



Taws of death



INCIDENTS
OF ATROCITY IN RIVERS STATE
NOV. 2019 - FEB. 2020

NOVEMBER 2019

On the 9th of November, suspected sea pirates killed 2 persons at Bille, Degema Local Government Area. According to sources, the gunmen accosted their victims along the Port Harcourt-Degema waterways that were in three passenger boats, dispossessed them of their valuables, stole their boats and left them stranded at the creek. The gunmen then opened fire on men in a rescue boat that had come to rescue the stranded passengers and killed 2 of them, and injuring others. The state police command could not confirm the incident.



On the 21st of November 2019, 34-year old Miss Charity Ohaka, a native of Ogbakiri in Emohua Local Government Area, was killed in her apartment in Rumuosi, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. Charity was reported missing on the said day but her already decomposing corpse was later found with hands and legs tied together with a heavy block in a well few metres away from her house. It is believed that her assailants had gained access to her apartment through the ceiling and killed her before dumping her in the well. After the discovery, youths in the area went on a rampage, protesting and vandalizing properties. Police later restored calm in the area and promised to launch an investigation into the incident. Before her untimely demise, Miss Charity collected daily thrift contributions from traders, popularly known as "akawo" in the area.



DECEMBER 2019

On the 9th of December, Miss Matilda Mark Otonyo, a student of the Rivers State University, was stabbed to death in her off-campus apartment close to Eagle Island, in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. She was found in a pool of her blood after her assailant(s) delivered multiple knife blows on her head and parts of her neck. The Rivers State Police Command confirmed the incident, made some arrests and promised to carry out full scale investigation into the matter. Matilda was a 24-year old final year student of the Department of Law in the Rivers State University.



On the 10th of December, gunmen attacked and killed 6 people at Okomoko and Egwi Communities in Etche Local Government Area. The gunmen pounced on local drinking bars, forcing their victims to lie face-down. They later shot some of them after "discovering them to be criminals", went away with the bodies and disposed them off at Otamiri River at Chokocho. Sources say the gunmen were members of the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Security and Peace Advisory Committee (OSPAC), a local security outfit set up by Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Council to tackle security issues in the local government. The Disciplinary Commander of the group, however, dissociated its members from the attack, claiming that its activities did not cover other local governments, hence its men were not involved. The incident sparked series of protests from youth groups and police who had come to restore order in the area. The State Police Command acknowledged the incident and claimed to have recovered only 5 corpses. Mr. Nnochiri Kingdom Alozie and Otamiri Ugochukwu were among the victims of the attack.



On the 23rd of December, Mr. Chima Ikwunado, died in police custody at the Mile 1 Police Station in Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt Local Government Area. Chima, an automobile mechanic at the popular Ikoku Spare Parts Market in Port Harcourt, alongside four of his colleagues, was arrested for driving against traffic on the 19th of December, 2019 by men of the Eagle-Crack Team attached to the Mile 1 Police Station. The two cars in which Chima and his colleagues were arrested in were cars they had finished repairing for their customers, and were only test-running them before the arrest. The police accused them of car theft and armed robbery even though no incriminating item was found on them. Despite pleas from one of the owners of the cars who had come to the station and identified his car, Chima and his colleagues, and told the police they were not criminals but his mechanics, the police refused to let them go. It was later confirmed (by the lawyer who was hired by Chima's family) that Chima had died of torture in police custody. For his colleagues, they were remanded at Port Harcourt Correctional Centre (Prison) after they were charged for armed robbery and car theft. In response to the whole saga, the Police said their autopsy result showed that Chima died as a result of high sugar concentration in his bloodstream. After pressure from civil society groups and other stakeholders, a second autopsy was ordered which showed Chima was tortured to death in police custody. Chima's colleagues have been released, and litigation is ongoing.



JANUARY 2020

On the 6th of January, 4 persons were killed in Rumuodogo 1 in Emohua Local Government Area. The casualties include members of Runedele Odugo Security Peace Adversary Committee (ROSPAC) and a motorcycle rider. Local sources said that three members of ROSPAC who were being conveyed to Rumuodogo by a motorcycle rider were killed by suspected gang members. Some hoodlums had been declared wanted by members of ROSPAC for refusing to embrace peace in the Community. The attack is believed to have been carried out by the hoodlums on members of the local vigilante leading to the death of 3 ROSPAC members and the rider. The assailants also torched the motorcycle used for patrol by the local vigilante after killing them.



On the 7th of January, a man identified as Ewuyezi and another young man identified as Marshall were killed in what appears to be a reprisal attack at Rumuji, Emohua Local Governemnet Area. Mr Ewuyezi is said to be the Chief Priest of Rumuji Community. He was alleged to have been killed by members of Runedele Odugo Security Peace Adversary Committee (ROSPAC) for "sponsoring" some hoodlums who attacked and killed 3 of their members. Marshall was alleged to be an informant to gang members in the community. Reports say that after the corpses of the murdered local vigilantes were brought back to their camp at Rumuji, some individuals invaded the home of Mr. Ewuzeoyi and killed him. Marshall was killed in a separate attack within the community. The State Police Command could not confirm the incident.



On Sunday, 12th January, suspected armed robbers shot and killed a personnel of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Mgbushi, Rukpokwu Community in the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. The murdered police officer was controlling traffic to free a gridlock before he was attacked by his assailants, who were also driving through the road. Sources said the assailants abandoned their vehicle and fled the scene of the incident on foot following a fierce gun battle with other SARS personnel, who arrived the scene immediately after the attack. The Police hierarchy in the State confirmed the incident and vowed to apprehend the assailants.



FEBRUARY 2020

On Monday 3rd February, gunmen attacked Igbodo Etche, Amaku Mba, Agbalu Village in Okehi, all in Etche Local Government Area, killing 4 and injuring several others. The gunmen first stormed Igbodo Etche where they shot three persons, 2 were confirmed dead before proceeding to Amaku-Mba community, where one of 4 persons shot was confirmed dead. The assailants later stormed Agbalu village in Okehi and shot five persons, killing one on the spot, a total of 4 dead. Locals said it is not clear why the victims were attacked.



On Tuesday, 4th February, suspected gang members, in separate attacks, killed 4 persons at Aleto and Agbochia communities in Eleme Local Government Area. Sources say the attackers were in search of rival gang members but they ended up killing people who had no links with gangs in both communities. The incident drew stern condemnation from stakeholders of the local government including the House of Assembly member representing Eleme Constituency in Rivers State House of Assembly, Igwe Oforji, who said he is in talks with chairman of the local government and security agencies to forestall a breakdown of law and order.



On the 11th of February, unknown gunmen in military camouflage shot and killed 3 persons, and injured several others at Ke Community in Degema Local Government Area. The men had come earlier in speedboats patrolling the waterfronts of the community before they commenced shooting. Frightened by the sight of the gunmen in the area, residents were forced to stay indoors. Not long after, gunshots raged and 3 people were killed. Sources said the attack is linked with militants involved in illegal artisanal refining in the community.



On the 14th of February, suspected gang members killed 8 of their members whose activities were no longer active in Okporowo village in Ogbakiri clan, Emohua Local Government Area. According to sources, the clash ensued when some gang members came to dislodge others from leadership positions in the gang. One of the victims popularly known as China with others, was shot dead in his hotel facility in the community. The State Police Command could only confirm 6 casualties.



On the night of 14th February, a young man popularly known as DJ Flexzy was shot and killed at Alakahia Community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, while he was on his way home, by unknown gunmen. He had recently graduated from the University of Port Harcourt.



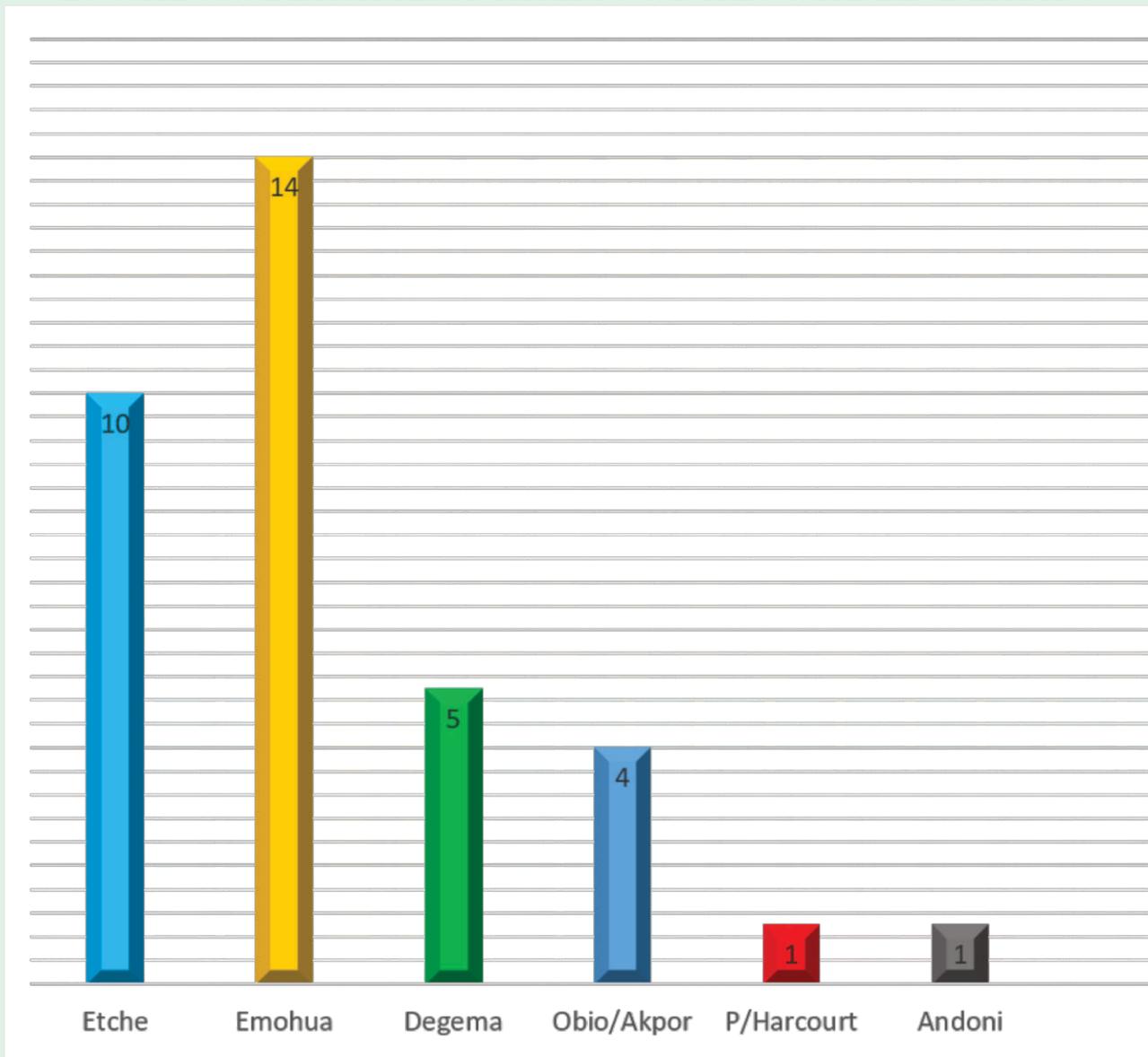
On Wednesday, 19th of February, suspected gang members and some police officers stationed at Nyongorong, the Andoni section of the Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro Unity Road, were engaged in a gun battle. The incident claimed the life of Dr. Patricia Obomanu, the principal of Community Secondary School, Nkoro, when she was hit by a stray bullet. Sources said the police had come to quell the activities of gang members in Andoni Local Government Area before the gunfight ensued.



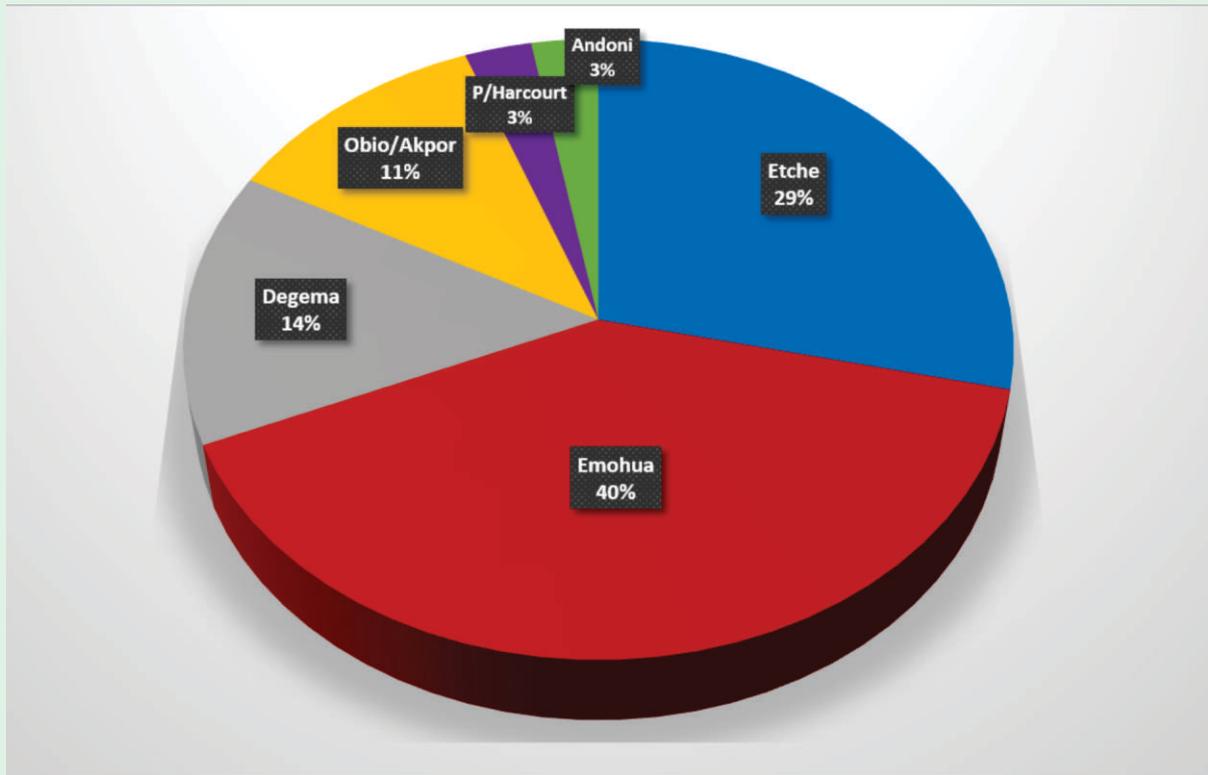
GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

The following info-graphics represent Routine killings in Rivers state according to number of fatalities, local government area percentages and days of occurrences respectively

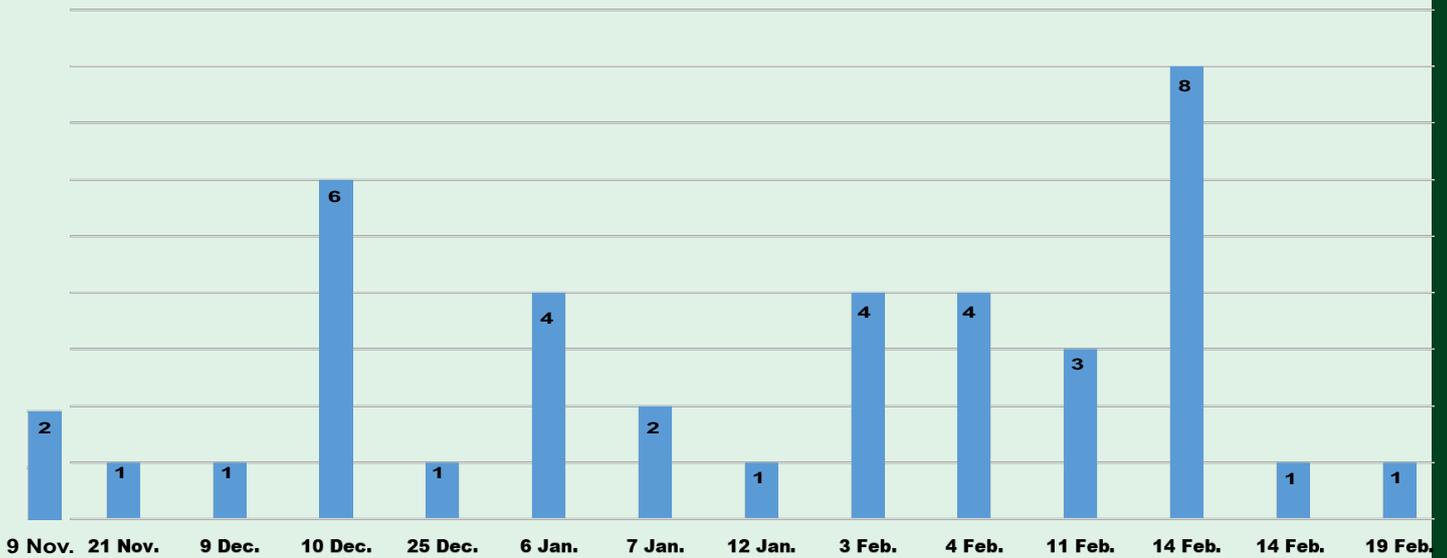
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF RECORDED DEATHS



PERCENTAGE OF DEATH BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



DAYS OF RECORDED DEATHS



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