Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Prevalence of Criminal Violence in Ondo State

June 20-26, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights insecurity in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal violence in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), violent criminality caused more than 150 fatalities in Ondo State between 2018 and 2020. Recent data shows an upsurge in incidents of armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom in the State. In April 2021, for instance, kidnappers reportedly abducted a man, his wife and three children, and demanded a 10 million naira ransom in Ajowa-Akoko community, Akoko North West LGA. In May, two farmers were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ikaramu community, Akoko North West LGA. Separately, in May, armed robbers reportedly attacked a bullion van belonging to a bank, killed two persons and stole an undisclosed sum of money along the Akure-Ondo expressway in Elemosho village, Ondo East LGA. In June, gunmen reportedly hijacked a school bus and abducted a woman attendant at Oba-Ile Estate in Akure North LGA. More recently, on June 16, 2021, kidnappers reportedly killed two brothers and abducted two children in Ajowa community, Akoko North West LGA.
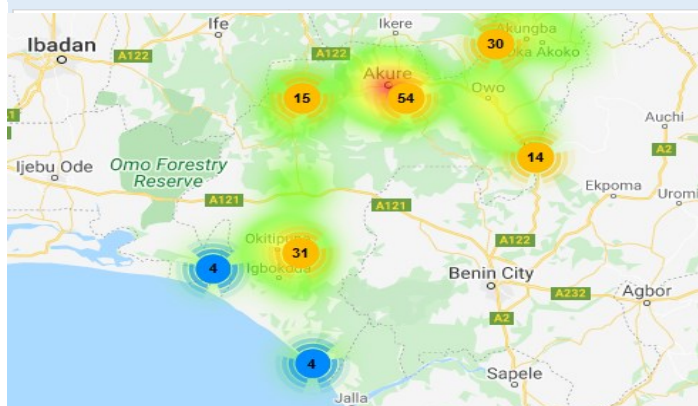
Why it Matters

Ondo State has seen a spike in incidents of criminal violence in the past three months, including lethal incidents of robbery and kidnapping for ransom. Rising cases of robbery and kidnapping could present serious security risk to individuals, families, businesses and organizations in the State. The prevailing situation has the potential to intensify and cause significant sociopolitical and economic instability.

Social: Rising incidents of criminal violence could have serious psychosocial impact on residents. Recurrent incidents of robbery and kidnapping could heighten insecurity and cause anxiety among residents. This could compel residents to adopt aggressive coping strategies and self-help measures including victimization and mob violence. This could negatively affect social activities with far-reaching consequences for communal stability and social wellbeing of residents.

Economic: The prevalence of armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom could create an environment of heightened insecurity that is detrimental to economic development. Recurrent incidents of kidnapping and robbery could cause economic distortions that could undermine legitimate business activities, undercut household income and cause economic hardship. Payment of ransoms could impose heavy financial burdens on individuals, families and businesses.

Political: Recurrent incidents of kidnapping and robbery could cause public dissatisfaction with the efforts of public security forces to protect lives and properties. This could cause violent protests and unrest which could present additional security challenges for the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence in Ondo State, Nigeria

Heat Map shows concentration of reported fatalities caused by criminal violence in Ondo State from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Criminal violence is becoming increasingly recurrent and lethal in Ondo State. Stakeholders should continue to monitor the situation and respond appropriately. Peace actors should collaborate with the State government and the relevant regional and national security agencies to strengthen ongoing efforts to curb criminal violence in the State. Law enforcement agencies should also work with local residents for early warning and intelligence gathering to reinforce 'hot spot policing' and 'focused deterrence' of criminal violence.

Contact Us

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Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.