

Niger Delta Weekly: **Spotlighting the Prevalence of Mob Violence in Delta State**

May 16-22, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights vigilantism and mob justice in the Niger Delta with a focus on mob violence in Delta State. According to data (see map below), vigilantism and mob violence caused over 75 fatalities in Delta State between January 2018 and December 2020. Recent incidents indicate the prevalence of mob violence in the State, driven mainly by a rise in criminality, particularly robbery and kidnapping. In January 2021, for instance, two robbery suspects were reportedly lynched by a mob in Iwhrekan community, Ughelli North LGA. In March, a robbery suspect was reportedly lynched by a mob along Usiefurun Road in Orhuwhorun community, Udu LGA. Separately, in March, a robbery suspect was reportedly burned to death by a mob at Mclver Market in Warri South LGA. A second suspect reportedly sustained second-degree burns during the incident. In April, a robbery suspect was reportedly burned to death by a mob in Ovwian community, Udu LGA. More recently, on May 10, 2021, three kidnapping suspects were reportedly lynched by a mob in Oghara community, Ethiope West LGA.

Why it Matters

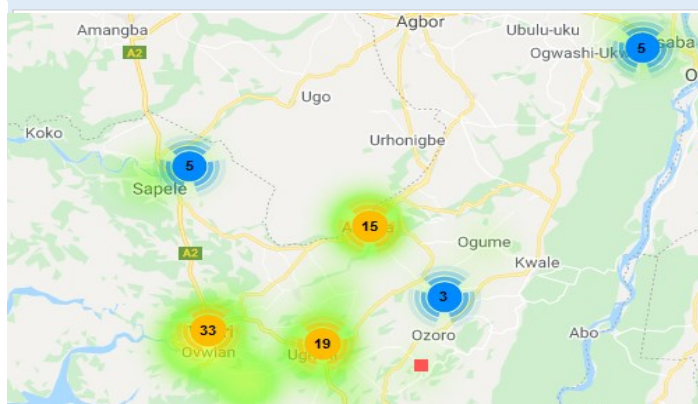
Mob violence is increasingly becoming a serious security threat in Delta State, driven largely by vigilantism - the tendency by individuals or groups to take the law into their hands and dispense justice summarily without recourse to legal procedures - as a way of responding to criminality and other misconducts. Mob violence is a threat to the rule of law and public safety. The prevalence of mob violence could present serious socio-economic and political challenges for the State.

Social: Mob lynching could have serious psychosocial and health impacts on residents. The inhuman nature of mob violence - stripping, lynching and burning of victims - could cause a lack of respect for human life and a relapse of moral standards in society. The horrific nature of mob lynching could cause post-traumatic stress disorder among residents. Also, punitive mob violence could evolve into spontaneous acts of human rights violations including arbitrary killings.

Economic: The prevalence of mob violence could create a climate of insecurity that could be detrimental to economic development. Lynch mob attacks could escalate into civil unrest which could result in looting, arson and vandalism. This could disrupt business activities, and cause loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities in the State.

Political: Vigilantism and mob justice could undermine the criminal justice system in the State. This could create a domino effect where mob lynching and arbitrary killings become the new normal in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. This could constitute serious security, administrative and political challenges for the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Vigilantism and Mob Violence in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by vigilantism and mob violence in Delta State from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Mob lynching is an emerging threat to peace and security in Delta State, driven mainly by public distrust in the judicial and penal systems and a perceived policing vacuum amidst rising criminality. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government to address the underlying drivers of mob violence. Stakeholders should also work with the relevant government agencies and media outfits to raise public awareness of the negative effects of mob lynching, and advocate for appropriate preventive and remedial measures.

Contact Us

Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org

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**

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



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