

Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Update

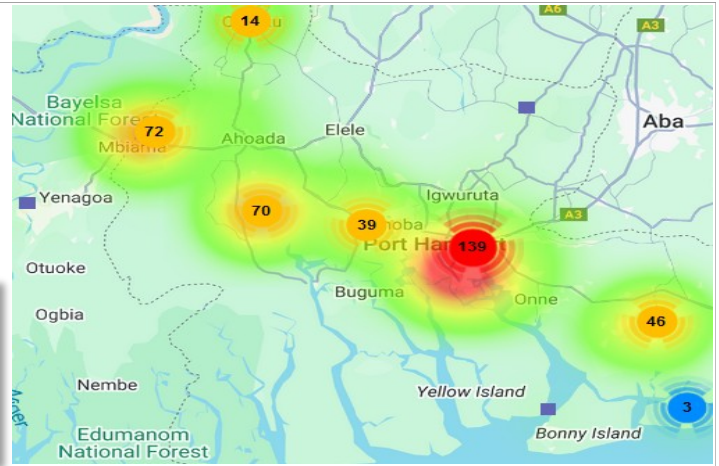
Addressing the Convergence of Banditry, Kidnapping, and Cult Violence in Rivers State

April 19-25, 2026

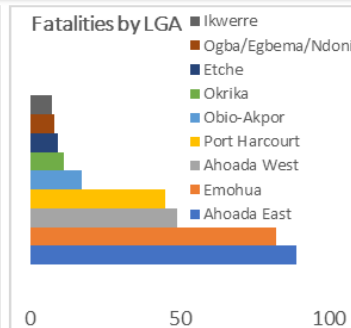
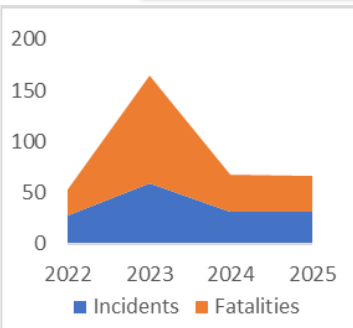
This update examines organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta, focusing on Rivers State. It highlights the convergence of banditry, kidnapping, and cult violence, and how these intersecting threats are reshaping insecurity. Recent incidents show growing overlap among criminal groups, intensifying violence and disrupting livelihoods.



Trends and Geographic Hotspots of Criminal Violence in Rivers State



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



Anticipated Trends and Emerging Dynamics

The convergence of banditry, kidnapping, and cult violence in Rivers State is likely to sustain and intensify organized criminal activity. Growing overlap among these groups may deepen insecurity, disrupt livelihoods, and weaken trust in law enforcement if not addressed.

Actions Taken to Mitigate the Situation

Security actors in Rivers State are reinforcing intelligence sharing and inter-agency coordination to disrupt criminal networks. However, a shift from fragmented to more integrated and community-centered approaches remains critical to preventing escalation of these threats.



Timeline of Recent Incidents of Organized Criminal Violence

February 05 - April 11, 2026

- February 05, 2026**: Two people, including a youth leader, were reportedly killed in a suspected cult-related attack in Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA.
- April 06, 2026**: A five-man criminal gang reportedly killed a commercial bus driver and stole his vehicle in Ubima, Ikwerre LGA.
- April 10, 2026**: About 20 armed bandits allegedly invaded and occupied farmlands in Ipo, Ikwerre LGA, disrupting agricultural activities in the area.
- April 11, 2026**: A young woman was reportedly kidnapped, robbed and sexually abused by a 24-year-old man and his accomplices in Ulakwo, Etche LGA.

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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