

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Gun Violence in Delta State

January 31 - February 06, 2021

## Description

This weekly update spotlights violent criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on gun violence in Delta State. Recent data indicates a rise in gun violence, including killings by robbers, kidnappers and cult gangs, as well as armed clashes between hoodlums and security forces in Delta State. According to data (see map below), over 150 gun-related deaths were reported in the State between January and December 2020. The frequency and intensity of gun violence in the State has increased significantly since January 2021. In January 2021, for instance, gunmen reportedly killed 3 policemen and made away with their weapons in Ekiugbo town, Ughelli North LGA. Separately, in January, gunmen reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, killed a soldier and a policeman, and made away with their arms in Oton community, Sapele LGA. Also, in January, gunmen reportedly killed 5 residents in separate incidents in Ekurede Itsekiri, Merogun, and Egbokodo communities in Warri South LGA. Recently, on January 30, 2021, a middle aged man was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be assassins in Ugbomro town, Uvwie LGA.

## Why it Matters

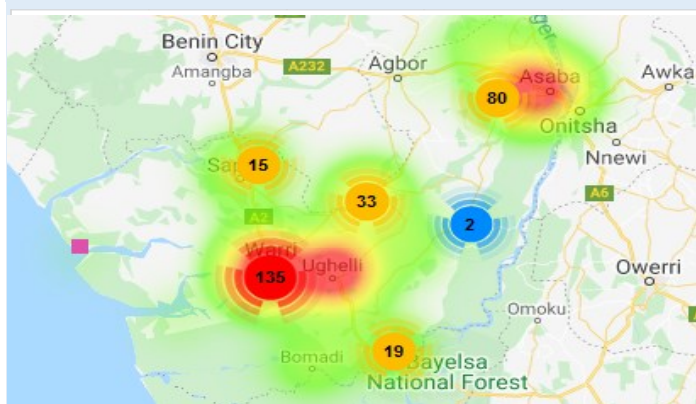
Gun violence is increasingly becoming frequent and intense in Delta State. Over 70 gun-related violent incidents were reported in the State in 2020, compared to about 45 incidents in 2019. Recent data shows that gun-related violence caused over 10 fatalities in the State in January 2021. Rising gun-related incidents and fatalities could have devastating socio-economic and political consequences for the State.

**Social:** Given the potentially fatal consequences and the relative large number of youths involved, gun violence could have wide-ranging and long-lasting devastating impact on society. Unmitigated gun violence could cause arms proliferation which could intensify criminality and insecurity. Gun-related deaths and injuries could also have serious physical, psychosocial and healthcare consequences for individuals and communities, including lifelong disabilities among survivors.

**Economic:** In addition to the incalculable human cost of gun-related deaths, the prevalence of gun violence could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could be detrimental to economic development. Rising cases of gun violence could cause neighborhood flight, lower property values, scare away investors, cause loss of business opportunities, and consequently reduce government's revenue from taxation, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** Widespread gun violence could weaken state-society relations by eroding citizen's trust in the capacity of government security agencies to protect lives and property. This could cause civil unrest and therefore present additional security challenges for the State.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Gun Violence in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of firearm-related deaths reported in Delta State from January - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

Gun violence is increasingly becoming prevalent in Delta State, driven mainly by criminality and clashes between cult gangs, and fueled by arms proliferation. Stakeholders should work with the State government and relevant public security agencies to address the underlying drivers. Law enforcement agencies should also work with local residents for early warning and intelligence gathering to curb the proliferation of arms, and reinforce 'hot spot policing' and 'focused deterrence' of gun violence and other violent 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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