

Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Rising Wave of Criminal Violence in Abia State

August 14-20, 2022

Description

This weekly update Highlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on the rising wave of criminal violence in Abia State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 200 fatalities in Abia State between January 2019 and June 2022. Recent incidents indicate an increase in violent criminality in the state, especially armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, gang violence, homicidal violence and targeted killings. In June 2022, for instance, gunmen reportedly killed two young businessmen at Ogbor Hill in Aba North LGA. In July, gunmen suspected to be kidnapers, reportedly abducted some travelers in Lokpanta community, Umunneochi LGA. Also, in July, gunmen reportedly attacked a bullion van conveying cash from a bank, killed a bank official and injured three police officers at Ntigha Junction along the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway in Isiala Ngwa North LGA. One of the robbers was reportedly killed during the incident. Recently, on August 03, 2022, a mob reportedly destroyed a morgue over alleged illegal harvesting of human body parts in Ndiolumbe community, Isiala Ngwa South LGA.

Why it Matters

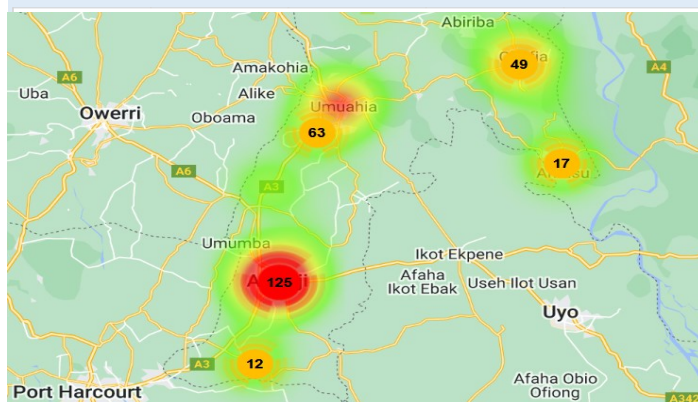
The rising wave of criminal violence has the potential to intensify insecurity and adversely impact the security landscape in the State, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing separatist agitation and criminal insurgency in the South-East region. If not appropriately de-escalated, the prevailing situation could degenerate into hooliganism and lawlessness. This could cause social strife and political disruptions which could negatively affect the local and regional economy.

Social: The prevalence of criminal violence could have devastating impact on the social wellbeing of residents. It could create wider feelings of distrust and insecurity that could weaken social capital by reducing social relations and civic cooperation. This could embolden residents to adopt aggressive self-help measures including vigilante and mob violence, and the deployment of security strategies that could be viewed by residents as human rights violations. This could create tensions and undermine the social wellbeing of residents.

Economic: Recurrent incidents of criminal violence could heighten economic instability by causing loss of livelihoods and discouraging investment, and consequently restricting residents' access to vital resources for survival. This could also undercut government revenue from taxation and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The rising wave of criminal violence could cause serious challenges for law enforcement, governance and politics in the State. It could force residents to adopt aggressive coping mechanisms and self-help strategies that could result in lawlessness and civil disorder.

Fatalities Heat Map of Violent Criminality in Abia State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Abia State from January 2019 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The rising wave of criminal violence has the potential to escalate and intensify insecurity in Abia State, especially within the context of the ongoing separatist agitation and criminal insurgency in the South-East region. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government and the relevant security agencies to deploy appropriate security measures to de-escalate the situation. Peace actors should also work with respectable community leaders to address the underlying drivers of the current wave of violence in the State.

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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