

# Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in Akwa Ibom

April 11-17, 2021

## Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights targeted violence against security forces in the Niger Delta with a focus on targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in Akwa Ibom State. According to data (see map below), attacks on security forces caused over 50 fatalities in more than 25 reported incidents in Akwa Ibom between 2018 and 2020. Recent data indicates an upsurge in targeted violence against security forces in the State. In February 2021, for example, gunmen reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, burned a patrol vehicle and killed two security operatives in Ikpe Annang community, Essien Udim LGA. In March, over 100 hoodlums reportedly attacked a divisional police station and burned offices and vehicles in Nto-Nsek community, Essien Udim LGA. Separately, in March, gunmen reportedly attacked security operatives who were on a peacekeeping mission and killed three policemen in Essien Udim LGA. Recently, over 5,000 residents of about 10 communities were reportedly displaced following the military bombardment of the hideouts of criminals in Essien Udim LGA on April 06, 2021.

## Why it Matters

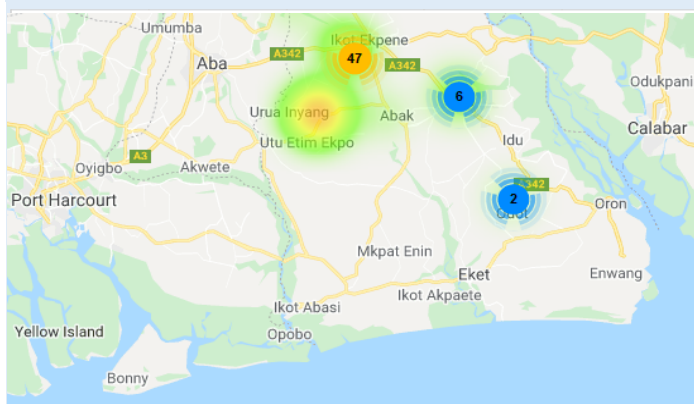
Recurrent targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel by criminal gangs could adversely impact the security environment in the State. It could cause a breakdown of law and order which could result in public unrest, widespread hooliganism, arbitrary killings, spontaneous victimization and the deployment of repressive measures by security forces. This could cause political instability and socio-economic disruptions at the local, state and regional levels.

**Social:** Targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel by criminal gangs could result in the use of repressive security strategies that could result in human rights violations and collateral damage, and consequently emasculate police-community relations. The situation could also intensify arms proliferation and gun violence which could increase communal tensions and general insecurity in the State.

**Economic:** Recurrent attacks on security facilities and personnel could create an atmosphere of insecurity that is inimical to economic growth and development. It could result in the restriction of human and vehicular movement, destruction of livelihoods and disruption of economic activities. Attacks on security facilities could also scare away investors and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** The recurrence of targeted violence against security forces by criminals could erode the State's authority and weaken citizen's trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and property. The situation could also be exploited by hooligans and separatist groups to undermine the government and cause political instability.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by violence against security forces in Akwa Ibom from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

The recent spate of attacks on security operatives is an early warning sign of an imminent rise in gun violence and organized criminality in Akwa Ibom State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant security agencies to carry out a vulnerability assessment and devise an appropriate strategy to protect security facilities and personnel against targeted attacks. Security agencies should also ensure that their modus operandi and action plans are updated and all security facilities are equipped with surveillance and access control systems.

## Contact Us

**Inquiries:** Afeno Super Odomovo, Research Coordinator

**Telephone:** 08172401595

**Email:** [afeno@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afeno@pindfoundation.org)

## 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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