In June, 15 people were reportedly killed in renewed hostilities over a land dispute between Ukele community in Yala LGA, Cross River state and Igbeagu community in Izzi LGA, Ebonyi state. Animals, farmland and property were destroyed during the hostilities. A few days



before the clashes, a woman was reportedly shot in the farm and several others sustained gunshot wounds.

#### Violent Criminality

In April, a female drug peddler was reportedly killed by her gang members for betraying them in Calabar Municipal LGA. Separately, three robbers were reportedly burned to death by a mob in Bekwarra LGA. In May, a 21-year old student of the University of Calabar was killed by robbers in Calabar South LGA. In June, a businessman was reportedly shot dead by robbers at his residence in Calabar South LGA.

#### Gang/Cult Violence

In May, a male staff of the University of Calabar was reportedly shot dead by operatives of an anticultism squad over his involvement in cult related violence in Calabar Municipal LGA. In June, seven people were reportedly killed in renewed supremacy battle between rival cult groups in Calabar Municipal LGA. The gang war started after a gang leader was killed in reprisal by a rival cult

Incidents and Fatalities, Cross River State Quarterly Trends



member that was earlier attacked. Separately, six were reportedly killed at different locations in Calabar South LGA by rival Vikings and Klans cult members.

### Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In addition to the impact of communal conflict and criminality on women and girls detailed above, sexual violence was also reported during this period. In April, a 48-year old man reportedly rapped his 12-year old housemaid in Calabar Municipal LGA. Separately, a 25-year old man reportedly defiled a 9-year old girl in Calabar Municipal.

#### Other Violence

In May, a woman was reportedly killed by a stray bullet and 10 others were shot during the All Progressives Congress primary election in Yakurr LGA. In June, six people including a woman and her three children were reportedly killed in series of fire outbreaks caused by adulterated kerosene in Calabar Municipal LGA.

#### LGA Level Fatalities, Cross River (April-June 2018)



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

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#### Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk - Delta State

There was no significant change in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Delta state in Q2 2018, compared to the trend since Q2 2017. Delta was the second most violent state in the Niger Delta during the period. Udu, followed by Ughelli North and Ethiope East LGAs had the highest numbers of reported lethal violence during the quarter. Reported incidents included communal violence, criminality and cult violence.

#### **Communal Violence**

In April, a man was reportedly killed by herdsmen at the farm in Onicha-Olona community, Aniocha North LGA. In May, two men were reportedly killed during a leadership tussle in Owevwen community, Ughelli North LGA. In a reprisal, gunmen invaded the same community, killed a young man and injured four others. In June, there was heightened tension over a leadership tussle in Abala-Unor clan in Ndokwa East LGA. The tussle for the traditional leadership of the clan resulted in the destruction of property.

#### Violent Criminality

In April, a politician was reportedly shot by assassins in Isoko South LGA. Separately, the severed head of a man was found on the street in



Uzere community, Isoko South LGA. In May, the chairman of the Delta State Butchers Association was reportedly killed by hoodlums at a market in Sapele LGA. Separately, kidnappers reportedly abducted and killed a former local government councilor after collecting a five hundred thousand Naira ransom from his family in Ethiope East LGA. In June, a traditional ruler was reportedly abducted by herdsmen in Aniocha North LGA. The kidnappers demanded a 15-million Naira ransom, and threatened to kill the monarch if the ransom is not paid.

Criminality was a key driver of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the state during this period. In May, for instance, the wife of a special adviser to the Delta state governor was reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Oshimili South LGA.

#### Cult Violence

In April, a 26-year old man was reportedly killed by cultists in Ndokwa West LGA. The victim was a nephew to the chairman of the community's vigilante group. In May, a young man was reportedly killed by cultists at a drinking spot in Ughelli North LGA. In June, three were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult groups in Ovwian/Aladja communities in Udu LGA. The clash

Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State



### Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, sexual violence was also reported during this period. In June, a 13-year old girl was reportedly raped by a 73-year old man in Warri South LGA.

#### Other Violence

In May, a male aspirant for the All Progressives Congress (APC) ward chairmanship position was reportedly killed during the party's ward congress in Ughelli South LGA. In June, there was a protest by human rights activists over the killing of their colleague by the police in Uvwie LGA. The police alleged that the deceased was a member of a robbery gang and was killed during a shootout. Members of the human rights group claimed that the deceased was not a robber but a responsible businessman and a member of the human rights committee in the area.



### LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (April-June 2018)



#### Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk - Edo State

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Edo state in Q2 2018. Based on reported fatalities, Edo was the least violent state in the Niger Delta during the period. Etsako East, followed by Oredo LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence and conflict risk in the state during the period. Incidents reported during the quarter were mainly related to violent criminality, communal conflict, and human trafficking.

#### Violent Criminality

Several incidents of criminality were reported in the state during the quarter. In April, thugs reportedly attacked a community and killed a 42year old man in Ikpoba Okha LGA. Separately, a herdsman who reportedly doubled as a kidnapper was arrested by the police in Benin City, Oredo LGA. An AK-47 riffle and ammunition were recovered from the suspect. In another incident, a bricklayer was reportedly shot by his male contractor over missing bags of cement in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In June, a former lecturer at a college of education in the state was reportedly killed by gunmen at his residence in Benin City, the



state capital. Separately, a popular male musician was reportedly shot dead by robbers at his residence in Benin City.

#### **Communal Violence**

In April, one person was reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Amagba and Obagie N-evbuosa villages in Ikpoba Okha LGA. In May, 14 communities in Ovia South-West LGA of the state reportedly petitioned the Federal Government over alleged encroachment of their lands by a company located in the area. Tension was heightened following claims by the company that it purchased the land from the leaders of the communities.

#### Human Trafficking

In May, operatives of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in Edo state reportedly arrested a 56-year old woman for recruiting and trafficking young girls for prostitution. The suspect allegedly recruited two girls, aged 18, and procured international passports and visas for them to travel to Russia as sex workers.

### Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, sexual violence was also reported during the period. In April, a 10-year old girl was reportedly raped by a 50-year old man and his 16-year old son in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

#### **Other Violence**

In May, supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state reportedly protested over alleged harassment of a PDP senator by suspected supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at the Benin Airport. In June, a female Special Assistant (SA) to the Edo state governor was reportedly beaten by some local government officials over an allegation of disloyalty to the chairman of the council in Esan West LGA.



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State (April-June 2018)



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

There was an increase in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Imo state in the second quarter of 2018, compared to the first quarter of the year. Based on reported fatalities, Imo was one of the least violent states in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Owerri Municipal LGA had the highest number of reported incidents of lethal violence in the state during the period. Conflict risk and violence during the quarter were mainly driven by criminality, gang/cult violence, communal violence, and political tensions.

#### Violent Criminality

In April, a former commissioner in the state was reportedly kidnapped by hoodlums in Owerri, the state capital. In May, a 31-year old man was reportedly killed by his cousin during a scuffle in Isiala Mbano LGA. In June, a 17-year old boy was reportedly beaten to death by his relatives during a disagreement in Oru LGA. The deceased was beaten to death by his brothers and some cultists in the area.

#### Gang/Cult Violence

In May, four students of the Imo State University (IMSU) were reportedly killed in a clash between



members of Aiye and Bagger confraternities in Owerri, the state capital. Separately, a cult leader was reportedly shot dead by a naval officer in Owerri North LGA. In June, cultists reportedly killed a pastor at his farm in Awara community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

#### **Political Tensions**

In May, tension was reportedly heightened in the state following disagreement over the outcome of the ward congress of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state. Some youth loyal to a faction of the state executive of the party besieged and threatened to burn down the party's secretariat in Owerri, the state capital. Following the disputed outcome of the ward congress, some youth burned down houses and injured some persons in Oguta LGA.

#### **Communal Violence**

In May, a man was reportedly killed by gunmen in his house over a land dispute with his kinsmen in Oguta LGA. In June, a traditional ruler was reportedly assassinated in Orlu LGA. The killing was alleged to be related to political tensions and a dispute over land in the community. Separately,

Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State

women protested at the Imo State Government House in Owerri, the state capital, over frequent attacks by herdsmen in the area. The protesters called on the state government to stop the destruction of their farmlands by herders.

#### Protests

In April, some persons with disabilities (PWDs) barricaded the entrance to the state government house in protest over vehicle branding charges in Owerri, the state capital. In May, there was a protest by villagers over an alleged plan by the state government to demolish a community market in Mbaise LGA. Separately, residents of a community in Okigwe LGA, protested over the release of a prominent kidnapper by the police. The news of the release of the kidnapper created anxiety among residents.

#### **Other Violence**

In April, three brothers, aged, 2, 3 and 5 years, were found dead in an abandoned car in a village in Unuimo LGA. The children were reportedly trapped and suffocated inside the vehicle while their parents were away.







#### Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk - Ondo State

There was an increase in conflict risk and lethal violence in Ondo state in Q2 2018. Based on reported incidents, Ondo was the second least violent state in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Conflict risk and violence in Q2 2018 were largely driven by criminality and communal conflict. Akure North LGA had the highest levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in the state during the period.

#### Criminality

Several incidents of criminality were reported in the state during the quarter. In April, three male travelers were reportedly abducted from their vehicle in Odigbo LGA. Separately, two officials of Akure North LGA were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ose LGA. In May, a commercial motorcycle rider was reportedly beheaded by four ritualists in Akoko North East LGA. In June, the wife of a monarch was reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Akoko North East LGA. Separately, a 50-year old male teacher was reportedly kidnapped in Akoko North East LGA. In another incident, a 45-year old native doctor was



reportedly beaten to death by his wife's siblings in Akoko South East LGA. The man was beaten over alleged maltreatment of his wife. Also, in June, three people were reported killed by cultists in Akure South LGA.

#### **Communal Violence**

In April, tension was reportedly heightened in Arogbo-Ijaw community in Ese-Odo LGA over the installation of a new monarch. Separately, a woman reportedly died during a clash between Yoruba and Hausa residents in Sabo, Akure North LGA. The woman slumped and died of shock while she was searching for her son at the scene of the clash.

# Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

Criminality and communal conflict were key drivers of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) during the period. In May, for instance, a 19-year old girl was reportedly stabbed to death



### by a 25-year old man during a disagreement in Akure North LGA.

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, sexual violence was also reported during the period. In May, a 42-year old man was reportedly arrested for raping his neighbor's 10-year old daughter in Akure South LGA. Separately, two under-aged girls were reportedly raped and tortured by five young men in Ondo West LGA. The wife of one of the suspects later abducted the teenage girls and took them to Lagos state for prostitution in June 2018.

#### Other Violence

In June, a 13-year old pupil was reportedly killed by a stray bullet fired by a soldier who was maintaining order during a cultural display by some Fulani men in Akoko North West LGA. Separately, two siblings, aged 2 and 4, were reportedly burned to death by fire at their home in Akure South LGA.





#### Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk - Rivers State

There has been a decrease in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers state since Q1 2018. Based on reported fatalities, Rivers was less violent in Q2 2018, compared to Q1 when it was the most violent state in the Niger Delta. Reported incidents of conflict risk and violence during the quarter were mainly related to criminality, cult violence, communal and political violence. Port Harcourt LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the state during the quarter.

#### Violent Criminality

In April, four residents including two teenage girls and two men were reportedly killed by hoodlums in Ogbakiri, Emohua LGA. Separately, pirates reportedly attacked a boat and killed three including a prominent chief and his son in Akuku-Toru LGA. In May, five policemen were reportedly killed by gunmen at different locations in Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, one person was reportedly killed in Port Harcourt LGA during an assassination attempt on the paramount ruler of a kingdom in Okrika LGA. The king was in Port Harcourt for a traditional function when he was attacked by gunmen who shot sporadically at his entourage. The deceased was in the entourage of the king. In June, kidnappers reportedly abducted, killed and buried a male senior staff of the

Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in Oyigbo LGA. The kidnapper killed the victim and collected a ransom.

#### Gang/Cult Violence

In April, two people were reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult groups in Rundele community, Emohua LGA. The clash occurred during a cultural hunting expedition. Following the clash, a group of cultists invaded the community and kidnapped a chief. The chief was released after a 1 million Naira ransom was paid to the kidnappers. In May, three people were reportedly killed during a clash between rival Icelander and Degbam cult groups in Emohua LGA. In June, cultists reportedly attacked the home town of a federal minister and former governor of Rivers state and disrupted a community market and a political rally in Ubima community, Ikwerre LGA.

#### **Communal Violence**

In April, five people including a pregnant woman were reportedly killed and 15 others injured during a clash between people from Andoni and Bonny LGAs. Youth from one of the LGAs attacked a fishing settlement occupied by indigenes of the other LGA and shot sporadically. Seventeen residents were declared missing after the attack.

Criminality and communal conflict were key drivers of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the state during the period.

# Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, sexual violence was also reported during the period. In May, a 41-year old man was reportedly remanded in prison for defiling his four daughters, aged between 2 and 17 years, in Port Harcourt. Separately, a 33-year old woman was reportedly stabbed to death by her husband during a disagreement in Asari-Toru LGA.

#### **Other Violence**

In May, a soldier was reportedly killed by a policeman at a security checkpoint in Obio/Akpor LGA. Soldiers attacked a police station in reprisal, and maltreated some policemen and civilians. Separately, a jetty, boats and other marine equipment were destroyed by a fire reportedly caused by illegal oil bunkering in Obio/Akpor LGA.



#### 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 multistakeholder 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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#### 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