

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Sexual Violence in Ondo State

May 28 - June 03, 2023

## Description

This weekly update spotlights violence against women and girls in the Niger Delta with a focus on sexual violence in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), over 40 cases of sexual violence including more than 20 related fatalities were reported in Ondo State between January 2021 and March 2023. Recent data shows an increase in sexual violation of women and teenage girls in the State. In January 2023, for instance, a 16-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a 60-year-old man in Owo town, the headquarters of Owo LGA. In March, a 10-year-old girl was reportedly defiled by a 45-year-old man in Idoani community, Ose LGA. Separately, in March, a nursing mother was allegedly raped and killed by a 37-year-old pastor in Alade community, Idanre LGA. In May, an 80-year-old woman was reportedly raped to death by a 27-year-old man at a farm in Ore community, Odigbo LGA. Also, in May, a 58-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a 29-year-old man during an attempted rape in Akure, the state capital. Recently, on May 19, 2023, a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a middle-aged man in Igbokoda town, Ilaje LGA.

## Why it Matters

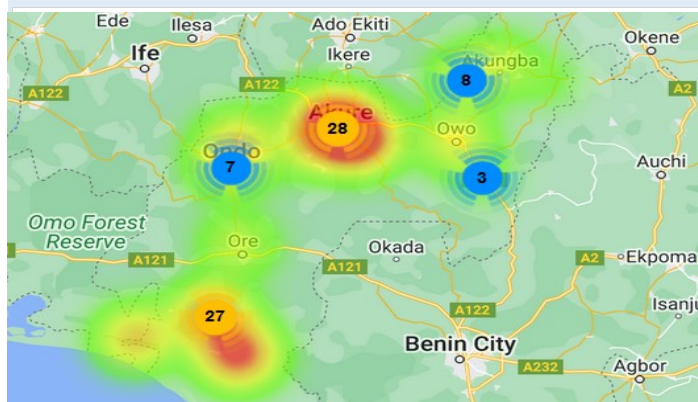
The growing prevalence of sexual violence in Ondo State is alarming, especially the current trend of targeted violation of aged women and teenage girls. If not mitigated the situation could escalate in ways that could pose serious threat to public health, safety and human security in the State. This could bring about severe and far-reaching socio-economic, political and security consequences in the State.

**Social:** Sexual violation of children, teenage girls and aged women could have wide-ranging psychosocial and health impacts on victims and their families. It could cause mental, sexual and reproductive health challenges including sexually transmitted infections and death. It could also have damaging impacts on society including social dysfunction and communal instability. Moreover, the prevalence of sexual violence can engender a general feeling of injustice and insecurity.

**Economic:** The prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls could impose huge economic costs on families, communities and the government, including the costs of supplementary healthcare, child welfare, elderly care, and psychosocial support. It could also distort the overall development of the girl child and undercut productivity of women. This could undermine the economic wellbeing of families.

**Political:** The growing prevalence of sexual violation could trigger mass demonstration, violent protests and civil unrest which could disrupt governance and cause insecurity. Moreover, the prevalence of sexual violence can impede the participation of women in politics and governance, and thus undermine government efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the State.

## Incidents Heat Map of Violence Against Women and Girls in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of incidents of violence against women and girls in Ondo State from January 2021 - March 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

Sexual violence is a major threat to public health, safety, human security and communal stability in Ondo State. Stakeholders should work with the government, community leaders and media outfits to raise awareness of the situation. Peace actors should initiate programs to change attitudes and practices that perpetuate sexual violence. Civil society organizations should educate residents on available legal, remedial and health support services, and preventive strategies including parenting and child protection guidelines.

## Contact Us

Inquiries: [PINDfoundation.org](http://PINDfoundation.org)

Contacts: [info@PINDfoundation.org](mailto:info@PINDfoundation.org) +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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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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