

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Targeted Killings and Criminal Violence in Imo State

June 19-25, 2022

Description

This weekly update highlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on organized criminal violence and targeted killings in Imo State. According to data (see map below), organized criminal violence caused over 200 fatalities in Imo State between January 2019 and April 2022. Recent data shows the prevalence of criminal violence in the State. In April 2022, for instance, hoodlums reportedly attacked the venue of a Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) and killed an official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Nkwo Ihitte town, Ihitte Uboma LGA. In May, four persons were reportedly killed during clashes between government security forces and gunmen suspected to be supporters of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) in Amaifeke and Ihioma communities, Orlu LGA. In June, gunmen reportedly detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) along Eke Ututu-Orsu road in Orsu LGA. Recently, on June 20, 2022, a commercial bus was reportedly set ablaze by gunmen who were allegedly enforcing a 'sit-at-home' order issued by IPOB supporters at a market in Izombe town, Oguta LGA.

Why it Matters

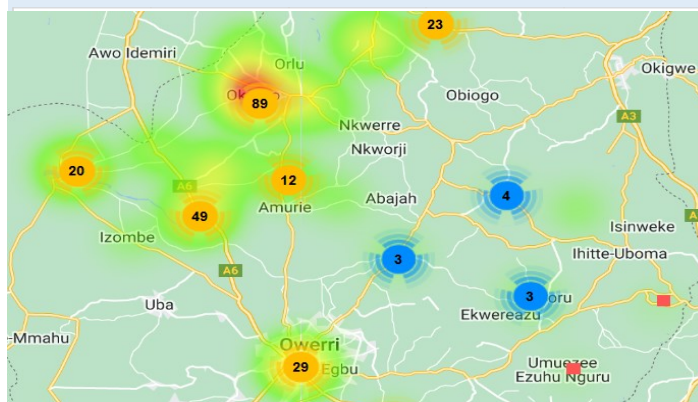
The growing prevalence of organized criminal violence and targeted killings could intensify insecurity in the State, especially in the context of the separatist agitation in the South-East and parts of the South-South regions of Nigeria. If not mitigated, the situation could degenerate into lawlessness and widespread hooliganism, and the deployment of repressive security measures. This could cause serious social, economic and political disruptions at the state and regional levels.

Social: Organized criminal violence and targeted killings could bring about severe psychosocial and health repercussions that can undermine the social wellbeing of residents. The growing prevalence of targeted killings could cause a general feeling of insecurity that can compel residents to adopt violent coping measures and hostile self-help strategies including criminal victimization and mob violence. This could cause social strife and breakdown of law and order in the State.

Economic: Recurrent incidents of organized criminal violence and targeted killing could destabilize the local economy. It could cause a 'siege mentality' and a general feeling of insecurity that could result in the restriction of movement and disruption of economic activities. This could bring about loss of livelihoods and business opportunities, and consequently undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The prevalence of criminal violence and killings could compel residents to adopt aggressive coping mechanisms and self-help measures that could bring about lawlessness and civil disorder. This could undermine the authority of the State and disrupt governance.

Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence and Targeted Killings in Imo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence and targeted killings in Imo State from January 2019 - April 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The growing prevalence of organized criminal violence and targeted killings could worsen the security situation in the State, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing separatist agitation in South-Eastern Nigeria. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government security agencies to deploy appropriate strategies to mitigate the situation. Stakeholders should also work with the federal and state governments to initiate long-term political, security, developmental and institutional measures to mitigate 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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