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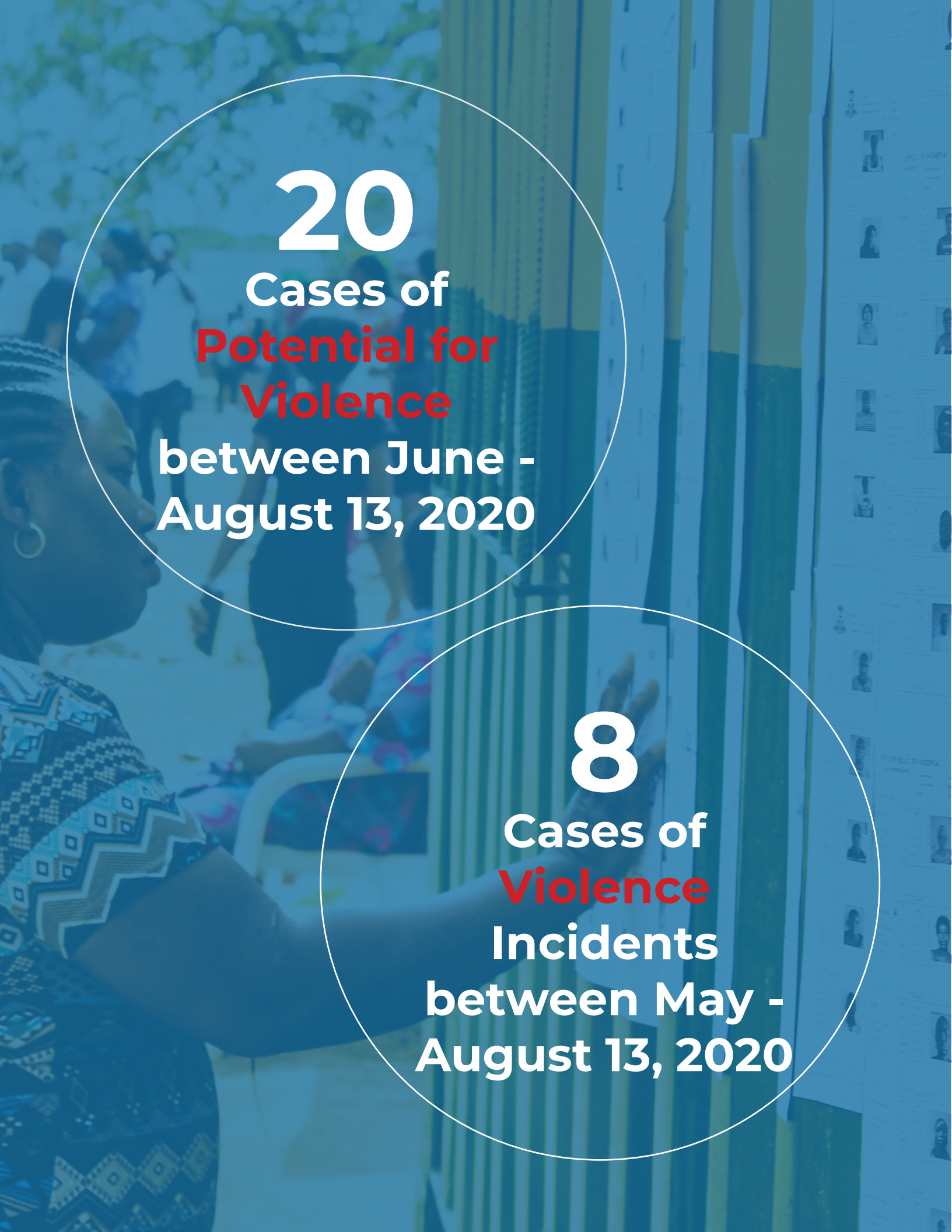
The Rising Political Tension and Violence Cases in Edo State

#WeCanDoBetter
#EdoDecides2020

Nigeria Election
Violence Report
Factsheet

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The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a patterned top, looking at a wall covered with many small, individual photographs. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Two white circles are superimposed on the image, each containing text.

20
Cases of
**Potential for
Violence**
between June -
August 13, 2020

8
Cases of
Violence
Incidents
between May -
August 13, 2020

The Rising Cases of Potential for violence

In recent months, the happenings show that before, during, and after the September 19, 2020, gubernatorial election in Edo State more needs to be done to ensure a peaceful election. The Nigeria Election Violence Report (NEVR) Project led by Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) with the support of the International Foundations for Electoral Systems (IFES) has tracked and documented potential for violence, as shown in the table below.



DATE	POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	PV CATEGORY	AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
June, 2020	APC party internal crisis which led to the incumbent Governor defection to PDP. In June, 2020 the crisis between the incumbent Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki and the former governor of Edo state Adams Oshiomhole grew worst as series of event shows the level of acrimony between this two political gladiators. This rift got to the election period in Edo State and this is heating up the political atmosphere the state. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/399505-time-line-obaseki-vs-oshiomhole-from-political-sweethearts-to-implacable-foes.html	Benin, Edo State	Internal Party Crisis	Nil	Harassment and intimidation of the governor and his supporters
June 17	Destruction of APC signboards in Oredo LGA On the early hours of the 17 day of June 2020. Some billboards at the strategic locations in Benin City, Oredo LGA were seen defaced and destroyed. These billboards were purportedly reported to have been that of the APC candidate, Ize-Iyamu. The Vice Chairman on Media and Publicity of the APC National Campaign Council, Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon later blame this destruction of billboard on the government of Edo state led by Gov. Godwin Obaseki	Oredo LGA	Intimidation	Political Party	Tension and Reprisal attack
June 19, 2020	Gov. Obaseki and his Deputy defection to PDP Following the disqualification of Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki from vying for second term in office on the APC platform for allegedly submitting questionable certificates. Gov. Obaseki has formally joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The governor made this known on Friday afternoon when he led some of his appointees and supporters to the PDP secretariat in Benin-City. The leadership of the PDP had on Wednesday met with Mr Obaseki who is seeking a second term in office. Mr Obaseki was disqualified by his former party, APC, from seeking re-election The Edo governor later announced his resignation from the APC. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/398491-breaking-edo-2020-obaseki-joins-pdp.html	Benin, Edo State	Internal Party Crisis	Nil	Mass Defection of the governor's followers to PDP. Harassment and Intimidation from and to the opposition party and citizens.
July 7	Defection of Nosa Kings Erhunmwumsee, Labour Party Governorship candidate in 2016 and other LP members' defection to APC. https://guardian.ng/news/ahead-of-guber-poll-edo-pdp-apc-harvest-more-defectors/	Benin Edo State	Internal Party Crisis	Nil	Intra-party brawl and rivalry

DATE	POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	PV CATEGORY	AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
July 7	Cross- carpeting of 106 ADP members from Egor, Ovia South West, and Ovia North East Local Government Areas of Edo to PDP following the Governor's defection.	Egor, Ovia South West, and Ovia North East Local Government Areas, Edo State	Internal Party Crisis	Nil	Interparty intimidation and harassment
July 18th	Tearing down of APC campaign posters and billboard. The Vice Chairman on Media and Publicity of the APC National Campaign Council, Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon, spoke against the destruction of APC campaign billboards. He alleged that the state government embarked on the destruction and removal of the APC's billboards at various strategic points in the capital city of Benin. Obahiagbon also accused Governor Obaseki of heating up the polity ahead of the polls with what he described as 'reckless and provocative comments, media blackmail, and criminal actions of intolerance, including the mass destruction of opponent's campaign materials'. https://www.channelstv.com/2020/07/18/apc-edo-govt-disagree-over-destruction-of-ize-iyamus-campaign-posters/	Benin, Edo State	Intimidation	Political Party	Tension and Reprisal attack
July 24	Defection of Oredo ward 11 executives of APC to PDP	Oredo LGA	Internal Party Crisis		Interparty intimidation and harassment
July 25	A Reprisal Attack: Destruction of posters and billboard	Benin, Edo State	Intimidation	Political Party	Tension and Reprisal attack
	Destruction of vehicle and Intimidation of a citizen who has Obaseki sticker on his car.		Destruction of Property / Intimidation	Citizen	Tension, Intimidation and Voter Apathy
6th August	Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly impeached by 17 members and swears in a new speaker and deputy at an unknown location. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/407268-edo-2020-assembly-crisis-worsens-as-17-lawmakers-impeach-speaker.html	Benin, Edo State	Intimidation		Tension and Citizen Unrest
2nd August	Violence threat by Oshiomhole as he says We'll meet violence with violence: Immediate past National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, has said that the party would not fold its arms and watch Governor Godwin Obaseki and the People Democratic Party, PDP violently rig the September 19 governorship election, saying "we will meet violence with violence." Read more at: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/well-meet-violence-with-violence-oshiomhole/	In an interview on Arise Television	Intimidation		Tension, Citizen Unrest and Voter Apathy
	Mobilization of thugs by APC in Edo state ahead of the 2020 Governorship election.	Benin, Edo State	Thuggery	Voter	Tension, Citizen Unrest and Voter Apathy
	Harassment of a PDP woman and destruction of her car by some APC supporters.		Harassment	Women	Tension, Citizen Unrest and Voter Apathy
6th August	Removal of the Edo State House of Assembly Roof by unknown thugs.	Benin, Edo State	Thuggery		Tension and Citizen Unrest
7th August	Seven thugs were arrested by the police in connection to the tension in the State House of Assembly. The thugs were found to have prevented 17 elected law makers from making their way to plenary on Thursday, 6th August, 2020. Read more at: https://amiloaded.com/2020/08/breaking-edo-assembly-police-arrest-seven-thugs-with-firearms-reveal-their-identities.html	Benin, Edo State	Thuggery / Proliferation of small arms	Nil	Tension and Citizen Unrest
8th August	Outcry of the incumbent deputy governor that assassination plot against notable members of PDP has been uncovered	Benin, Edo State	Assassination Plot	Nil	Tension
11th August	Attacks on Party Supporters on Social Media	Facebook	Hate Speech	APC Party Supporters	Harassment
12th August	De-registered Political parties shows their agitation to participate in the forthcoming election due to Court of Appeal judgment invalidating the deregistration of political parties by INEC		Potential for violence	Political parties	Unending Legal tussle that could affect election

DATE	POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	PV CATEGORY	AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
13th August	Defection of over 3000 APC member to PDP in Owan East LGA	Owan East LGA, Edo State	Internal Party Crisis	Nil	Interparty intimidation and harassment
13th August	Eye witness account of false allegation made by a PDP member of being attacked in his own home by members of APC.	Benin, Edo State		Nil	Reprisal attack

Impact

Since the defection of the incumbent governor from APC to PDP and the conclusion of the party primaries, Edo state has experienced various incidences of violence and potential for violence which ranges from intimidation, harassment to the destruction of properties, posters, and billboards which has posed a significant threat to the citizens of the state which might affect the forthcoming election as citizens would be scared of carrying out their civic right due to the tension in the state. This might also lead to postponement of the election as the Independent Electoral Commission threatened to suspend the

election due to the escalation of violence. It all started with the resentment that grew out from intraparty crisis and acrimonious party primaries leading to intimidation, as shown from all sorts of citizen harassments and destruction of campaign billboards. Now, activities of political thugs is on the increase in Edo current, as recent happening of the removal of the Edo State House of Assembly roofs by political thugs' shows the level of impunity involved. It was also gathered that these thugs now carry arms; this shows the possibility of small arms been proliferated.

Verified Incidents of Electoral Violence in Edo state

DATE	INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	TYPE OF VIOLENCE	VICTIMS	PERPETRATOR	IMPACT
20th May 2020	A Pregnant wife of Politician, Comrade Promise Igbinewbo, who is a Governorship Campaign Co-ordinator was raped and murdered. https://www.lindaikejisblog.com/2020/6/pregnant-wife-of-edo-politician-is-raped-and-murdered-in-benin-sparking-protest-photovideo.html	Benin Edo State	Sexual Assault/ Murder/ VAWIE	Woman	Unknown persons	1 person dead
	Obaseki's Critics in a Bloody brawl in Ovbiogie Community. https://ireporteronline.com.ng/edo-obasekis-3-credits-causes-bloody-all-out-brawl-in-ovbiogie-community-as-police-arrest-bar-owner/	Ovbiogie Community, Edo State	Physical harm	3 Men	Obaseki's supporter	3 persons wounded
July 17	Mocking of APC supporters by PDP supporters	Ward 4, Oredo LGA	Intimidation/ psychological abuse	APC supporter	PDP Supporter	Tension/Intimidation
July 20	Gunmen attack residence of Edo Commissioner for Youths, Lawani, promise to return. https://dailypost.ng/2020/07/22/gunmen-attack-residence-of-edo-commissioner-for-youths-lawani-promise-to-return-photos/	Udaba Ekphei Community, Etsako West LGA	Physical harm/ Destruction of property	Commissioner's family	Unknown gunmen	Several persons injured
July 25	Bloody clash between APC and PDP during the PDP Campaign flag-off at Oba of Benin palace. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/07/flag-off-of-obaseki-campaign-in-edo-gunshots-as-apc-pdp-supporters-clash-at-oba-of-benins-palace/	Benin, Edo State	Group Clash	Party Supporters	Party Supporters	Several persons wounded

DATE	INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	TYPE OF VIOLENCE	VICTIMS	PERPETRATOR	IMPACT
July 31st	Two Persons were shot in APC, PDP attack as campaign turns bloody. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/edo-2020-two-shot-as-pdp-apc-campaigns-turn-bloody/	Igara, Akoko-Edo, Edo State	Attempted Murder	2 members of APC	Alleged PDP supporters	2 persons wounded
August 13	Ambush and attack on the convoy of Gov. Obaseki on his way to ward 10, Apana, Etsako West LGA	Ward 10, Apana, Etsako West LGA	Attempted harm	Gov. Obaseki and his convoy	Thugs	Tension
August 13	Eye witness account of reprisal attack and clash between supporters of APC and PDP which led to gunshot injuries to persons and the destruction of properties and billboards in ward 10, Apana, Etsako West LGA during Gov. Obaseki's campaign visit to the ward.	Ward 10, Apana, Etsako West LGA	Physical harm and destruction of property	PDP and APC Supporters	PDP and APC Supporters	Chaos, tension and destruction of property

NOTE: All media links are secondary sources of these happenings except for row 15 of the potential for violence which was solely a media report.

Recommendations

- Civil society Organizations and Development partners should start seeing capacity development for the political leaders on relationship building, strategic communication, and conflict resolution as necessary, beyond and during an election. Most of the happening in Edo state is a result of fallout and inability to be able to resolve conflict.
- Internal Party Crisis has been a significant issue in our electoral process. CSOs working to strengthen institutions in Nigeria should design a massive intervention strategy to tackle this menace.
- Political actors should also play by the rules and desist from acts that purport them as self-centered.
- Political parties and candidates should also embrace peace and preach peace to their followers.
- No ambition of any politician is worth the blood of any Nigerian. Citizens should embrace and never allow any politician to entice them with a token to foment trouble.

About NEVR

The Nigeria Election Violence Report (NEVR) is a project led by Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) and supported by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) which is aimed at increasing awareness of and accountability for electoral violence through the Civil Society Organization (CSO) conflict monitoring, public education and advocacy in Nigeria. It is a holistic, human-centered approach to support local partners on their efforts to monitor, mitigate and share information on electoral violence in order to provide an impartial voice on electoral violence through citizen observation with the ultimate goal of ending the menace of electoral violence by documenting and publishing disaggregated electoral violence data.



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Powered by



44 | 2nd Avenue | EFAB Estate |
Life Camp | Mboru District | Abuja.

+234 813 482 8527
+234 810 394 7690

info@kimpact.org.ng
www.kdi.org.ng

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