

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Mob Violence and Extrajudicial killings in the Niger Delta

April 16-22, 2023

Description

This weekly update spotlights the growing threat of mob violence and extrajudicial killings in the Niger Delta. According to data (see map below), mob violence caused more than 400 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2020 and December 2022. Recent incidents indicate the growing prevalence of mob violence and extrajudicial killings in the region, mainly driven by a rise in criminality and perceived weaknesses in the penal system. In January 2023, for instance, a robber was reportedly lynched by a mob in Agbarho community in Ughelli North LGA, Delta State. In April, a mob reportedly killed a 35-year-old taxi driver for killing two persons in an accident in Akure, the Ondo State capital. In another incident, a robbery suspect was reportedly killed by a mob in Aka Uffot community in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital. More recently, on April 19, 2023, a mob reportedly killed a commercial tricyclist for allegedly killing a passenger during a fight in Yenizue-Epie community in Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa State.

Why it Matters

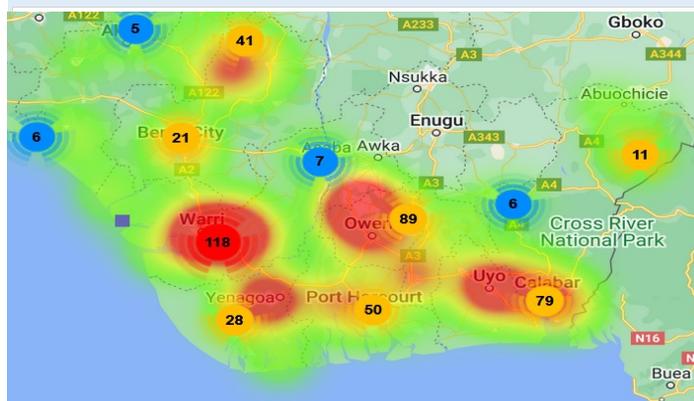
Mob violence and extrajudicial killings are increasingly becoming widespread in the Niger Delta, driven mainly by public recourse to vigilante justice as a way of responding to criminality and other misconducts. The growing trend of dispensing justice summarily without recourse to legal procedures is a serious threat to the rule of law and public safety. If not mitigated the situation could entrench a culture of collective violence that could cause far-reaching socio-economic disruptions and political instability at the State and regional levels.

Social: The growing prevalence of mob violence could have serious psychosocial and health impacts on residents. The dehumanizing nature of mob violence - lynching and burning of victims - devalues human life and dignity, and it could cause post-traumatic stress disorder among residents. Also, disciplinary mob violence could evolve into spontaneous acts of victimization and human rights violations that could cause social disorder and thus undermine human security.

Economic: The growing wave of mob violence and extrajudicial killings could create a climate of fear and uncertainty that is detrimental to economic development. Mob lynching could escalate into unrest which could result in looting, arson and vandalism. This could disrupt businesses and cause loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities.

Political: Mob justice and extrajudicial killings could undermine the criminal justice system. It could create a domino effect whereby mob violence and extrajudicial killings become the new normal in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. This could cause security, administrative and political challenges for government in the region.

Fatalities Heat Map of Mob Violence and Extrajudicial Killings in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of fatalities caused by mob violence in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - December 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Mob violence is a serious threat to peace, security and communal stability in the Niger Delta. The situation is mainly driven by public distrust in the judicial and penal system and perceived policing vacuum amidst rising criminality. Stakeholders should work with the government and community leaders to address the underlying drivers. Peace actors should work with relevant government agencies and media outfits to raise awareness of the negative effects of mob violence and advocate for appropriate preventive measures.

Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: info@PINDfoundation.org [+234 \(0\) 9 291 0454](tel:+234(0)92910454)

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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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