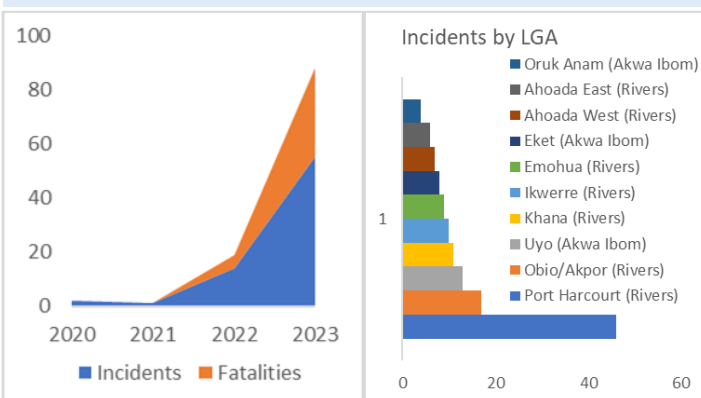


September 22-28, 2024

## Background

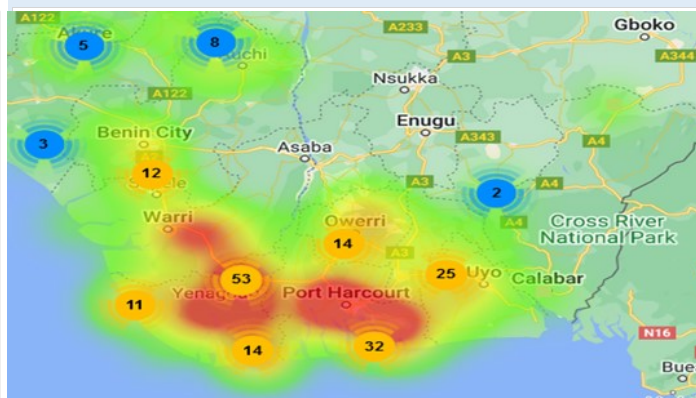
This special edition of the weekly update spotlights election violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on the forthcoming October 05, 2024 local government elections in Akwa Ibom and Rivers States. Generally, elections in the Niger Delta are highly competitive, often characterized by violence. According to data (see map below), over 420 incidents of election violence and more than 150 fatalities were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2020 and June 2024. Recent elections in Rivers State have been marred by violence, especially governorship and local elections. In the lead-up to the upcoming local elections, political tensions have seemingly intensified in Akwa Ibom and Rivers States. In June 2024, for instance, two persons, including a police officer, were reportedly killed during clashes between supporters of different political groups over the tenure of local government chairpersons in Omuma LGA, Rivers State. In July, the chieftains of a major political party were reportedly attacked and injured by political thugs during a meeting to choose a candidate ahead of the local council elections in Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom State.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Election Violence in Akwa Ibom and Rivers States



Data shows that Port Harcourt in Rivers State had the highest incidents of election related violence 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 Election-related Violence in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of election-related violence in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The political situation in Akwa Ibom and Rivers State is seemingly highly charged ahead of the forthcoming local government elections, including power tussle between political actors. The situation has the potential to intensify and cause violence and irregularities during the elections, especially against the backdrop of the recent Supreme Court ruling that granted financial autonomy to local governments in the country. Violence and irregularities during the elections could adversely affect the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the region.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on historical trends and recent data, the political situation could escalate and intersect with communal tensions and organized criminality. Peace actors, including civil society organizations should collaborate with the government and relevant security agencies to de-escalate the situation. Stakeholders should continue to promote non-violent electioneering process through popular media outlets and forums. This should include measures to reduce fake news and misinformation, and facilitate dialogue between key political actors.

## Contact Us

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What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)

## 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.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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