

Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Growing Wave of Assassinations in Delta State

July 31 - August 06, 2022

Description

This weekly update highlights targeted killings in the Niger Delta with a focus on the growing wave of assassinations in Delta State. According to data (see map below), homicidal violence and targeted killings caused more than 100 fatalities in Delta State between January 2020 and June 2022. Recent data indicates an increase in assassinations and targeted killings in the State. In April 2022, for example, gunmen suspected to be assassins reportedly killed a man alleged to be an internet fraudster in Orhuworun community, Udu LGA. His assailants trailed and shot him dead in his car. In May, a popular photographer was reportedly shot dead by suspected assassins at his wife's shop in Sapele town, Sapele LGA. In July, a chieftain of a major political party who is also a special assistant to a prominent federal lawmaker from the state was reportedly shot dead by suspected assassins at his residence in Sapele town, Sapele LGA. More recently, on August 03, 2022, a 62-year old Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) was reportedly shot dead by suspected assassins at his residence at Ime-Obi community in Agbor town, Ika South LGA.

Why it Matters

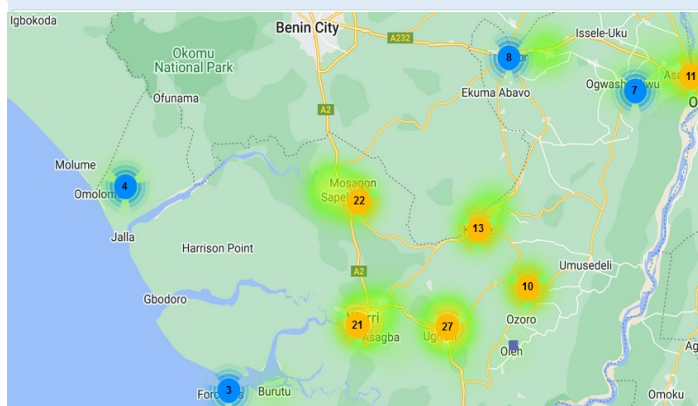
The growing wave of homicidal violence and assassinations has the potential to escalate in ways that could trigger a series of reprisal violence and killings which could intensify insecurity in the State, especially within the context of rising criminal violence and heightened political tensions in the lead-up to the 2023 general elections. The prevailing situation could also cause a general feeling of uncertainty that could undermine public security and cause social and political disruptions with adverse impact on the local economy.

Social: Homicidal violence and assassinations could have severe psychosocial impact on residents. It could cause a general feeling of insecurity and a 'siege mentality' that could result in spontaneous criminal victimization. It could also intensify arms proliferation and violent criminality. This could compel law enforcement agencies to deploy countermeasures that could be viewed by residents as human rights violations, and consequently undermine communal stability.

Economic: The prevalence of assassination could create a climate of heightened insecurity that could negatively affect the economy of the State. It could cause fear and uncertainties which could disrupt business activities, weaken investors' confidence and consequently cause loss of livelihoods, business opportunities and revenues in the State.

Political: Recurrent incidents of assassination and homicidal violence could undermine the political efficacy of the State and erode citizens' trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties. This could cause widespread social unrest and public disorder which undermine the government and cause political instability.

Fatalities Heat Map of Homicidal Violence and Targeted Killings in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by homicidal violence and targeted killings in Delta State from January 2020 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The current wave of assassinations and homicidal violence has the potential to intensify in ways that could adversely impact the socio-political and security landscape in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to deploy appropriate measures to mitigate the situation. Peace and security actors should also work with the relevant national, regional and State government's agencies to develop long-term security and institutional measures to address the underlying drivers of the current 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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