

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Resurgence of Gun Violence in Imo State

November 14-20, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights violent criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on the resurgence of gun related violence in Imo State. According to data (see map below), gun violence caused more than 190 fatalities in Imo State between January 2018 and September 2021. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of gun violence in the State, including targeted killing of residents and destruction of public facilities by 'Unknown Gunmen'. In October 2021, for example, gunmen reportedly attacked and killed two traditional rulers and injured many others during a meeting in Nnenasa community, Njaba LGA. Separately, in October, gunmen reportedly killed a member of a local vigilante group in Ogwuaga Abba community, Nwangele LGA. In November, a gang of gunmen reportedly killed two men and a woman in Umulogho town, Obowo LGA. Also, in November, a group of gunmen reportedly attacked a market and killed three persons in Anara community, Isiala Mbanda LGA. More recently, on November 15, 2021, gunmen reportedly burned a Magistrate Court with petrol bombs in Ubulu town, Oru West LGA.

Why it Matters

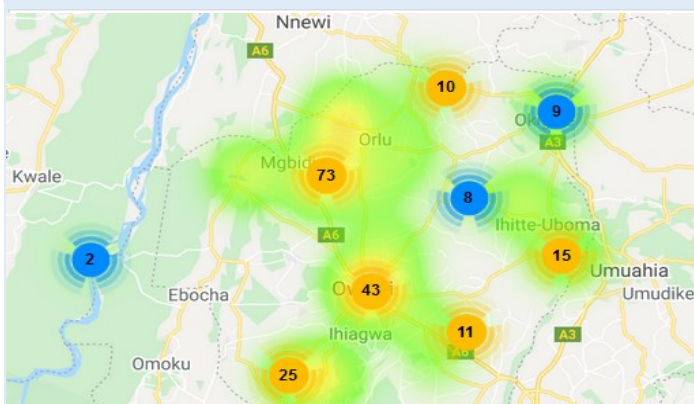
The resurgence of gun related violence has the potential to intensify insecurity and adversely impact the security environment in the State. Rising gun related violence and fatalities could cause public unrest, a break down of law and order, and the deployment of repressive countermeasures by government security forces. This could cause serious socio-economic and political disruptions in the State.

Social: Given its destructive nature and fatal consequences, gun violence could have wide-ranging and long-lasting devastating impact on residents. The growing spate 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 internal displacement and humanitarian crisis in the State.

Economic: Apart from the human cost of gun related deaths, the prevalence of gun violence could create an atmosphere of insecurity that is hostile to economic development in the State. A resurgence of gun violence could disrupt economic activities, scare off investors and cause loss of livelihoods and business opportunities. The economic impact of rising gun violence could reduce government's revenue from taxation, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: A resurgence of gun violence could weaken citizen's trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties in the State, and therefore 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 Imo State, Nigeria



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

Prognosis

The current spate of gun violence has the potential to escalate in ways that could intensify insecurity in the State, especially within the context of rising tensions over the recent arrest and detention of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) by the federal government. Law enforcement agencies should work with the State government and local residents for early warning and intelligence gathering to curb proliferation of arms, and reinforce 'hot spot policing' and 'focused deterrence' of gun violence 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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