

August 08-14, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights homicidal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on killings for human body parts in Delta State. Murder for human body parts is increasingly becoming prevalent in Delta State. According to data (see map below), at least 50 incidents of killing for human body parts were reported in the State between January 2017 and June 2021. Recent data indicates an increase in killings to harvest human body parts for organ trafficking and ritual purposes in the State. In March 2021, for example, a 39-year old woman was reportedly abducted from her farm and murdered by suspected human parts dealers in Obiaruku community, Ukwuani LGA. Her vital organs and other body parts were allegedly harvested. In May, a 13-year old girl was reportedly killed by a cleric who allegedly removed her heart, kidney and other vital organs in Agbor town, Ika South LGA. Recently, on August 03, 2021, a 50-year old woman was reportedly raped and murdered for ritual purposes by two young men in Umeh community, Isoko South LGA. Her eyes and other vital body parts were reportedly removed.

Why it Matters

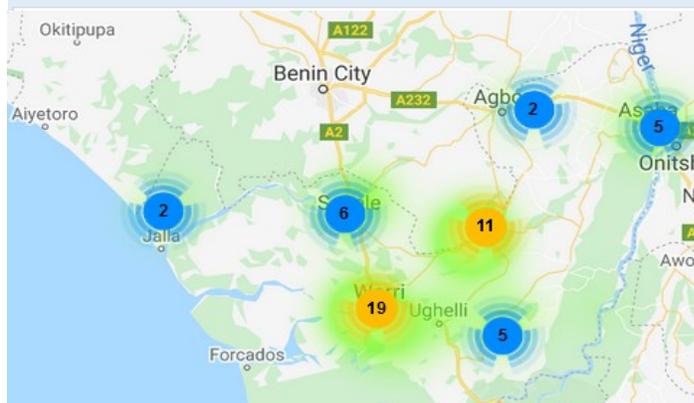
The prevalence of killings to harvest human parts for organ trafficking and ritualistic purposes is a serious threat to human security. The prevailing situation could intensify kidnappings for organ harvesting, and consequently expand a thriving black market for human organs and other body parts, which could further support human trafficking networks at the State, regional and national levels. This could have far-reaching socio-economic and political repercussions for the State.

Social: Killings for human body parts could have devastating psycho-social and health consequences for residents. The prevalence of this malevolent practice could diminish respect for human life and cause a relapse of ethical and moral standards in society. The horrific nature of the phenomenon can also cause serious post-traumatic stress disorder among residents. It could also cause panic and a general sense of insecurity that can undermine communal wellbeing.

Economic: The growing prevalence of killings for human body parts could destabilize the local economy. The killings could impede farming in rural communities and cause loss of livelihood and food insecurity. It could also evolve into an underground economy for body parts which could divert human and financial resources from legitimate businesses, and thus reduce government revenue from taxation.

Political: Killing for human body parts is a serious threat to human rights, safety and security of residents. The prevalence of the phenomenon could spark off violent protests and unrest which could constitute serious security and political challenges for the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Killings for Human Body Parts in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of killings for human body parts in Delta State from January 2017 - June 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Killing for human parts is increasingly becoming prevalent in Delta State, driven mainly by illegal organ trading and superstitious beliefs in the use of human body parts to acquire wealth and magical powers. Stakeholders should work with the relevant government agencies to address the underlying drivers and develop appropriate preventive and punitive measures to mitigate the situation. Stakeholders should also work with media outfits to raise public awareness on the prevalence of killings for human parts in the State.

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**

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

