

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating the Risk of Electoral Violence in Ondo State

September 20-26, 2020

Description

This weekly update highlights political violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on election-related violence in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), over 65 incidents of election-related violence were reported in Ondo State between January 2016 and July 2020, including more than 25 incidents of electoral violence during the 2016 governorship election in the State. In the lead-up to the October 2020 governorship election in the State, political tension has intensified with several reported incidents of organized political violence. In September 2020, for example, a supporter of a political party was reportedly killed by political thugs in Alade community, Idanre LGA. Separately, in September, 8 persons were reportedly injured and 15 vehicles vandalized during clashes between supporters of two major political parties at campaign rallies in Oba-Akoko and Ikare-Akoko communities in Akoko South West and Akoko North East LGAs respectively. More recently, on September 19, 2020, security operatives reportedly arrested 7 political thugs with firearms in a branded campaign vehicle in Ifon community, Ose LGA.

Why it Matters

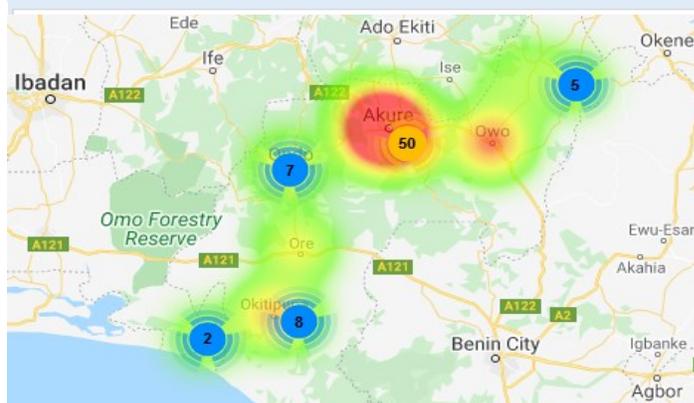
The level of political tensions and violence that characterize ongoing election campaigns underscores an urgent need for measures to mitigate the risk of electoral violence ahead of the upcoming governorship election in the State. The prevailing political situation has the potential to cause widespread violence during and after the election, with significant socio-economic and political consequences.

Social: Electoral violence could adversely impact the local conflict dynamics in the State by sustaining or intensifying existing tensions. Individuals and groups employed to perpetrate electoral violence could transform into ethnic militias and criminal gangs after the election. This could intensify organized criminality and arms proliferation. Electoral violence could cause the loss of lives and property, trigger post-election riots and violent protests, and cause civil disorder.

Economic: Electoral violence could disrupt economic activities and impose significant economic costs on individual, businesses and the government. It could result in violent protests and riots which could provide an avenue for opportunistic criminal activities such as arson, looting and vandalism. This could cause businesses to shut down and result in loss of revenue, livelihoods, and economic opportunities.

Political: Electoral violence could weaken trust in the electoral system and the broader political process. This could negatively affect political behavior, attitudes and participation. Electoral violence could disenfranchise voters and result in disputed election results which could cause violent protests and political instability in the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Election-related Violence in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of election-related violence in Ondo State from January 2016 - July 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Prognosis

The prevailing political situation in Ondo State has the potential to escalate in ways that could cause widespread violence during the upcoming governorship election and beyond. Stakeholders should devise appropriate measures to mitigate the situation. Peace and development actors should create relevant infrastructure for peace including peace messaging, grassroots peace advocacy and facilitation of peace pacts between key political actors, to defuse political tensions and mitigate election-related violence in the State.

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**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



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