

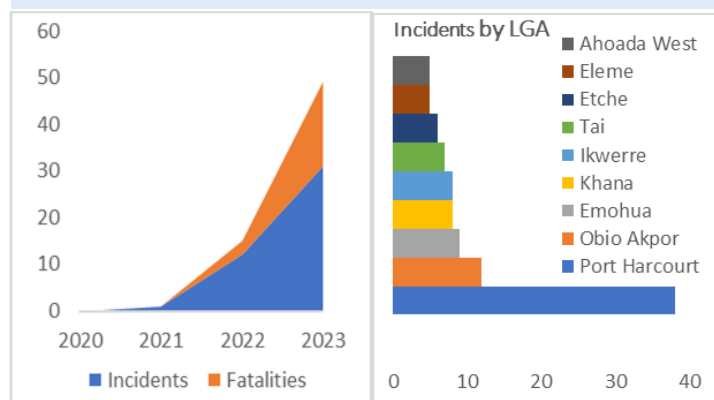
# Niger Delta Weekly: De-escalating Rising Political Tensions in Rivers State

June 16-22, 2024

## Background

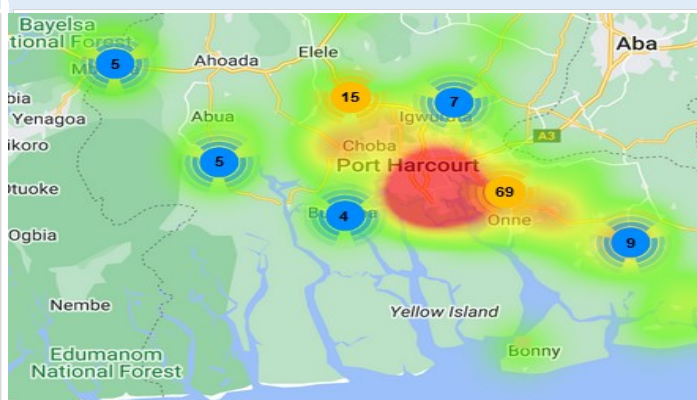
This weekly update spotlights political violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on rising political tensions in Rivers State. Politics in the Niger Delta is a high state affair, often characterized by violence. According to data (see map below), more than 100 incidents of political violence were reported in Rivers State between January 2020 and March 2024. Recent incidents indicate rising political tensions over power tussle between political actors in the State. In June 2024, for instance, many incidents of violence, including clashes between supporters of two factions of a political party, were reported at different locations in Port Harcourt and Ikwerre LGAs. Recently, on June 18, 2024, two persons including a police officer and a member of a vigilante group were reportedly killed during clashes between supporters of different political groups over the tenure of the chairpersons of local government council in Eberi-Omuma community, Omuma LGA. Also, on June 18, 2024, a youth leader was reportedly ambushed and killed by suspected members of a cult gang who double as political thugs along Ula-Upata Road in Ahoada East LGA.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Patterns of Political Violence in Rivers State



Data shows that Port Harcourt LGA had the highest incidents of political violence in the State during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Incidents Heat Map of Political Violence in Rivers State, Nigeria



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

## Why it Matters

The current political situation in Rivers State is highly charged with several reported incidents of violent protests and vandalism. If not de-escalated, the situation could intensify in ways that could trigger a series of politically motivated violence and clashes between rival cult gangs. This could also take on different communal and criminal dimensions that could dangerously impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. This could bring about far-reaching socio-economic, political and security consequences in the State.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on historical data and recent trends, the current political situation could escalate and intersect with organized criminality and communal conflicts in the State. Stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders, should collaborate with the government and the relevant security agencies to device appropriate measures to de-escalate the situation. This should include measures to defuse tensions through the facilitation of dialogue between the major political actors in the conflict.

## Contact Us

Inquiries: [PINDfoundation.org](http://PINDfoundation.org)

Contacts: [info@PINDfoundation.org](mailto:info@PINDfoundation.org) +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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## Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



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