

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Gun Violence and Targeted Killings in Ondo State

June 05-11, 2022

Description

This weekly update spotlights lethal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on gun violence and targeted killings in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), gun related violence and targeted killings caused more than 100 fatalities in Ondo State between January 2019 and April 2022. Recent incidents indicate an increase in gun violence, including targeted attacks and killing of residents in public places. In January 2022, for instance, the proprietor of a petrol station and his sales boy were reportedly killed by gunmen in Okeluse community, Ose LGA. In May, gunmen reportedly killed a soldier and a driver, and abducted an expatriate engineer at a construction site in Ogbonmo community, Owo LGA. In June, gunmen suspected to be terrorists reportedly attacked a Catholic church and killed more than 38 worshipers including five children in Owo town, the headquarters of Owo LGA. More recently, on June 08, 2022, gunmen reportedly attacked a community, robbed residents and killed six persons at the Sabo area of Ondo town in Ondo West LGA. The current wave of gun violence has intensified insecurity in the State.

Why it Matters

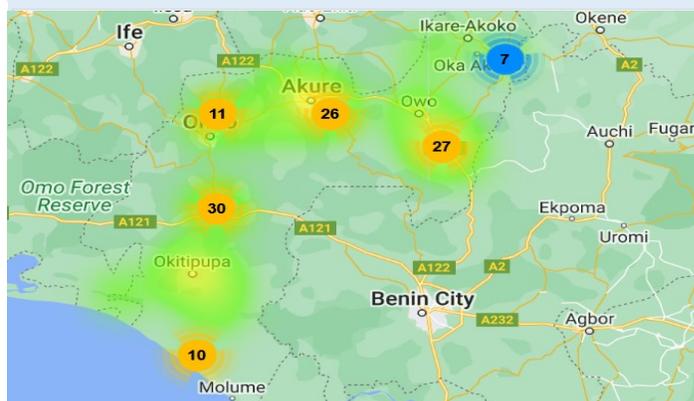
The recent surge in gun violence has the potential to escalate in ways that could trigger a cycle of reprisal violence and killings. This could intensify ethno-religious tensions and cause a breakdown of law and order. The prevalence of gun violence could also cause public unrest, criminal victimization, and arbitrary killings. This could negatively impact the security landscape with significant social, economic and political repercussions at the communal, state and regional levels.

Social: Given its destructive nature and fatal consequences, gun violence could have long-lasting devastating impact on residents. Gun related deaths and injuries could bring about wide-ranging physical, psychosocial and health consequences for individuals and communities, including internal displacement and humanitarian crisis. The growing prevalence of gun violence could also increase the proliferation of arms which could intensify violent criminality and insecurity.

Economic: Apart from the human cost of gun related deaths, the prevalence of gun violence could create a climate of insecurity that is detrimental to economic development. Gun violence could disrupt economic activities, scare off investors and cause loss of livelihoods and business opportunities. This could undercut government 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 therefore undermine the authority of the government. This could bring about civil unrest which could cause political instability.

Fatalities Heat Map of Gun Related Violence and Targeted Killings in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of gun related deaths reported in Ondo State from January 2019 - April 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The prevalence of gun violence has the potential to escalate in ways that could intensify insecurity in the State, especially within the context of rising political tensions in the lead up to the 2023 general elections, as well as the lingering herder-farmer conflict in the State. Stakeholders should work with the State government to identify and address the underlying drivers. Law enforcement agencies should also work with community leaders and local residents for early warning and intelligence gathering to curtail the situation.

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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