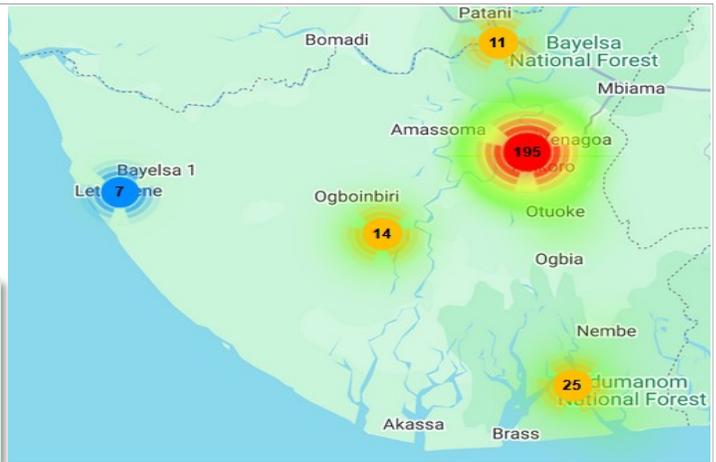


# Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Update

## Addressing the Resurgence of Cult Gang Violence and Killings in Bayelsa State

May 18-24, 2025

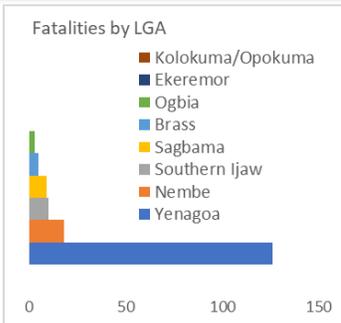
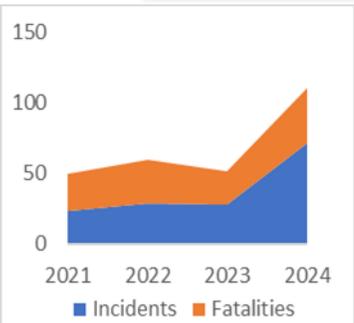
This update spotlights the surge in gang violence in the Niger Delta, focusing on cult-related killings in Bayelsa State. Clashes between rival cult groups continue to be a major driver of violence and insecurity in the state. Recent data indicates a resurgence of killings by cult gangs, primarily linked to disputes over the collection of illegal levies.



Heat Map shows the concentration of fatalities caused by gang related violence in Bayelsa State from January 2021 - March 2025. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map [www.p4pnigerdelta.org](http://www.p4pnigerdelta.org)



### Trends and Flashpoints of Cult-related Gang Violence in Bayelsa State



### Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The resurgence of gang violence has triggered a wave of reprisal killings. This escalation could lead to prolonged battles for supremacy and territorial control among cult groups. If unchecked, it could further intensify communal tension and criminality in the state.

### Actions Taken to Mitigate the Situation

In response to the surge in gang violence, the state government, security agencies, and community leaders have launched coordinated efforts to improve public safety, with a strategic focus on community engagement through the Bayelsa Community Safety Corps (BCSC).



### Timeline of Recent Incidents of Cult-related Gang Violence

- May 09, 2025**  
Cultists reportedly killed two university graduates in Gbarabtoru-Ekpetiama community, Yenagoa Local government Area (LGA).
- April 24, 2025**  
A cult leader was reportedly killed by members of his own gang during a leadership tussle in the Azikoro area of Yenagoa, the State Capital.
- April 20, 2025**  
Four people were reportedly killed by cultists in Swali community, Yenagoa, during a violent clash over control of market revenue.
- March 03, 2025**  
A lingering cult war reportedly led to the death of a 30-year-old man as rival gang violence resurfaced in Yenagoa, the State Capital.

**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.

