

Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Emerging Threat of Gun Violence in Edo State

May 01-07, 2022

Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights lethal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on the threat of gun violence in Edo State. According to data (see map below), more than 140 gun related deaths were reported in Edo State between January 2018 and December 2021. Recent incidents indicate an upsurge in gun related violence in the State, including targeted killing of residents by 'Unknown Gunmen'. In February 2022, for instance, a 36-year old medical doctor who works at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be assassins in Benin City, the state capital. Separately, in February, gunmen reportedly attacked five banks, killed six persons, including two police officers and four residents, and carted away a large sum of money in Uromi town, Esan North-East LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly killed a chieftain of a major political party in Benin City, Oredo LGA. Recently, on April 20, 2022, gunmen reportedly killed three residents, including the leader of a local vigilante group following a leadership tussle in Uselu-Nahor community, Uhumwonde LGA.

Why it Matters

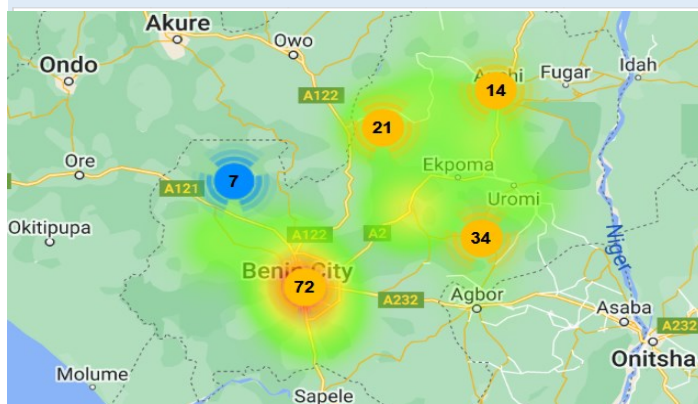
The recent upsurge in gun violence has the potential to escalate and adversely impact the security environment in the State. Rising incidents of gun violence and fatalities could cause a break down of law and order which could result in public unrest, hooliganism, arbitrary killings, and the deployment of repressive countermeasures by security forces which could cause human rights violations. This could cause severe socio-economic and political repercussions in the State.

Social: Recurrent incidents of gun violence could have long-lasting negative impact on residents, especially given its destructive nature and fatal outcomes. The growing wave of gun violence could cause arms proliferation which could intensify violent criminality and insecurity. Gun related deaths and injuries could also bring about serious psychosocial and health consequences for individuals and communities, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among residents.

Economic: Besides the human cost of gun-related deaths, the prevalence of gun violence could create an atmosphere of insecurity that is detrimental to economic development. Incidents of gun violence could disrupt economic activities, scare off investors and cause loss of livelihoods and business opportunities. The economic impact of rising incidents of gun violence could also reduce government's revenue from taxation, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents

Political: The prevalence of gun violence could weaken citizen's trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties, and consequently undermine the authority of the government. This could also bring about civil unrest and cause political instability.

Fatalities Heat Map of Gun Related Violence in Edo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of gun related deaths reported in Edo State from January 2018 - December 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The growing spate of gun related violence could escalate in ways that could adversely impact the socio-political and security landscape in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government and community leaders to identify and address the underlying drivers of gun related violence. Peace and security stakeholders should also work with law enforcement agencies to curb the proliferation of arms, and reinforce 'hot spot policing' to counteract gun violence and other violent criminality in the state.

Contact Us

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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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