

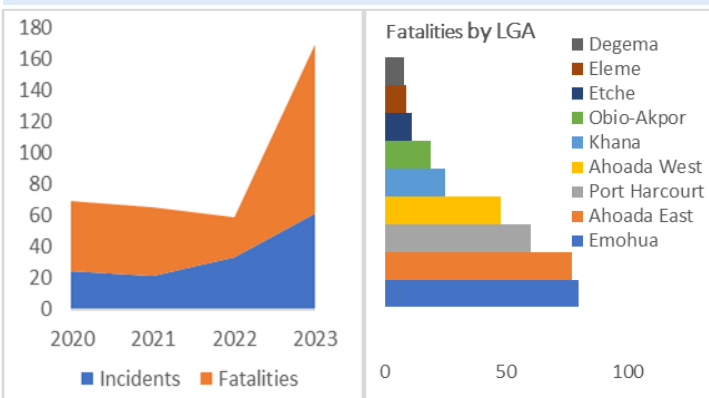
# Niger Delta Weekly: Building Resilience Against Criminality and Gang Violence in Rivers State

July 14-20, 2024

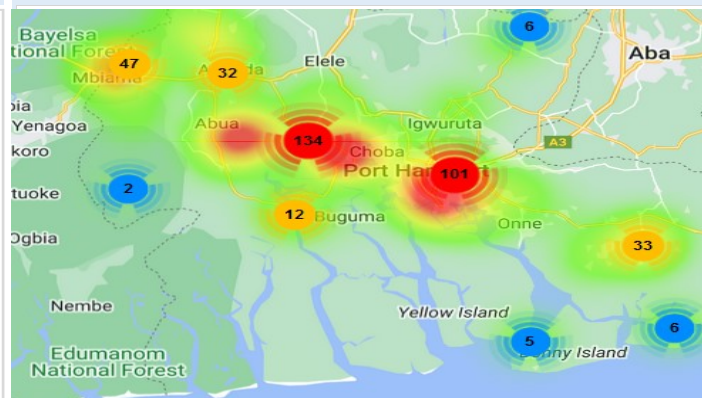
## Background

This weekly update spotlights organized crime in the Niger Delta with a focus on gang violence and criminality in Rivers State. According to data (see map below), organized criminal violence, including clashes between cult gangs, caused over 300 fatalities in Rivers State between January 2020 and May 2024. Recent data shows the prevalence of organized criminal violence in the State. In April 2024, for instance, gunmen allegedly killed a member of a local vigilante at Obidanso Waterfront in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. In May, gunmen reportedly attacked a passenger boat and abducted seven travelers along the Onne Waterways in Eleme LGA. Also, in May, a resident was reportedly killed and two houses destroyed during a clash between youths and members of a local vigilante in Egbeda community, Emohua LGA. In July, a member of a local vigilante was reportedly ambushed and killed by gunmen in Igwuruta community, Ikwerre LGA. More recently, on July 14, 2024, gunmen suspected to be members of a cult gang allegedly abducted a 47-year-old man from his boat and killed him in Bakana community, Degema LGA.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Gang Violence and Criminality in Rivers State



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



Data shows that Emohua and Ahoada East LGAs had the highest number of fatalities caused by gang violence and criminality. Sources: Nigeria Watch and ACLED data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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

## Why it Matters

The prevalence of criminality, including cult gang violence, has the potential to intensify in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of insecurity in the State. If not de-escalated the situation could degenerate into a cycle of targeted violence and a breakdown of law and order. This could cause serious socio-economic and political disruptions. Individuals and communities need to build resilience through collective action in order to withstand and recover from the shocks and disruptions caused by recurrent criminal violence.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current wave of criminal violence has the potential to escalate, especially against the backdrop of political tensions in the lead-up to the upcoming local government elections scheduled for October 2024. Stakeholders including civil society organizations should work with the State government to devise strategies including building community resilience against criminal violence. This should include the deployment of multistakeholder early warning systems to identify and proactively respond to all potential indicators of violence.

## 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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