

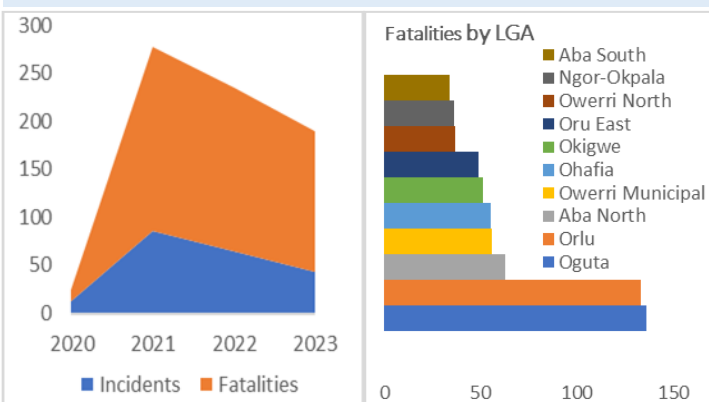
Niger Delta Weekly: De-escalating Criminal Insurgency and Targeted Killings in Imo and Abia

July 28 - August 03, 2024

Background

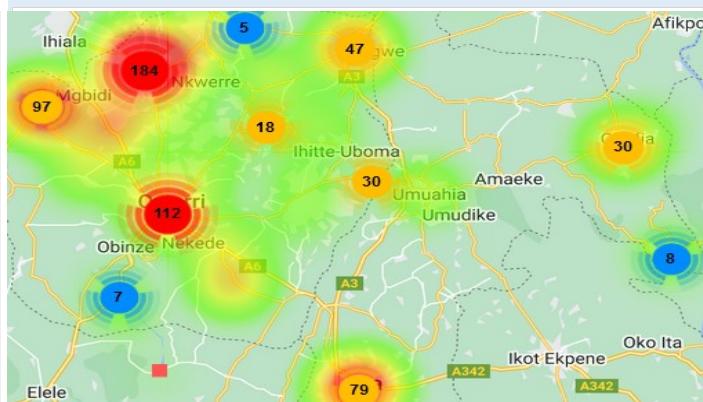
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal insurgency and targeted killings in Imo and Abia States. Criminal insurgency, characterized by targeted violence against government security personnel and civilian residents by separatist militias and criminal gangs, is a prevailing security issue in Imo and Abia States. According to data (see map below), criminal insurgency caused over 600 fatalities in Imo and Abia States between January 2021 and June 2024. A recent escalation of criminal insurgency has caused over 20 fatalities in both States. In June 2024, for instance, suspected separatist militias allegedly killed six traders at Gariki Market in Okigwe LGA, Imo State. Also, in June, gunmen reportedly killed two policemen at a security checkpoint in Aba North LGA, Abia State. In July, gunmen allegedly attacked a police patrol team and killed four persons including three civilians and a police officer along Ngwa Road in Aba, Abia State. Recently, on July 29, 2024, separatist militias allegedly killed four police officers and a young woman at Irete Community in Owerri West LGA, Imo State.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Insurgency in Imo and Abia States



Data shows that Oguta and Orlu LGAs had the highest number of fatalities caused by criminal insurgency during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Insurgency and Targeted Killings in Imo and Abia States, Nigeria



Heat Map shows fatalities caused by criminal insurgency and targeted killing in Imo and Abia States from January 2021 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The recent escalation of criminal insurgency and targeted killings has intensified insecurity in Abia and Imo States. If not de-escalated, the situation could spiral and cause a breakdown of law and order, especially against the backdrop of ongoing nationwide protests over high cost of living. Any further escalation of the situation could cause widespread hooliganism and the deployment of security counter-measures that could cause human rights violations. This could result in serious political, socio-economic and humanitarian consequences.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current wave of criminal insurgency and targeted killings has the potential to escalate in ways that could dangerously impact the dynamics of organized crime and insecurity at the state and regional levels. Stakeholders should collaborate with community leaders, civil society actors, and the relevant government security agencies to devise appropriate strategies to de-escalate the situation. Stakeholders should also work with the government to deploy political, institutional and developmental strategies to mitigate the situation.

Contact Us

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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 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



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