

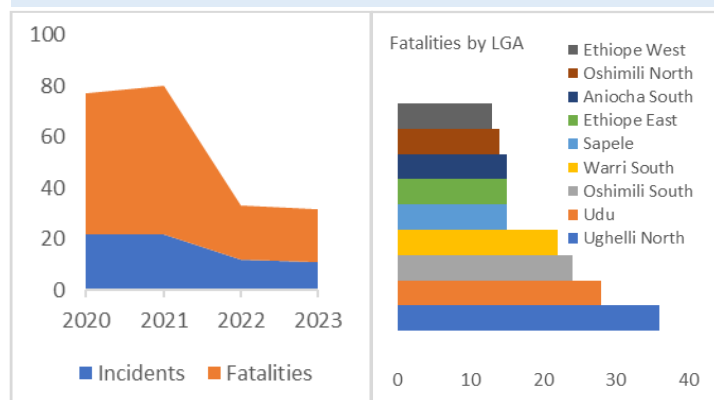
# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Cult Gang Related Killings in Delta State

April 28 – May 04, 2024

## Background

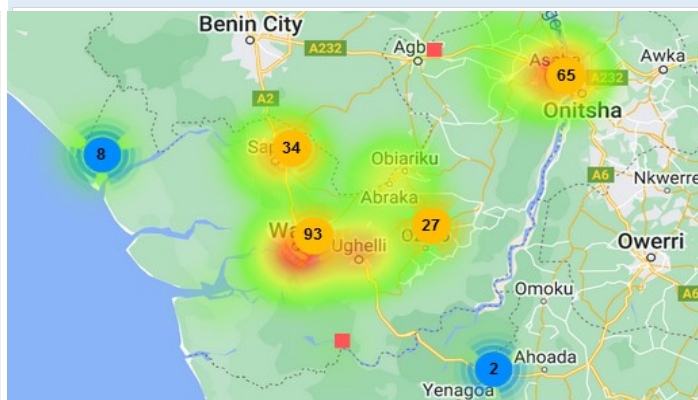
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on cult gang related killings in Delta State. Struggle for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs has been a major cause of lethal violence and insecurity in Delta State. According to data (see map below), gang violence caused over 230 fatalities in Delta State between January 2020 and March 2024. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of violent clashes between cult gangs in the State. In February 2024, for instance, the leader of a cult gang was reportedly killed and three others injured during a clash between rival cult gangs in Ogwashi-Uku community, Aniocha South LGA. In the aftermath of the killing of the gang leader, over six persons were reportedly killed in a series of reprisal attacks. In March, for example, a man and his pregnant wife were reportedly killed by members of a cult gang in Ogwashi-Uku community, Aniocha South LGA. Recently, on April 03, 2024, three persons were allegedly killed during a clash between the police and suspected members of a cult gang in Isah-Ogwashi community, Aniocha South LGA.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Cult and Gang Related Violence in Delta State



Data shows that Ughelli North LGA had the highest number of fatalities caused by gang violence during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Fatalities Heat Map of Cult and Gang Related Violence in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of fatalities caused by cult and gang violence in Delta State from January 2020 - March 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

A resurgence of cult and gang violence could trigger a cycle of armed clashes and reprisal attacks including targeted killing of residents. This could degenerate into extended battles for supremacy and territorial control among the numerous cult gangs. The current wave of violence could also escalate and intersect with organized criminal violence and communal tensions in ways that could cause widespread hooliganism and a breakdown of law and order. This could negatively affect the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent conflict trends and historical data, the current wave of gang violence could escalate and intersect with organized criminal violence and communal tensions. Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs) should team up with the relevant government security agencies and local vigilantes to intensify ongoing anti-cultism efforts. Peace and development actors should work with the State government and community leaders to tackle the underlying drivers of the current wave of gang violence 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 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



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