

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Rising Anti-Police Insurgency in the Niger Delta

April 25-May 01, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights growing anti-police insurgency in the Niger Delta. Current data shows a rise in targeted attacks on security personnel in the region. According to data (see map below), targeted violence against the police and other security agencies caused over 200 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2020 and March 2021. Recent incidents indicate an upsurge in targeted attacks on security operatives in the Niger Delta, apparently driven by growing anti-police insurgency in south-eastern Nigeria. On April 26, 2021, for instance, over 12 security operatives were reportedly killed in a series of coordinated attacks by gunmen at different locations in Rivers State. In one of the incidents, gunmen reportedly killed eight security operatives at different security checkpoints along Omagwa/Isiokpo/Elele-Owerri expressway in Ikerre LGA. The attacks in Rivers State are generally believed to be a spillover of the ongoing anti-police insurgency in the South-eastern region, particularly the recent killing of a separatist militia commander by security forces in Awomama town in Oru East LGA, Imo State.

Why it Matters

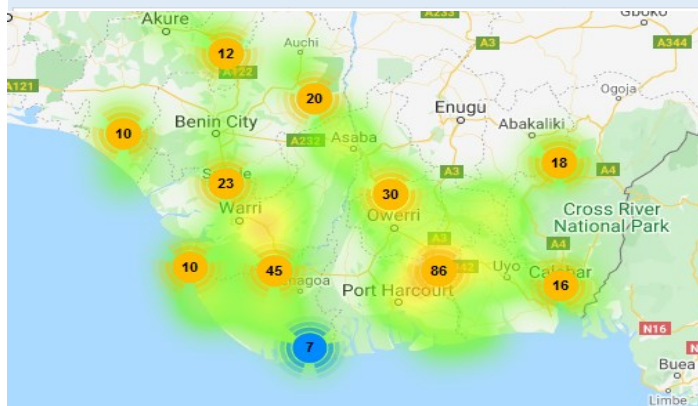
The spreading of the ongoing anti-police insurgency in the South-East to neighboring states in the Niger Delta could adversely impact the peace and conflict dynamics in the region. It could cause a breakdown of law and order and the deployment of repressive measures by security forces. The emerging situation could also intersect with organized criminality and ethnic tensions to cause political instability and socio-economic disruptions at the local, state and regional levels.

Social: A spillover of the ongoing anti-police insurgency into the Niger Delta could intensify targeted violence against security operatives and result in the use of repressive security strategies that could cause human rights violations and collateral damage. It could also intensify insecurity and communal tensions which could be exploited by criminals and separatist groups to engage in organized violence.

Economic: Growing anti-police insurgency could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could be detrimental to economic development. Recurrent attacks on security facilities and personnel could disrupt commercial activities, cause neighborhood flight, lower property values, scare off investors, cause loss of business opportunities and consequently undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The ongoing anti-police insurgency is a threat to law and order and public safety. It could erode State's authority and weaken citizen's trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties. This could also be exploited by violent non-state actors and separatist groups to cause political instability in the Niger Delta.

Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Operatives in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows the intensity of targeted violence against security operatives in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - March 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Prognosis

The ongoing armed anti-police insurgency in South-eastern Nigeria is getting worse and spreading to more states in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to devise appropriate strategies to counteract the spread of anti-police insurgency to the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should also work with the national and State governments to develop long-term political, developmental, humanitarian, human rights and institutional measures to discourage armed insurgency in the Niger Delta.

Contact Us

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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.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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