

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Homicidal Violence and Targeted Killings in Abia State

April 10-16, 2022

Description

This weekly update spotlights lethal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on homicidal violence and targeted killings in Abia State. According to data (see map below), targeted violence and homicide caused more than 210 fatalities in Abia State between January 2018 and December 2021. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of homicidal violence and targeted killings by 'Unknown Gunmen', as well as armed clashes between hoodlums and public security forces in the State. In February 2022, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked a cattle market and killed eight traders and about 50 cows in Omuma Uzor community, Ukwa West LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly killed four residents and destroyed several properties in Amangwu community, Ohafia LGA. Separately, in March, three persons were reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be cultist in Aba town, the headquarters of Aba South LGA. Recently, on April 08, 2022, gunmen reportedly ambushed a team of soldiers and set ablaze an armored vehicle at a security checkpoint by Tonimas Junction along the Enugu-Aba-Port Harcourt Expressway in Osisioma Ngwa LGA.

Why it Matters

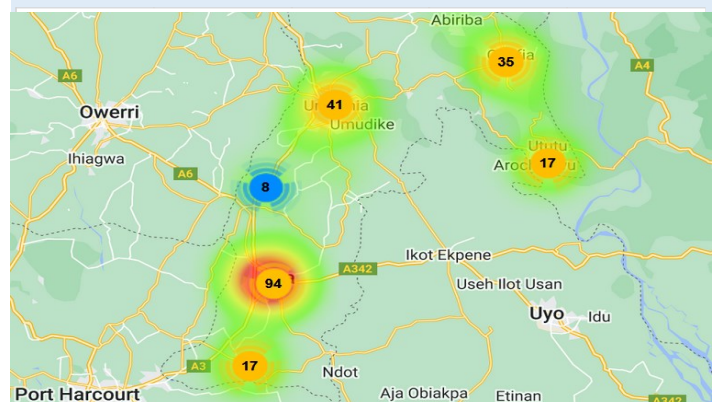
The recent resurgence of homicidal violence and targeted killing of residents by gunmen could adversely impact the security environment in the State, especially in the lead up to the 2023 general elections and against the backdrop of the ongoing separatist agitation in South-Eastern Nigeria. The situation could result in hooliganism, reprisal killings and a breakdown of law and order which could bring about socio-economic disruptions and political instability in the State.

Social: Targeted killings and homicidal violence could bring about serious psychosocial and health consequences that can undermine communal stability and social wellbeing of residents. The prevalence of targeted killings could cause a 'siege mentality' and general feeling of insecurity that can result in public unrest, vigilante and mob violence. It could also intensify arms proliferation and gun violence which could increase communal tensions and insecurity in the State.

Economic: The growing wave of targeted killings could create an atmosphere of insecurity that is detrimental to economic development. The situation could create a general feeling of insecurity that could result in the restriction of movement and the disruption of economic activities. This could also increase expenditure on security and consequently undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The prevalence of homicidal violence and targeted killings could weaken citizens' trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and property in the State, and therefore undermine the authority of the government. This could result in civil disorder which could cause serious political and security challenges for the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Homicidal Violence and Targeted Killings in Abia State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of homicidal violence and targeted killings in Abia State from January 2018 - December 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The recent resurgence of homicidal violence and targeted killings by gunmen has the potential to escalate and worsen the security situation in the State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant government security agencies to deploy appropriate preventive measures to de-escalate the situation. Peace and security stakeholders should also work with the State government and reputable community leaders to identify and address the underlying drivers as well as the triggers of the recent wave of targeted killings.

Contact Us

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Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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