

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Sexual Violation of Women and Girls in Rivers State

August 28 - September 03, 2022

Description

This weekly update spotlights Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the Niger Delta with a focus on sexual violation of women and girls in Rivers State. According to data (see map below), more than 50 incidents of sexual violence against women and girls were reported in Rivers State between January 2019 and June 2022. Recent data shows the prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls in the State. In March 2022, for instance, a 16-year-old girl was reportedly defiled by a 36-year-old man in Elioizu community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In May 2022, a 20-year-old female student was allegedly sexually abused by a university professor in Oruworukwo community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In August, a 21-year-old woman was reportedly abducted and raped by a taxi driver along Obiri-Kwere Airport Road in Obio/Akpor LGA. Also, in August, a pregnant woman was reportedly assaulted and raped by two armed robbers in Borokiri community, Port Harcourt LGA. More recently, on August 29, 2022, a 17-year-old girl and her friend were allegedly assaulted and sexually abused by a policeman in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

Why it Matters

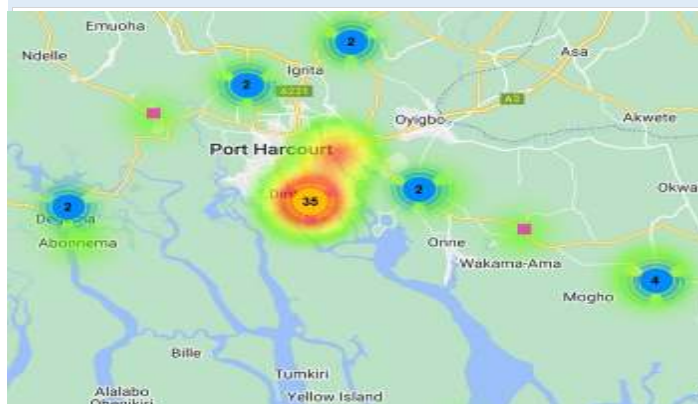
The growing prevalence of sexual violence is a serious threat to the human rights, health and safety of women, girls, and children in the State. If not appropriately mitigated, the prevailing situation has the potential to degenerate and undermine the human security and well-being of women and girls in the State. This could bring about wide-ranging and devastating social, economic and political consequences.

Social: Sexual violation of women, girls, and children could have far-reaching psychosocial and health impacts on victims and their families. It could cause mental, sexual and reproductive health challenges including sexually transmitted infections and death. Sexual violation is not only devastating for victims and their families, it could also have damaging impact on society including social dysfunction. This could engender a feeling of injustice and insecurity among residents.

Economic: Sexual violence against women and children could impose huge financial burden on families, communities and the government, including the costs of supplementary healthcare, child welfare, and psychosocial support. It could also disrupt the education and overall development of children and physical wellbeing of women. This could undercut productivity and economic wellbeing of families.

Political: Recurrent incidents of sexual violation could have serious implications for governance and politics in the State. The prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls could trigger public outrage, mass protests, and civil unrest in the State. This could disrupt governance and consequently cause political instability in the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Rivers State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of reported incidents of sexual violence in Rivers State from January 2019 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Sexual violation of women, girls, and children is increasingly becoming prevalent in River State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government and media outfits to raise awareness of the situation and devise appropriate remedial measures including advocacy programs to change attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate and condone sexual violence. Stakeholders should also work with the relevant agencies to enforce the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 and the Rivers State Child's Right Law, 2019.

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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