

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Emerging Threat of Gun Violence in Cross River State

June 26 - July 02, 2022

Description

This weekly update spotlights lethal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on the growing threat of gun related violence in Cross River State. According to data (see map below), gun violence caused over 150 fatalities in Cross River State between January 2018 and March 2022. Recent incidents indicate a rise in gun violence in the state, particularly targeted killing of government security operatives by gunmen. In March 2022, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked a security checkpoint and killed two police officers in Obubra town, Obubra LGA. In May, suspected militants reportedly killed a marine police officer and injured several others during a gun battle at Ikang jetty in Bakassi LGA. Separately, in May, gunmen reportedly killed a police officer at the venue of the primary election of a major political party in Obudu town, Obudu LGA. Also, in May, gunmen suspected to be Ambazonia separatist militias reportedly killed seven motorcyclists in Bashu community, Boki LGA. Recently, on June 02, 2022, gunmen reportedly killed a policeman, abducted a shop owner and robbed several residents in Calabar, the state capital.

Why it Matters

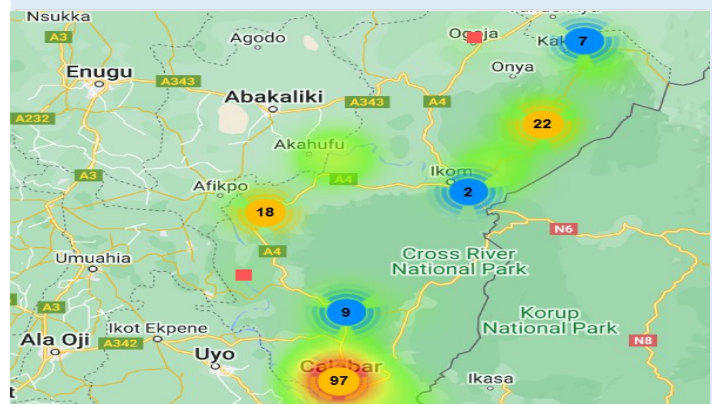
Rising incidents of gun violence could adversely impact the security landscape in the State. It could intensify the arms proliferation, organized criminal violence, and escalate communal tensions. This could also cause a breakdown of law and order which could result in public unrest, the deployment of repressive security countermeasures, and extra-judicial killings. The emerging threat of gun violence could have devastating socio-economic and political consequences for the State.

Social: Rising gun related incidents and fatalities could have wide-ranging and long-lasting devastating impact on society. The growing prevalence of gun violence could intensify insecurity and create a general feeling of fear and anxiety among residents. Gun related deaths and injuries could also bring about serious physical, psychosocial and healthcare consequences that can undermine the social well-being of residents, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Economic: The prevalence of gun violence could create an environment of instability that is inimical to economic development in the State. Recurrent incidents of gun violence could disrupt economic activities and therefore cause loss of livelihoods and business opportunities. This could undercut government's revenue from taxation, and consequently undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The threat of gun violence could weaken citizen's confidence in the capacity of the government to ensure the security of lives and properties. This could cause civil unrest which could undermine the authority of the government and cause political instability.

Fatalities Heat Map of Gun Related Violence in Cross River State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by gun violence in Cross River State from January 2018 - March 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Gun related violence is becoming increasingly prevalent in Cross River State. The emerging situation could intensify insecurity in the State. Stakeholders should work with the State government, community leaders and the relevant public security agencies to identify and address the underlying causes and enablers of gun violence. Peace and security stakeholders should also collaborate with law enforcement agencies to devise appropriate strategies curtail the proliferation of arms and mitigate gun related violence in the State.

Contact Us

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Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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