

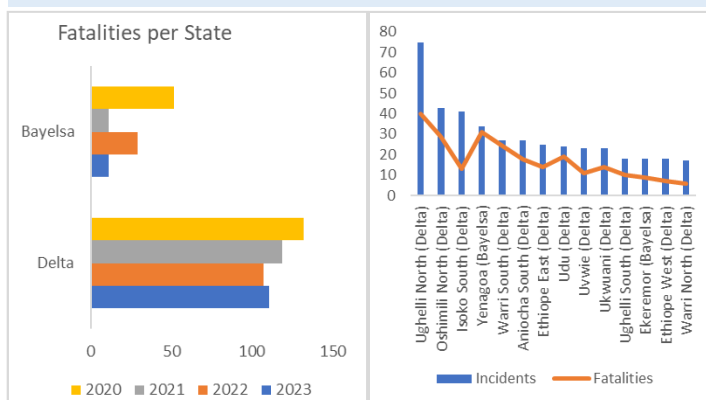
# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Escalation of Communal Crisis in Delta and Bayelsa States

March 17-23, 2024

## Background

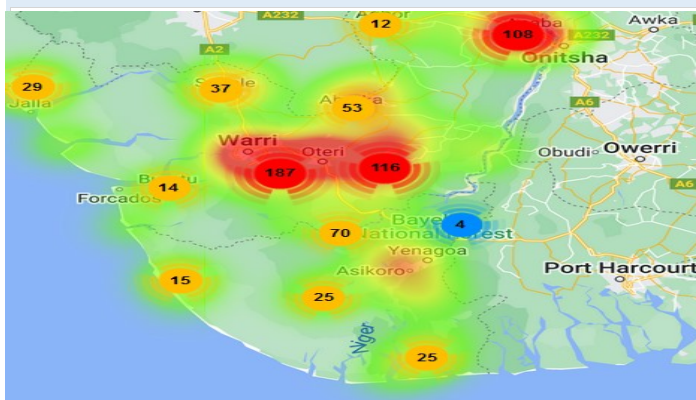
This edition of the weekly update spotlights communal conflict in the Niger Delta with a focus on the ongoing communal crisis in Okuama and Igbomotoru communities in Delta and Bayelsa State respectively. Communal clashes, especially those involving government security forces, have been causes of lethal violence in Delta and Bayelsa States. According to data (see map below), communal violence caused over 650 fatalities in both States between January 2020 and December 2023. Recently, on March 14, 2024, armed youths reportedly killed over 15 soldiers who were responding to a distress call during renewed clashes over a lingering land dispute between Okuama community in Ughelli South LGA and Okoloba community in Bomadi LGA respectively, in Delta State. Consequently, government security forces were deployed in target communities in Delta and Bayelsa States to apprehend the culprits. On March 17, 2024, over 10 residents were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between government security forces and some suspects at their hideouts in Igbomotoru community in Southern Ijaw LGA, Bayelsa State.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Communal Violence in Delta and Bayelsa States



Data shows that Ughelli North (Delta) and Yenagoa (Bayelsa) LGAs had the highest fatalities caused by communal violence during the period. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Fatalities Heat Map of Communal Violence in Delta and Bayelsa States, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by communal violence in Delta and Bayelsa States from January 2020 - December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The conflict has the potential to escalate in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and security at the State and regional levels, especially considering the killing of some soldiers, and the outspreading of the crisis into Bayelsa State. Extended deployment of security forces could trigger a cycle of reprisal killings, armed struggle, and proliferation of militias in the region. If the situation escalates, it could cause serious humanitarian, socio-economic, political, and security consequences at the state and regional levels.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent data and historical antecedents, the ongoing conflict could escalate and take on different criminal and communal dimensions including ethnic hostility, militancy and economic sabotage. It could also cause humanitarian crises. Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs), community leaders and the media should collaborate with the relevant government agencies to identify the underlying conflict drivers, and devise appropriate measures to mitigate and prevent the reoccurrence of the conflict.

## Contact Us for Collaborative Interventions

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

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

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.



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