

Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Update

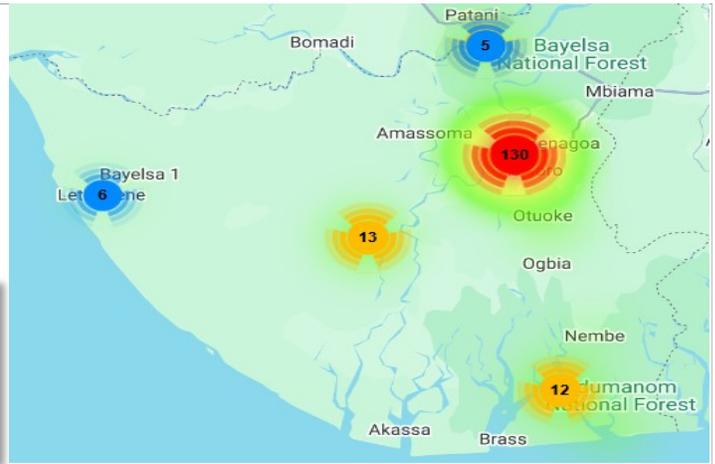
Addressing the Drivers of Criminal Violence and Gang-Related Killings in Bayelsa State

February 22-28, 2026

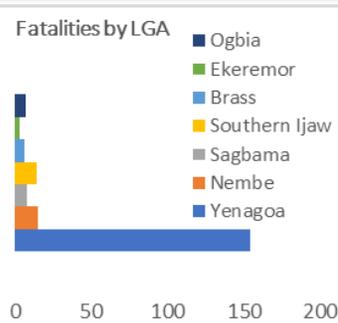
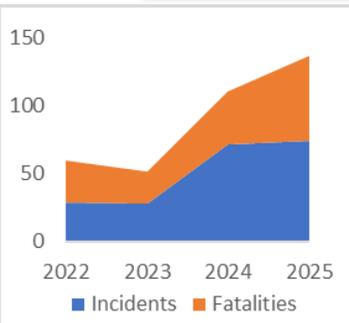
This update examines the drivers of criminal violence and gang-related killings in Bayelsa State within the broader context of organized crime in the Niger Delta. Recent incidents reveal persistent cult rivalries and entrenched cycles of violence, highlighting the urgent need to address the underlying factors that enable criminal activity.



Trends and Flashpoints of Cult-Related Gang Violence in Bayelsa State



Heat Map shows the concentration of fatalities caused by cult gang related violence in Bayelsa State from January 2022 - December 2025. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org



Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

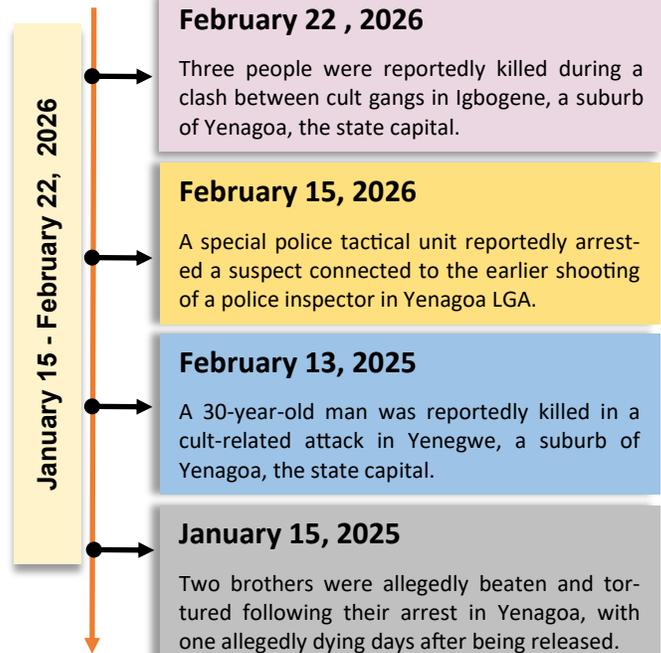
Persistent cult clashes are fueling fear among residents and eroding confidence in public safety. Without addressing underlying drivers, such as youth recruitment into cult gangs and entrenched criminal networks, violence is likely to escalate, further destabilizing the State.

Actions Taken to Mitigate the Situation

Security agencies are stepping up hotspot policing to curb cult violence, while civil society organizations and peace actors promote community-led initiatives aimed at preventing youth recruitment into cult gangs and addressing the underlying drivers of criminal activity.



Timeline of Recent Incidents of Cult-Related Gang Violence



Our Services: PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) provides technical support to stakeholders and implementing partners across the public and private sectors. With over 12 years of experience in peacebuilding, and conflict management, our in-house team of subject-matter experts, alongside a network of partners on the ground, delivers tailored support to national and international stakeholders. We specialize in peacebuilding, conflict early warning and response, conflict-sensitive development, research, and the production of data-driven conflict reports.

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 **0912 233 4455**.

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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