

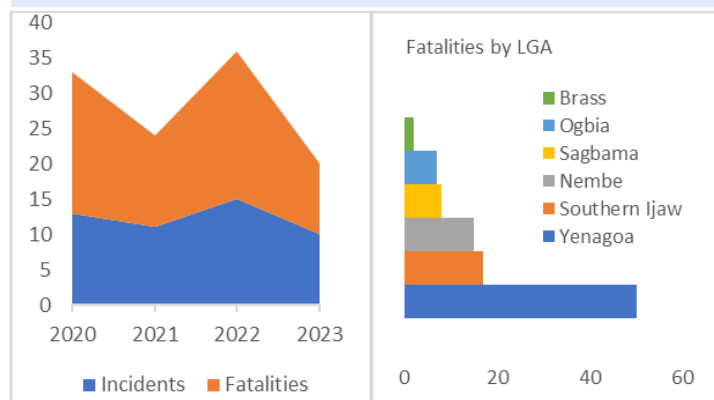
Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Cult and Gang Related Violence in Bayelsa State

September 01-07, 2024

Background

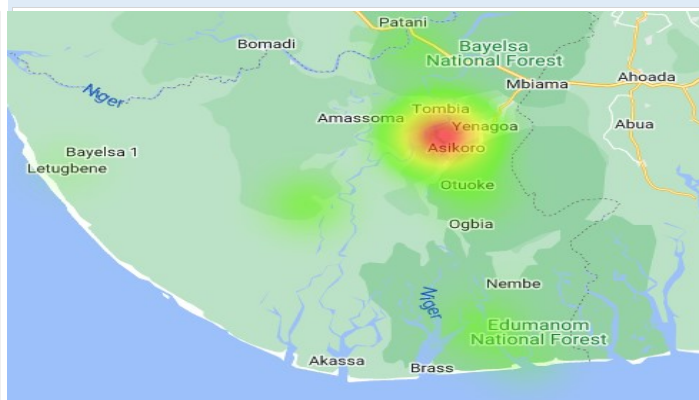
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on cult gang related violence and killings in Bayelsa State. Gang violence is a major security issue in the State, mainly driven by struggle for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs as well as general criminality. According to data (see map below), gang violence caused over 50 fatalities in the State between January 2021 and June 2024, particularly in Yenagoa, the state capital. Recent incidents indicate the prevalence of violence associated with cult gangs in the State. In March 2024, for instance, some officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) were reportedly attacked by members of a cult gang in Yenizue-Epie community, Yenagoa LGA. The law enforcement officers were allegedly attacked during a drug raid in the area. In April, a 28-year-old man was reportedly killed during a clash between Greenlanders and Bobos cult gangs in Amarata community, Yenagoa LGA. More recently, on August 07, 2024, a young man was reportedly killed by members of a cult gang at Swali Market in Yenagoa, the State capital.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Flashpoints of Cult and Gang Violence in Bayelsa State



Data shows that Yenagoa LGA had the highest reported fatalities caused by cult gang related violence during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Cult and Gang Violence in Bayelsa State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the concentration of fatalities caused by cult and gang related violence in Bayelsa State from January 2021 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The prevalence of killings by cult gangs has the potential to escalate in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. It could trigger a cycle of armed clashes and reprisal violence that could degenerate into extended battles for supremacy and territorial control among cult gangs. It could also take on different criminal, communal and political dimensions, and cause a breakdown of law and order. This could bring about serious socio-economic disruptions and political instability in the State.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent trends and historical data, the ongoing wave of gang violence could escalate and intersect with communal tensions and organized criminal violence in the State. Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs) should collaborate with relevant government security agencies to intensify ongoing anti-cultism efforts. Peace and development actors should work with the State government and notable community leaders to tackle the underlying drivers of the current wave of cult gang violence in the State

Contact Us

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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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