

robbers using the waterways to attack targets along the Ikorodu-Epe-Ajah-V.G.C and Victoria Island axis. He also identified an emerging trend of attackers originating from the outskirts or periphery of the state, as well as the emergence of trans-border criminal groups.

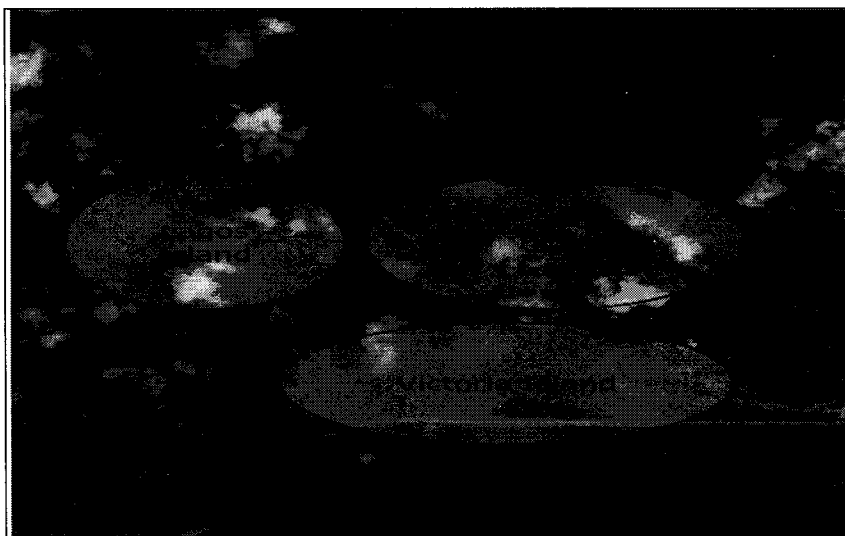


Figure 1. Aerial Image of Lagos

Niger Delta

Criminality continued at high levels in the Niger Delta throughout the reporting period. Ship hijackings, robberies, oil theft ('bunkering') and kidnappings continued unabated. Criminal gangs, also known as cults, continue to operate freely in the region (please refer to Annex A for additional information). The last quarter of 2008 continued to see criminal activity, with numerous clashes occurring amongst rival gangs and between criminal groups and the security forces. However, the reporting period did not experience major and sustained inter-gang fighting as was seen during the third quarter. Nonetheless, the potential for major inter-gang fighting remains, as squabbles over the distribution of bunkering and kidnapping funds arise. Furthermore, the risk of getting caught in the line of fire between criminal gangs and the security forces is more significant than inter-gang fighting, as it tends to occur more frequently. As such, it is advisable to keep up to date with local developments for potential sites of violence.

Notable Incidents

On 15 Oct 08, gunmen in six speedboats attacked navy vessels guarding the main petroleum and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminals, near the Nigeria LNG (NLNG) jetties in Bonny Island. One NLNG house boat was set on fire and it is thought that one soldier and two militants were killed in the fight. 3+

On 16 Oct 08, one Nigerian soldier was injured when troops clashed with militants in the Niger Delta. The spokesperson for the military, Lieutenant-Colonel Musa Sagir, stated that an unknown number of militants in six speed boats attacked the Joint Task Force (JTF) which protects oil facilities and personnel in Bonny River. He added that the JTF repelled the attack, sinking two of the militants' boats. Clashes between the military and militants are frequent in the Niger Delta, particularly along the Bonny River, which has seen an increase in piracy attacks.

On 7 Nov 08, six navy personnel were killed in an exchange of small arms fire with gunmen when they tried to interfere in a fight between two rival gangs in the Nembe area of Bayelsa State. An unknown number of gunmen were also believed to have died during the incident, which is thought to have been caused by a dispute over local politics.

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