

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Violence Against Security Forces in Abia and Imo States

October 16-22, 2022b

Description

This weekly update spotlights criminal insurgency in the Niger Delta with a focus on targeted violence against government security forces in Abia and Imo States. According to data (see map below), criminal insurgency including targeted attacks on government security personnel and facilities caused over 500 fatalities in Abia and Imo States between January 2020 and June 2022. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of targeted attacks on government security forces in Abia and Imo states. In August 2022, for instance, gunmen reportedly burned a police station and killed four police officers in Agwa community in Oguta LGA, Imo State. Separately, in August, a soldier was reportedly killed by gunmen in Ebem community in Ohafia LGA, Abia State. In September, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station, injured three policemen and carted away weapons in Umuagu community in Umuahia North LGA, Abia State. More recently, on October 09, 2022, gunmen reportedly killed two senior police officers including an Assistant Superintendent of Police at a security checkpoint in Umuna community in Onuimo LGA, Imo State.

Why it Matters

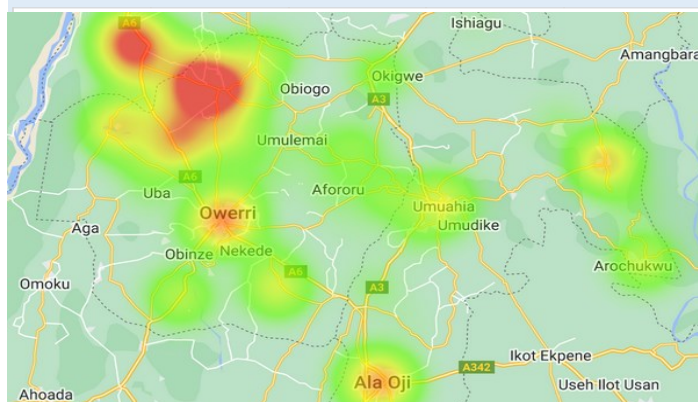
A resurgence of targeted violence against government security personnel and facilities could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in Abia and Imo states. If not appropriately mitigated, this could degenerate into widespread hooliganism, arbitrary killings, and the deployment of repressive measures by security forces. The situation could also intersect with organized criminality, political tensions, and ethno-regional separatist agitation to cause political instability and socio-economic disruptions at the State and regional levels.

Social: A resurgence of violence against government security facilities and personnel could cause a breakdown of law and order, heighten insecurity, weaken the morale of security operatives, and consequently result in the deployment of repressive security strategies that could result in collateral damage and human rights violations. Attacks on security facilities including armories could also intensify arms proliferation and accordingly increase the lethality of criminal violence.

Economic: Recurrent attacks on government security personnel and facilities could create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity that is detrimental to economic development. It could result in widespread insecurity which could cause restriction of movement, destruction of livelihoods and disruption of economic activities. This could scare off investors and thus undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: Violence against public security forces is a threat to law and order and public safety. It could weaken citizens' trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and property. This could cause unrest that could disrupt governance at the state and regional levels.

Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in Abia and Imo States, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by violence against security forces in Abia & Imo States from January 2020 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The current wave of targeted violence against government security forces could escalate in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity at the state and regional levels. 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 developmental and institutional measures to mitigate the situation.

Contact Us

Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, Research Coordinator

Contacts: ✉ afeno@pindfoundation.org ☎ 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