

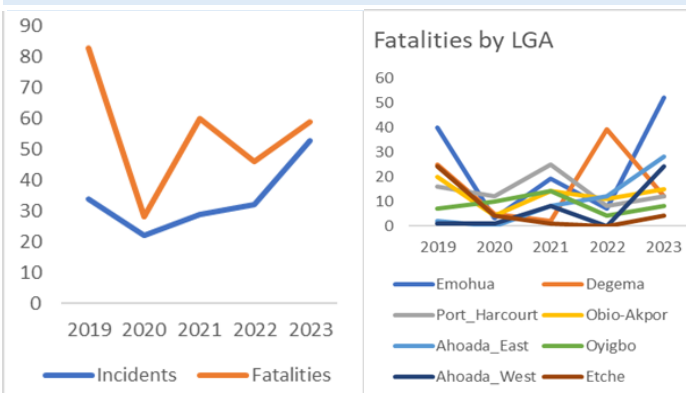
# Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Organized Criminal Violence in Rivers State

January 14-20, 2024

## Background

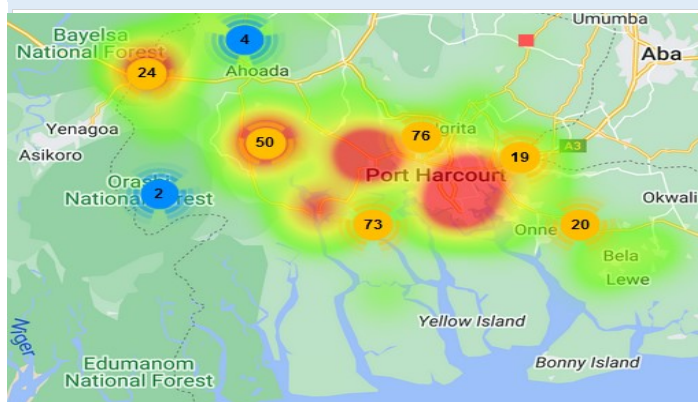
This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal violence and targeted killings in Rivers State. Organized criminal violence including kidnap for ransom and killings by cult gangs has been a major cause of conflict and insecurity in Rivers State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 250 fatalities in the State between January 2022 and December 2023. Recent incidents indicate a surge in criminal violence in the State. In December 2023, for instance, gunmen allegedly killed four soldiers and two civilians, and abducted two South Korean expatriates along the East-West Road in Ahoada East LGA. In January 2024, suspected members of a cult gang reportedly killed two residents and injured six others in Ikem community, Etche LGA. Separately, an armed robber who doubles as the leader of a cult gang was allegedly killed in a gun battle with the police in Oderereke community, Ahoada West LGA. Recently, on January 13, 2024, gunmen reportedly killed the chairman of a Community Development Committee (CDC) in Rumueme community, Port Harcourt LGA.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends of Criminal Violence in Rivers State



Data shows that Emohua LGA had the highest number of fatalities caused by criminal 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 Criminal Violence in Rivers State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Rivers State from January 2022 - December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The recent surge in organized criminal violence could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict risks and insecurity in the State. The current trend of targeted violence and killings has the potential to escalate and take on various communal and political dimensions, especially against the backdrop of rising political and ethnic tensions over power struggle and switching of political party affiliations in the aftermath of the 2023 general elections in the State. This could bring about harsh socio-economic and security consequences in the state.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current wave of organized criminal violence has the potential to intensify in ways that could adversely impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. Stakeholders should work with the security agencies to devise strategies to mitigate the situation. Peace actors should also work with relevant governments' agencies to develop lasting political and institutional strategies to address the underlying drivers. Interestingly, civil society organizations are collaborating to mitigate some of the conflict drivers 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**

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



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