

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Targeted Violence Against Security Personnel in Abia State

March 28 - April 03, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights targeted violence against security forces in the Niger Delta with a focus on armed attacks against security personnel in Abia State. According to data (see map below), attacks on security personnel caused over 45 fatalities in more than 28 reported incidents in Abia State between 2018 and 2020. Recent incidents indicate a rise in targeted violence against security personnel and facilities in the State. In February 2021, for example, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station, killed a policeman and stole guns in Umuoba town, Isiala Ngwa South LGA. A policewoman was reportedly injured during the incident. Separately, in February, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station, burned vehicles and killed a police officer in Abayi town, Osisioma Ngwa LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly attacked a security checkpoint, burned a patrol vehicle, killed three policemen and stole two rifles in Abiriba town, Ohafia LGA. Recently, on March 24, 2021, more than 11 persons were reportedly killed during a gun battle between gunmen and soldiers at a security checkpoint in Ariaria, Aba North LGA.

Why it Matters

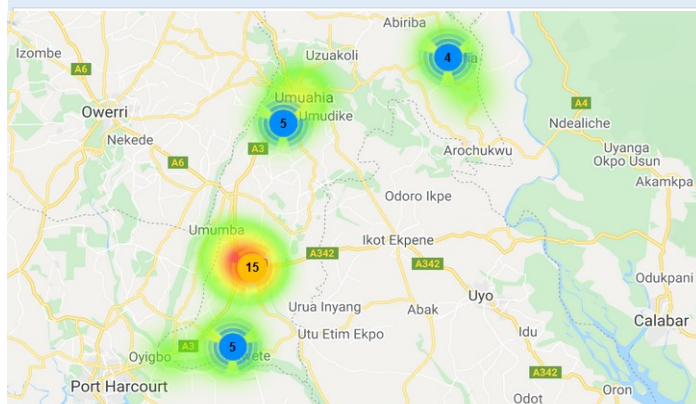
The current wave of targeted violence against security personnel and police stations comes amid heightened tensions between public security forces and ethno-separatist groups and militias in the State. The rising spate of targeted attacks on security operatives could escalate in ways that could intersect with organized criminality and ethnic tensions to cause socio-economic and political instability in the State.

Social: Targeted attacks on security personnel and theft of weapons by armed gangs could intensify arms proliferation and increase the lethality of criminal violence. Recurrent attacks on security operatives and police stations could also result in repressive security policies that could cause human rights abuses and collateral damage among residents, and consequently undermine police-community relations.

Economic: Targeted violence against security personnel could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could be detrimental to human security and economic development. Weapons stolen from security personnel could be used to facilitate violent crimes including armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom. This could scare off investors, reduce government's revenue from taxation, increase expenditure on public security, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: Targeted attacks on security personnel by criminal gangs is not only an act of violence against public officials but also an attack against government security agencies, and a challenge to the rule of law. The recent wave of targeted violence against security operatives by armed gangs could escalate into criminal insurgency in the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Personnel in Abia State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents of targeted attacks on security personnel in Abia State from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Prognosis

The current wave of targeted violence against security personnel by criminals could escalate in ways that could adversely change the security environment in the State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant security agencies to devise appropriate measures to protect security personnel against targeted violence. Security agencies should also ensure that their modus operandi and action plans are safeguarded and all firearms assigned to security personnel are equipped with tracking devices to reduce theft and proliferation.

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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