

Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Inter-Communal Violence in Delta State

April 30 - May 06, 2023

Description

This weekly update spotlights communal conflict in the Niger Delta with a focus on rising tensions over land disputes in Delta State. Land and boundary disputes have been major causes of lethal violence and communal instability in Delta State. According to data (see map below), communal conflict caused over 150 fatalities in Delta State between January 2021 and March 2023. Recent incidents indicate rising tensions as a result of escalation of inter-communal conflicts over land disputes in the State. In January 2023, for instance, two residents were reportedly killed during a clash between some herders and farmers in Toru-Angiama community, Patani LGA. In April, a man was reportedly shot during a clash between fishers from Oboro community in Burutu LGA and Alota community in Ughelli South LGA. The incident reportedly intensified tensions between the Ijaw (Oboro) and Urhobo (Alota) communities in the area. Recently, on May 03, 2023, residents reportedly raised the alarm about a planned attack over a land dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Udu and Warri South-West LGAs respectively.

Why it Matters

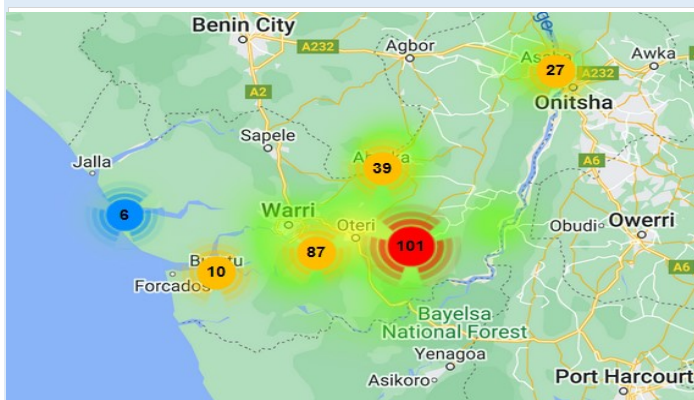
A resurgence of inter-communal violence over land and boundary disputes could intensify communal and ethnic hostilities. This could also trigger a sequence of reprisal violence and killings. An escalation of communal tensions and ethnic hostilities could adversely impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. This could bring about wide-ranging social, economic, humanitarian, political, and security consequences at the communal, state and regional levels.

Social: Recurring violence over land and boundary disputes could have devastating impact on communal peace and stability. It could intensify ethnic and communal hostilities and result in killings, plundering and internal displacement. Communal land disputes could also encourage the creation of communal militias and the proliferation of arms. This could intensify criminal violence and thus make the underlying drivers of communal conflict more complicated and intractable.

Economic: Lingering communal conflict over land disputes could be economically devastating, as land is the mainstay of the local economy. Disputes over land ownership could dissuade farming by limiting access to land. This could disrupt livelihoods, reduce agricultural output and household income, and thus undermine the agro-allied sector. This could deepen rural poverty and food insecurity in the State.

Political: A resurgence of communal violence over land disputes could destabilize local politics and governance, as land is not only an economic asset, but also the basis of communal identity, social legitimacy and political representation. This could be exploited by politicians to cause ethnic divisions as a means of political mobilization.

Fatalities Heat Map of Communal Violence in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of fatalities caused by communal violence in Delta State from January 2021 - March 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Communal conflict over land and boundary disputes in Delta State remains recurrent with periodic incidents of violence. Stakeholders should work with the State government to develop appropriate policies to holistically address the underlying conflict drivers. Stakeholders should also work with community leaders and the relevant government agencies to set up conflict resolution committees and establish community-based early warning systems to proactively identify and respond to potential triggers of communal conflicts.

Contact Us

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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**

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



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