

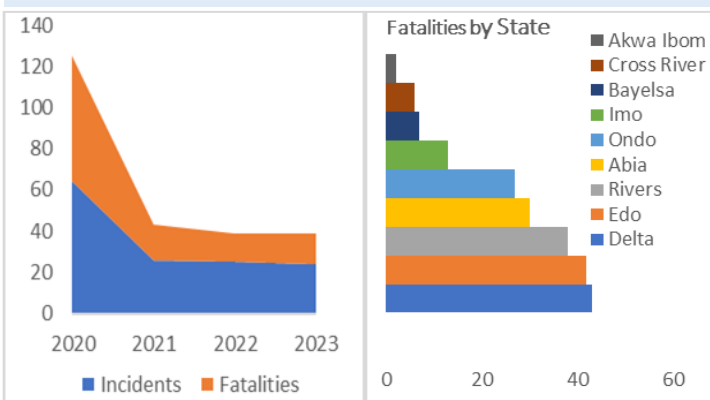
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing and Mitigating Violent Protests in the Niger Delta

August 04-10, 2024

Background

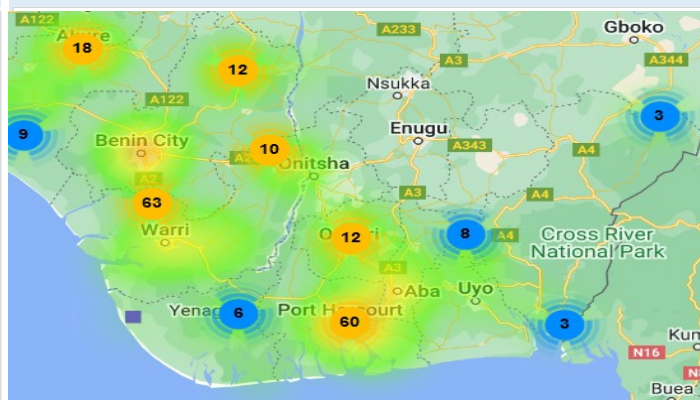
This special edition of the weekly update spotlights the ongoing mass protest in Nigeria with a focus on the Niger Delta region. Since the 1st of August 2024, thousands of residents, mostly youths, have taken to the streets to protest economic hardship caused by rising inflation across the country. The protest which started as a campaign against poor governance, corruption and rising cost of living, has snowballed into mass demonstrations and sit-ins, and targeted destruction of public and private infrastructure by hoodlums. In the Niger Delta, minimal incidents of violence, including clashes between protesters and security forces, attacks by hoodlums, vandalism, and disruption of economic activities, have been reported, particularly in Delta and Rivers States. On August 02, 2024, for instance, a resident was reportedly shot and injured during a clash between protesters and some police officers at Otowwodo Junction in Ughelli North LGA, Delta State. On August 07, 2024, hoodlums reportedly beat up two protesters and harassed a female journalist who was covering the protest in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Violent Protests in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Delta State had the highest fatalities caused by riots and protests in the Niger Delta during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Violent Protests and Crackdowns in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported fatalities caused by violent protests in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The ongoing '#EndBadGovernance' protest has the potential to escalate in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the Niger Delta. As hinted by reported incidents of violence and hooliganism in some States, the situation could spiral and intersect with political tensions and criminal violence. While the protest is mainly driven by widespread discontent over rising cost of living, the involvement of hoodlums could cause violent clashes that could undermine peace and economic development in the region.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Similar to the 'EndSARS' protest in 2020, the 'EndBadGovernance' protest could be hijacked by violent non-state actors and other subversive elements to cause a breakdown of law and order in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders, including civil society actors, should work with law enforcement agencies to continue to create safe space for protesters to express their grievances peacefully. The Federal and State governments should initiate actions to mitigate the situation, including the assurance to address the concerns of the protesters.

Contact Us

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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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