

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Violence Against Security Forces in Imo State

March 13-19, 2022

## Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights targeted violence against government security forces in the Niger Delta with a focus on the resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in Imo State. According to data (see map below), targeted violence against public security forces caused over 60 fatalities in more than 30 reported incidents in Imo State between January 2018 and December 2021. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities in the State. In January 2022, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked a divisional police station, killed a police inspector and injured another police officer in Mgbidi town, Oru West LGA. In February, armed men reportedly attacked a police station with firearms and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), killed two police officers, and wounded another in Umundugba town, Isu LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly attacked and burned a divisional police headquarters in Okwelle town, Onuimo LGA. More recently, on March 16, 2022, two prison officers were reportedly ambushed and killed by gunmen in Umulolo community, Okigwe LGA.

## Why it Matters

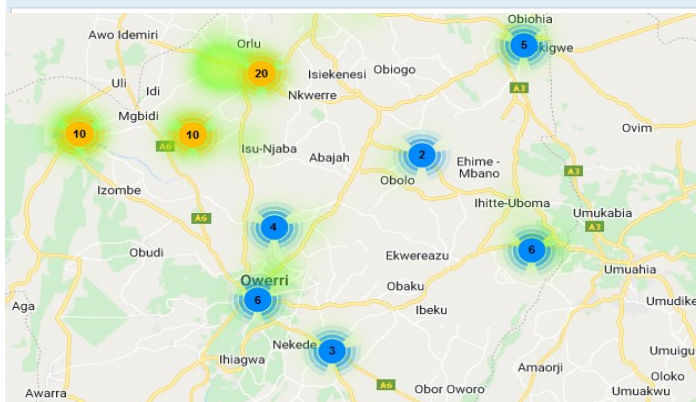
The prevalence of targeted attacks on security facilities could cause a breakdown of law and order, and consequently result in the deployment of repressive security strategies, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing separatist agitation in the State. This could result in human rights abuses, extra-judicial killings, public unrest and widespread hooliganism which could intersect with organized criminality and ethnic tensions to cause socio-economic and political disruptions.

**Social:** The resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities could intensify the proliferation of arms and increase the intensity and lethality of criminal violence and insurgency in the State. Recurrent attacks on police stations and other security facilities could also cause a general feeling of insecurity among residents, dampen the morale of security personnel, and embolden insurgents and criminal gangs.

**Economic:** Recurrent attacks on public security facilities could create an unsafe environment that is detrimental to economic development. Weapons stolen from security facilities could be used to facilitate other violent crimes including robbery and kidnapping for ransom. This could increase expenditure on public and private security, force businesses to relocate, reduce government revenue from taxation, and consequently undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** The resurgence of targeted attacks on public security facilities could weaken citizens' trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties. This could cause civil unrest and lawlessness which could present additional security challenges for the State.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in Imo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by targeted attacks on security facilities in Imo State from January 2018 - December 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

The recurrence of targeted attacks on security facilities could cause a breakdown of law and order in ways that could adversely affect the socio-political and security situation in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with relevant security agencies to devise appropriate strategies to effectively protect security facilities and personnel against targeted violence. Security agencies should also ensure that their operational procedures are updated, and all security facilities are equipped with surveillance and access control systems.

## Contact Us

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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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