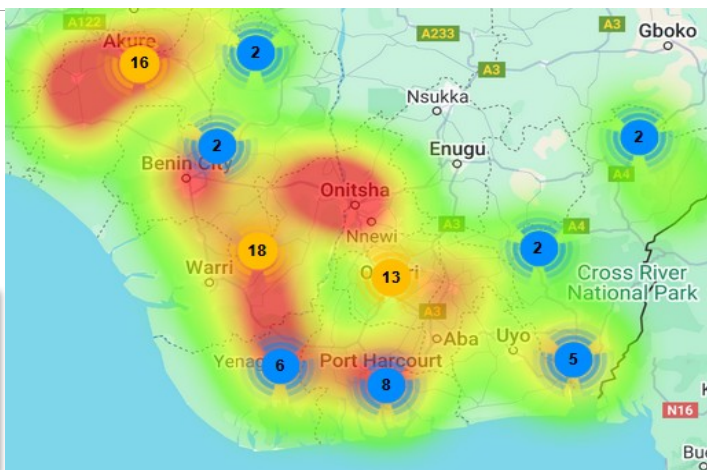


Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Update

Addressing the Rising Threat of Ritual Killings in the Niger Delta

March 16-22, 2025

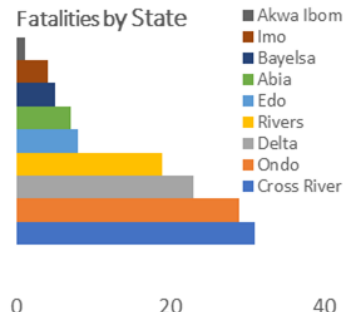
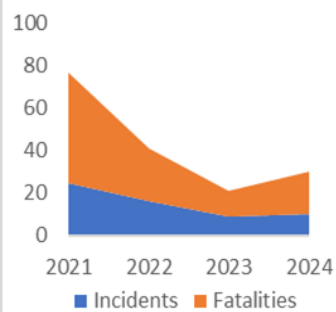
This update highlights the rising threat of ritual killings in the Niger Delta. Recent data indicate a surge in ritual-related murders across many states in the region, underscoring the gravity of the situation. Addressing this menace requires a comprehensive approach that tackles the underlying socio-economic factors fueling these crimes.



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported incidents of ritual killings in the Niger Delta from January 2021 - December 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org



Trends and Flashpoints of Ritual-Related Killings in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Timeline of Recent Incidents of Ritual Killings in the Niger Delta



January - March 2025

- January 10, 2025**
A 29-year-old man was reportedly arrested for allegedly killing his mother for ritual purposes in Batriko, Eastern Boki LGA, Cross River State.
- February 22, 2025**
A woman's body, allegedly used for rituals, was found in the Imo River, Abia State, where over 30 bodies have been discovered since last year.
- March 02 - 03, 2025**
Two elderly women were allegedly killed and their bodies mutilated for ritual purposes in Ujevwu and Obubu, Udu LGA, Delta State.
- March 07, 2025**
A 43-year-old man was allegedly beheaded by suspected ritualists while returning from a burial in Evbuotubu, Benin City, Edo State.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Ritual killings could escalate if decisive preventive actions are not taken by stakeholders. This may reinforce harmful cultural beliefs, heighten fear and tension, and increase insecurity in communities, potentially triggering mob justice, lawlessness, and instability.

Actions Taken to Mitigate the Situation

Law enforcement agencies have intensified investigations and arrested suspects, while community leaders, civil society organizations, and local peace actors are working with media outlets to raise awareness and sensitize the public about the dangers of ritual killings.

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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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 2222/0912 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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