

Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Update

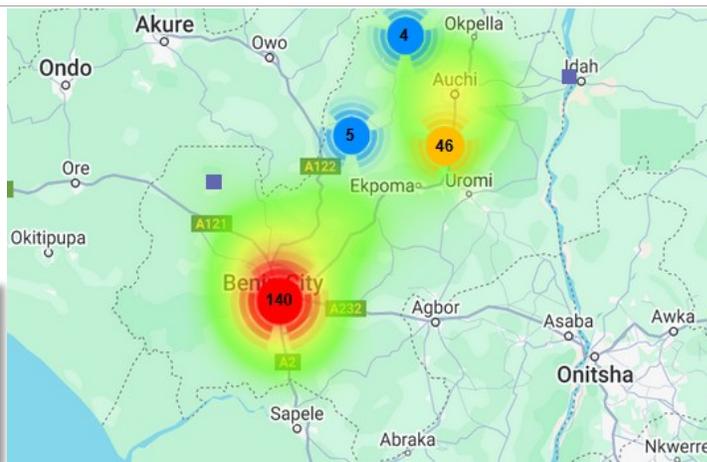
Pathways to Mitigating Cult-Related Gang Violence in Edo State

April 27 - May 03, 2025

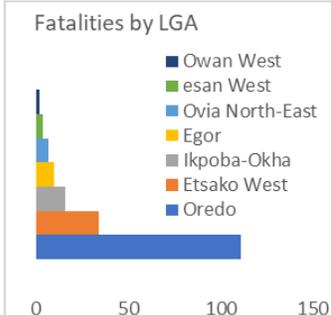
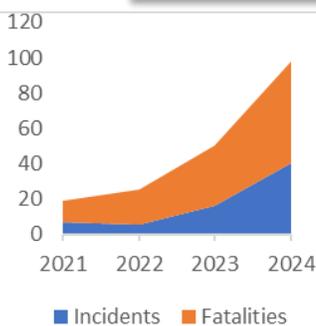
This update highlights the rising threat of organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta, focusing on cult-related gang violence in Edo State. Cult-related violence remains one of the key drivers of insecurity in the state. Recent data indicate a resurgence of violent clashes between cult groups, causing over 10 fatalities in the past two weeks.



Trends and Flashpoints of Cult-Related Gang Violence in Edo State



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of fatalities linked to cult-related gang violence in Edo State between January 2021 and March 2025. Source: Generated from PIND's P4P Peace Map (www.p4pnigerdelta.org).



Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The recent escalation of gang violence poses a serious threat to communal harmony and security in the state. Clashes between rival cult gangs could trigger a cycle of reprisal killings, potentially leading to widespread hooliganism and a breakdown of law and order.

Actions Taken to Mitigate the Situation

Stakeholders are working to address cult-related gang violence in the state. In response, the Edo State Government recently enacted the Secret Cult and Similar Activities (Prohibition) Law, 2025, which prescribes a 21-year jail term for individuals involved in cult activities.



Timeline of Recent Cult-Related Gang Violence and Killings in Edo

April 28, 2025
Four persons were reportedly killed in a series of reprisal attacks across various locations in Benin City, the Edo State capital.

April 26, 2025
A suspected cultist was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult gang along Upper Forestry Road in Benin City.

April 25, 2025
Two people, including a physiotherapist, were reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be cultists in Ugbowo community of Benin City.

April 25, 2025
Two residents, including a realtor and a local vigilante, were reportedly attacked and killed by cultists at separate locations in Benin City.

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

Inquiries: ✉ PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: 📞 info@PINDfoundation.org +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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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.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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