

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Human Rights Violations by Security Forces in Abia State

November 06-12, 2022

## Description

This weekly update spotlights human rights violations in the Niger Delta with a focus on human rights violations and extra-judicial killings by public security forces in Abia State. According to data (see map below), abuses by public security forces caused over 60 fatalities in Abia State between January 2019 and September 2022. Recent data indicate a rise in reported incidents of human rights abuses by government security forces in the State including arbitrary arrest and detention, and extrajudicial killings. In November 2022, for instance, a 34-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a soldier attached to a construction company near the Umuahia Railway Station in Umuahia South LGA. The soldier reportedly killed the man during a disagreement over a business transaction. More recently, on November 06, 2022, soldiers who were allegedly searching for a missing colleague reportedly destroyed more than 50 houses and killed over 10 residents including some suspected separatist militias in Amangwu community, Ohafia LGA. Many residents were reported to have been internally displaced following the incident.

## Why it Matters

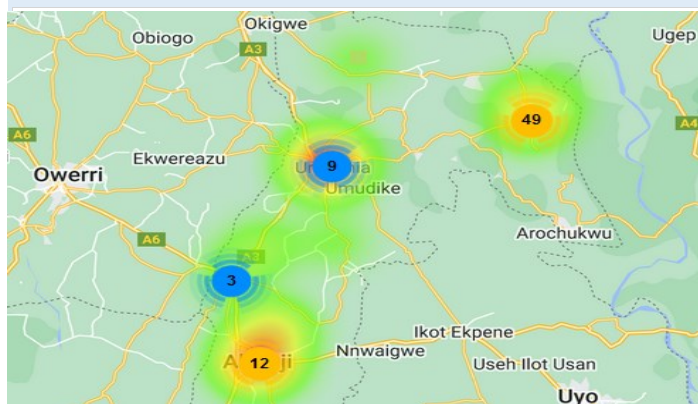
As government security forces continued to combat organized criminality and insurgency, they have also been accused by local civilians of human rights violations. Allegation of human rights violations by public security forces has the potential to trigger violent protests that could result in a breakdown of law and order. The recent incidents in Abia State have the potential to trigger a series of violent protests that could cause socio-economic and political disruptions in the state.

**Social:** Human rights violations by public security forces, either alleged or confirmed, could have significant psychosocial, public health and security consequences for residents and communities. Human rights violations including extrajudicial killings and collateral damage by government security forces could trigger riots and protests by residents. This could cause the deployment of security countermeasures that could be viewed by residents as human rights violations

**Economic:** Abuses by security forces could create a climate of insecurity that is detrimental to economic development. It could create a general feeling of uncertainty that could disrupt economic activities and cause loss of livelihoods. Recurrent incidents of human rights violations by security forces could also spark off protests which could provide avenues for hoodlums to rob, vandalize and loot properties.

**Political:** Human rights violations by public security forces is a threat to law and order, and public safety. It could weaken citizen's trust in the capacity of government to protect lives and properties, and thus undermine the relationship between residents and security agencies.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Reported Abuses by Public Security Forces in Abia State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows reported fatalities associated with human rights abuses by security forces in Abia State from January 2019 - September 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

Human rights violations by public security forces is a serious threat to peace and security, and social stability in the State. Peace actors should monitor the situation and respond appropriately. Peace actors should work with the national and state governments, as well as the relevant government agencies to devise strategies to address the underlying drivers and triggers, including measures to promote external oversight of government security agencies, and to build trust between security agencies and the civilian populace.

## 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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