

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Violence Against Security Forces in the Niger Delta

July 24-30, 2022

Description

This weekly update spotlights targeted attacks on government security facilities and personnel in the Niger Delta. According to data (see map below), violence against security forces caused over 200 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2019 and March 2022. Recent data shows a resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in the region. In May 2022, for example, gunmen reportedly attacked a bus conveying security personnel and killed five persons including two police officers along Idema-Otuabagi road in Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa State. Separately, in May, gunmen allegedly killed a senior police officer at a security checkpoint in Agwa community in Oguta LGA, Imo State. In June, gunmen reportedly ambushed and killed a police officer at Obeama community in Oyigbo LGA, Rivers State. In July, gunmen allegedly attacked a police station, killed three officers, and stole two AK-47 rifles in Okpanam community in Oshimili North LGA, Delta State. More recently, on July 25, 2022, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station and killed a policeman in Okuta Elerinla community in Akure, the Ondo state capital.

Why it Matters

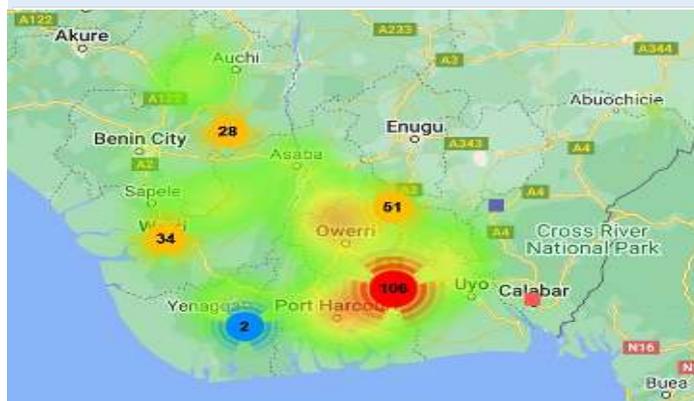
A resurgence of targeted attacks on government security facilities and personnel could adversely impact the peace and conflict dynamics in Niger Delta, especially within the context of rising political and ethno-religious tensions in the country. It could cause lawlessness and criminal victimization which could result in arbitrary killings, and the deployment of repressive counter-measures by security forces. The situation could also inter-sect with organized criminality and separatist agitation to cause socio-economic and political disruptions.

Social: Recurrent attacks on security facilities and personnel could cause a breakdown of law and order, weaken the morale of security operatives, and consequently result in the deployment of repressive strategies which could result in collateral damage and human rights violations. Attacks on security facilities could also intensify arms proliferation and accordingly increase the lethality of criminal violence.

Economic: Targeted attacks on government security facilities and personnel could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could be detrimental to economic development. It could cause insecurity that could result in the restriction of movement, destruction of livelihoods and disruption of economic activities. It could also scare off investors and accordingly undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The current wave of targeted attacks on security personnel by gunmen could escalate into criminal insurgency in the Niger Delta. The situation could be exploited by hooligans and separatist groups to undermine the rule of law and public safety, weaken the government, and cause political instability at the state and regional levels.

Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by violence against security forces in the Niger Delta from January 2019 - March 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The current wave of attacks on government security forces could escalate in ways that could adversely impact the peace and security landscape in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to devise appropriate strategies to mitigate the situation. Peace and security actors should also work with the relevant national, regional and State governments' agencies to develop long-term political, developmental, and institutional measures to address the underlying drivers of the security situation.

Contact Us

Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, Research Coordinator

Contacts: [✉ afeno@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afeno@pindfoundation.org) [☎ 08172401595](tel:08172401595)

What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)

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.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



FOUNDATION FOR NIGER DELTA PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE