

# Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Violent Criminology in Ondo State

November 29 - December 05, 2020

## Description

This weekly update spotlights insecurity in the Niger Delta with a focus on violent crimes in Ondo State. Violent criminality - including armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom - is a prevailing security threat in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), violent criminality caused over 140 fatalities in Ondo State between January 2018 and September 2020. Recent data indicates a rise in violent criminality in the State. In November 2020, for example, 16 market women leaders and other travelers were reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along Akure-Owo highway in Uso community, Owo LGA. Separately, robbers reportedly attacked a petrol station and killed a 27-year old security guard in Akure, the state capital. Recently, on November 26, 2020, a prominent traditional ruler was reportedly killed by gunmen along Owo-Ifon highway in Elegbeka community, Ose LGA. In another incident, robbers reportedly attacked a bank, stole money and killed two persons in Ode-Irele town, Irele LGA. The robbers reportedly burgled the armory of a nearby police station before they attacked the bank with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

## Why it Matters

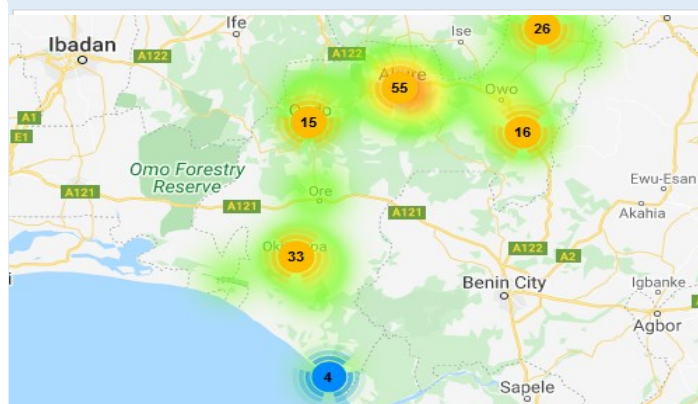
Violent criminality is currently one of the greatest security challenges facing individuals, families, businesses and organizations in the State. Recent incidents of criminal violence included lethal attacks on commercial banks and petrol stations and mass abduction of commuters and residents. The emerging security situation has the potential to cause significant socio-economic and political instability in the State.

**Social:** Violent criminality could have serious psychosocial effects on residents. The prevalence of criminal violence could increase insecurity in public spaces and communities and cause fear among residents. This could negatively affect social activities, communal stability and the mobility and quality of life of residents. Violent criminality could also undercut social development by diverting resources away from public health and education to fund security and crime prevention.

**Economic:** Rising cases of criminal violence could adversely impact the economy of the State. Frequent incidents of robbery and kidnapping could cause serious economic disruptions and increase expenditure on private and public security. This could increase the cost of doing business, scare away investors and consequently reduce government's revenue from taxation. It could also disrupt the local agrarian economy by hindering the transportation of farm produce.

**Political:** The prevalence of violent criminality could weaken state-society relations by eroding citizen's trust in the capacity of the state government and security agencies to protect lives and property. This could create a spiral of mistrust, violent reactions and civil unrest.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Violent Criminology in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported fatalities caused by violent criminality in Ondo State from January 2018 - September 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

Violent criminality remains prevalent and unpredictable in Ondo State. Stakeholders should continue to monitor the situation and respond appropriately. Peace and development actors should work with the State government and the relevant regional and national security agencies to strengthen ongoing efforts to mitigate criminal violence in the State. Law enforcement agencies should also work with local residents for early warning and intelligence gathering to reinforce 'hot spot policing' and 'focused deterrence' of criminality.

## 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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