

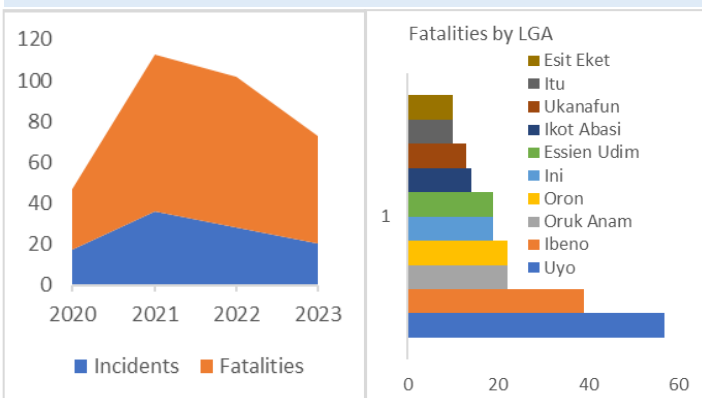
Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Criminality and Gang Violence in Akwa Ibom State

October 27—November 02, 2024

Background

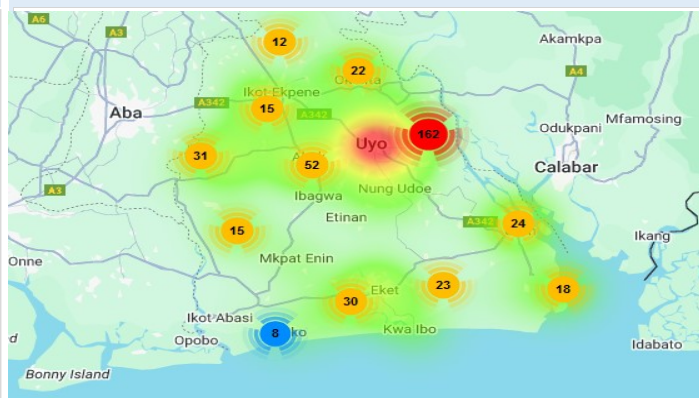
This week's update highlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta, with a focus on criminal violence and clashes between rival cult gangs in Akwa Ibom State. Organized criminality and gang violence have become the leading drivers of insecurity in the state. According to available data (see map below), organized criminal violence, including clashes between cult gangs, led to over 190 fatalities in Akwa Ibom State between January 2021 and September 2024. Recent data shows an upward trend in cult gang violence in the state. For example, in July 2024, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult groups in Ifa Ikot Okpon, Uyo, the state capital. In October, two more people were killed during clashes between the Black Axe and Vikings cult gangs in Eyo Abasi, Mbo LGA. Most recently, on October 23, 2024, four individuals were allegedly killed in a series of clashes between members of the rival Axe Men and Baggar cult gangs at different locations in Oron LGA. Among the victims was a 40-year-old high school principal, who was allegedly decapitated by members of a rival cult gang in Marina, Oron LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal and Gang Violence in Akwa Ibom State



Data shows that Uyo and Ibena LGAs had the highest fatalities caused by criminal and cult gang related violence during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Organized Criminality and Gang Violence in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by criminality and gang violence in Akwa Ibom State from January 2021 - September 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The recent escalation in criminal violence could deepen insecurity in the state. The surge in clashes between rival cult gangs risks setting off a cycle of reprisal attacks and targeted killings, which may lead to widespread hooliganism and a breakdown in law and order. This could heighten social tensions, disrupt economic activities, and fuel political instability. Given these risks, urgent interventions are needed to address the root causes of this violence and mitigate the possible ripple effects on community well-being and societal stability.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current surge in organized criminality and gang violence could significantly alter conflict dynamics, posing potential risks to the socio-economic, political, and security landscape in the State. To mitigate this threat, stakeholders are urged to work with security agencies to implement effective countermeasures. Also, peace and security actors should collaborate with the State government and community leaders to identify and address the underlying drivers, helping to stabilize the situation and prevent further escalation.

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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