

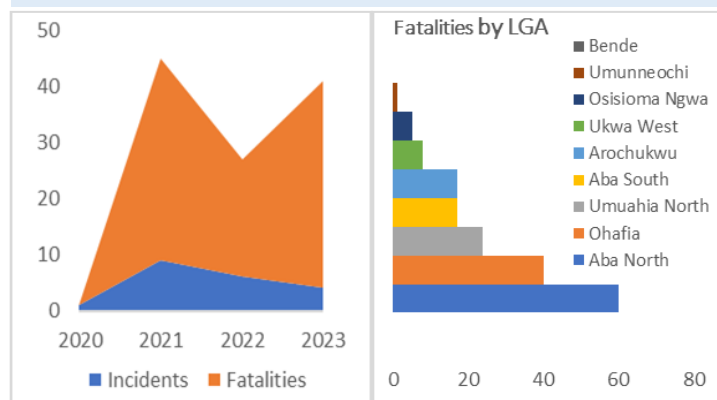
# Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Rising Criminal Insurgency and Targeted Killings in Abia State

November 24-30, 2024

## Background

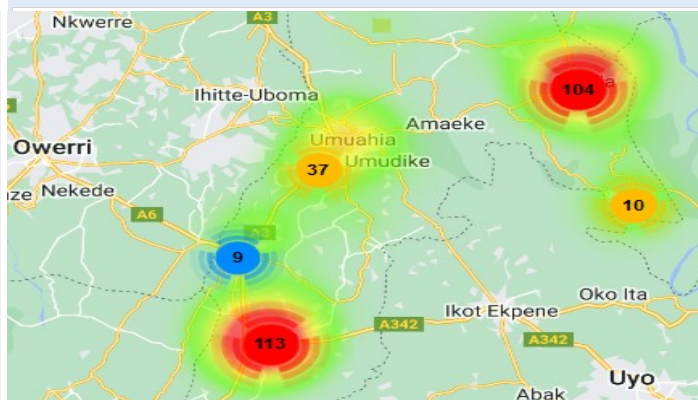
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a specific focus on rising threat of criminal insurgency and targeted killings in Abia State. Violence perpetrated by separatist militias and criminal gangs remains a leading driver of insecurity in the state. According to available data (see map below), over 100 conflict fatalities were recorded in Abia State between January 2020 and September 2024 as a result of organized criminal insurgency and targeted killings. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of criminal violence in the State. For instance, in September 2024, a lawyer and staff member of the State Ministry of Justice was allegedly killed by gunmen at his residence in Aba, Aba North LGA. In November, a 30-year-old man was reportedly shot dead by a 70-year-old man in Ohokobe Ndume, Umuahia North LGA. Separately, militias allegedly attacked an army checkpoint near Ekenobizi community in Umuahia South LGA, killing two soldiers. Most recently, on November 17, gunmen reportedly attacked a police convoy at Ubakala community in Umuahia South LGA, killing one police officer.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Violence in Abia State



Data shows that Aba North LGA had the highest fatalities caused by criminal violence in Abia State during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the PIND's P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Insurgency and Targeted Killings in Abia State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Abia State from January 2020 – September 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The recent resurgence of organized criminal insurgency and targeted killings of government security personnel and residents could escalate, leading to a breakdown of law and order, communal tensions, and reprisal attacks. This may necessitate the deployment of security countermeasures, which could result in human rights violations in the State. If not appropriately addressed, the crisis could deteriorate further, resulting in severe humanitarian, socio-economic, political, and security repercussions at both state and regional levels.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on current trends of violence, the situation could escalate and worsen insecurity in the State, particularly in the context of separatist agitation in Nigeria's South-East region. To address this, stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), local peace actors and community leaders, should work with relevant government security agencies to identify the root causes of the violence. Together, they must develop and implement targeted developmental and security strategies to mitigate the crisis.

## 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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