

Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Resurgence of Attacks on Security Facilities in Delta State

June 06-12, 2021

Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights the rising wave of criminal insurgency in the Niger Delta with a focus on the resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities in Delta State. According to data (see map below), targeted violence against the police and other security agencies caused over 85 fatalities in Delta State between 2018 and 2020. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in the State. In May, 2021, for instance, unknown gunmen reportedly attacked a divisional police station, killed three police officers, burned vehicles and stole ammunition in Nsukwa community, Aniocha South LGA. Separately, in May, hoodlums reportedly killed a police officer and burned a patrol vehicle in Akwukwu-Igbo community, Aniocha North LGA. Also, in May, gunmen reportedly killed three policemen and burned a police station in Umutu community, Ukwuani LGA. More recently, on June 06, 2021, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station with firearms and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and burned police vehicles and buildings in Ashaka community, Ndokwa East LGA.

Why it Matters

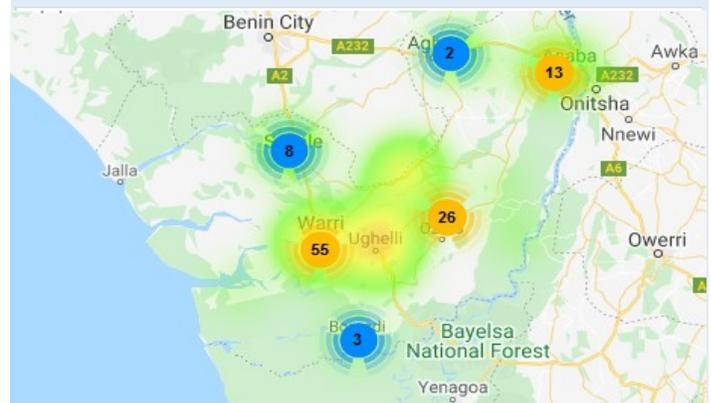
The current wave of targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in Delta State could cause a breakdown of law and order and consequently result in the deployment of repressive countermeasures by the security agencies. This could result in human rights abuses, arbitrary killings, public unrest and widespread hooliganism which could intersect with ethnic tensions and organized criminality to cause economic disruptions and sociopolitical instability in the State.

Social: A resurgence of targeted attacks on security facilities and stealing of weapons by criminal gangs could have devastating social impacts. It could intensify the proliferation of arms, increase the intensity and lethality of criminal violence, and cause a general feeling of insecurity among residents. Recurrent attacks on police stations could also weaken police-community relations, dampen the morale of security operatives, and embolden insurgents and criminal gangs.

Economic: The prevalence of attacks on security facilities could create an insecure environment that is unfavorable for economic development. Weapons stolen from security operatives could be used to facilitate other violent crimes including robbery and kidnapping for ransom. This could increase spending on security, compel businesses to relocate, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: Recurrent attacks on security facilities and personnel could weaken citizens' trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties. This could also cause civil unrest and lawlessness which could present additional security challenges for the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Attacks on Security Facilities in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by targeted attacks on security facilities in Delta 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 attacks on security facilities in Delta State has the potential to degenerate and cause public unrest and a breakdown of law and order. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to carry out vulnerability assessment and devise appropriate strategies to protect all security facilities and personnel against targeted violence. Security agencies should also ensure that their modus operandi is updated and all security facilities are equipped with surveillance and access control systems.

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.



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