

# Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

## Rivers State: April-May 2019

### Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns and trends in conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback and input for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

### Patterns and Trends February-April 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was an increase in lethal violence in Rivers state in April 2019. Based on reported incidents (see Figure 2), Rivers had the highest number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period. Reported incidents included political and cult violence, sexual and domestic violence, and criminality including kidnapping for ransom.

**Political Violence:** In February, four people were reportedly killed in a stampede during a political rally in a stadium in Port Harcourt LGA. In March, political thugs reportedly killed two people and hijacked voting materials during elections in Akinima community, Ahoada West LGA. Separately, one person was reportedly killed in a clash between rival cult groups supporting different political parties during elections in Omerelu community, Ikwerre LGA. In another incident, six persons were reportedly killed by gunmen during elections in Khana LGA. Also in Khana LGA, a polytechnic lecturer was reportedly shot by security operatives during the elections in Bori community. The lecturer later died in the hospital.

**Cult Violence:** In March, a young man was reportedly burned to death during a clash between two rival cult groups in Alakahia, Obio/Akpor LGA. In April, several incidents of

cult violence were reported in the state. Cultists reportedly killed eight people in a reprisal in Mgbuodobia community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Five reportedly killed in Rumueche and Rumuohia communities, Emohua LGA. One reportedly killed during a gun battle between cultists and the police in Choba community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Four reportedly beheaded and three others killed by cultists in Aluu community, Ikwerre LGA. Seven reportedly killed during a clash between two rival cult groups in Ibaa and Egbeda communities, Emohua LGA.

**Violent Criminality:** In March, gunmen in military uniform reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, killed three soldiers and injured several others in Abonema, Akuku-Toru LGA. Separately, a woman was reportedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Andoni LGA. In another incident, the police reportedly killed two kidnappers during a gun duel and rescued a victim in Ogbodo Isiokpo forest, Ikwerre LGA. In April, seven people including a police officer were

reportedly killed by gunmen in Kaani Babbe community, Khana LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly kidnapped four staff members of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and shot another in Abua-Odual LGA.

**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 March, for instance, robbers who double as cultists reportedly raped some married women and young girls during a robbery operation at Afikpo Waterfront in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA. In April, a 46-year old man reportedly killed his wife during a disagreement in Rumuigbo, Port Harcourt LGA.

### Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2019

Reported incidents during the month mainly related to cult violence and criminality.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State

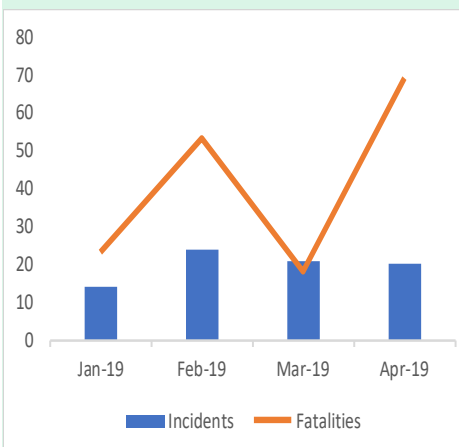
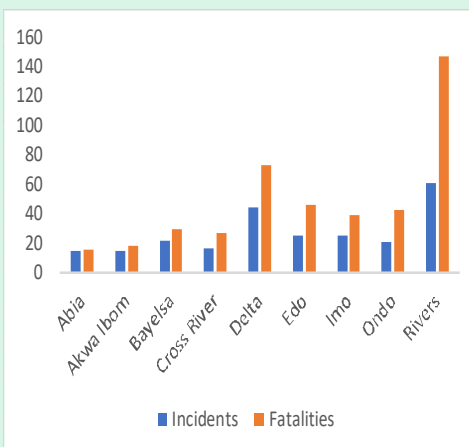


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (January - April 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from January – April 2019 in Rivers State and regional trends.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

**Cult Violence:** During the month, several people were reportedly killed in rival cult clashes in different locations in the state. For instance, 14 people were reportedly killed and many houses destroyed during a reprisal by members of the Icelanders cult group in Kono Boue and Gbam Boue communities in khana LGA. Separately, suspected cultists reportedly killed two people in Isiodu community, Emohua LGA.

**Criminality:** Gunmen reportedly killed a local chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Port Harcourt. The victim was killed at his home. Separately, gunmen reportedly attacked a community and killed a resident in Bori, Khana LGA.

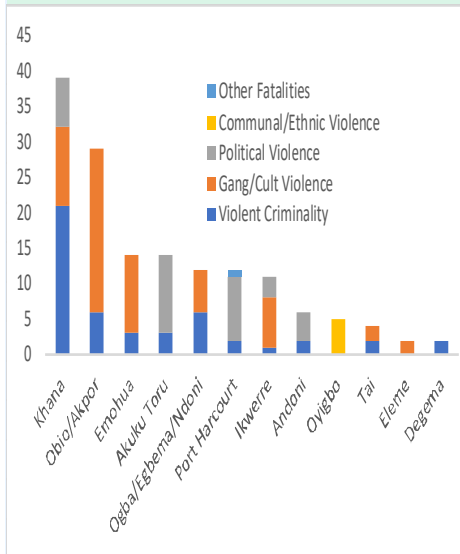
## Prognosis

Conflict risk and lethal violence in Rivers state during this period were driven mainly by political and election violence, cult violence, sexual and domestic violence, and criminality including kidnapping for ransom. Peace Agents should monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

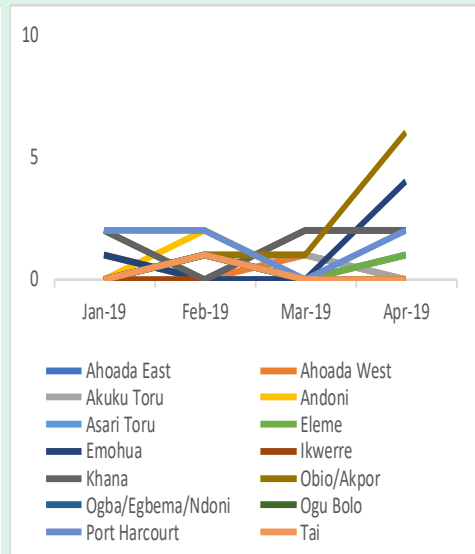
## Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is anything missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issues are a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 6 months that could escalate this conflict?
4. Who are the key stakeholders that have influence on the conflict?
5. What will you do to help mitigate the conflict in the short, medium, and long term?

**Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (February - April 2019)**

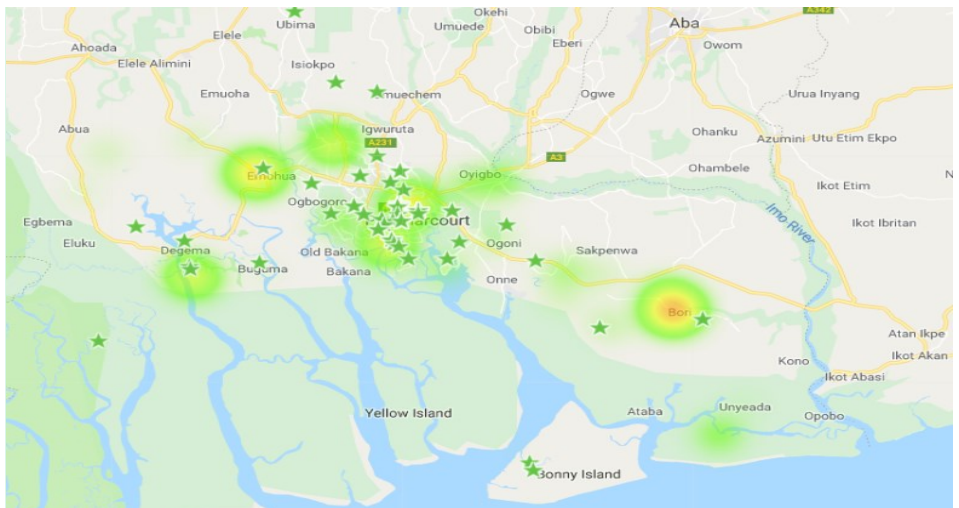


**Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA**



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Khana, followed by Obio/Akpor, had the highest number of reported fatalities. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

**Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Rivers State**



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from February – April 2019 in Rivers; with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.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

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description

Contact Us



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