

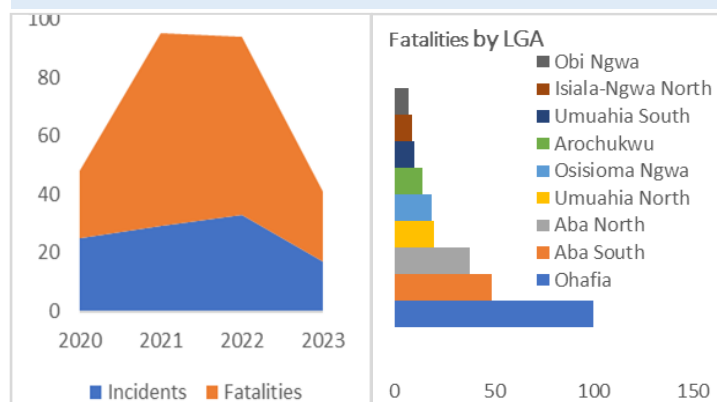
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Criminal Violence in Abia State

May 26 - June 01, 2024

Background

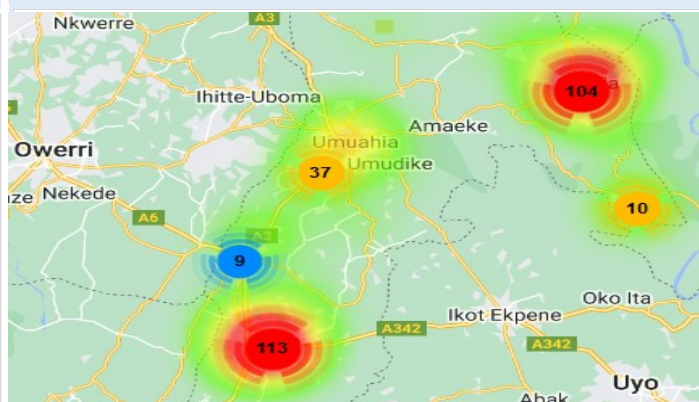
This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on rising criminal violence in Abia State. Criminality, including kidnapping and homicide, is one of the major causes of insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 250 fatalities in Abia State between January 2020 and March 2024. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of criminal violence in the state. In January 2024, for instance, the deputy vice-chancellor of a university was reportedly abducted by kidnappers at a petrol station in Amachara, Umuahia South LGA. In February, a legal practitioner was reportedly killed by kidnappers along Okigwe/Uturu Road in Isuikwuato LGA. In March, a student was allegedly killed in a clash between rival cult gangs at a University in Uturu, Isuikwuato LGA. Also, in March, an employee of the Abia State Vigilante Services (AVS) was reportedly killed by kidnappers at Onyeocha Street along Port Harcourt Road in Aba South LGA. More recently, on May 17, 2024, gunmen allegedly killed two soldiers at a military outpost near Milverton Avenue Junction in Aba South LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Violence in Abia State



Data shows that Ohafia LGA had the highest number of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Abia State during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence in Abia State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported fatalities caused by criminal violence in Abia State from January 2020 - March 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The current wave of criminal violence could dangerously affect the dynamics of insecurity in the State, especially against the backdrop of ongoing separatist agitation in the South-East region. If not de-escalated the situation could spiral into widespread hooliganism and social unrest. This could cause the deployment of security strategies that could be viewed by residents as human rights violations. This could bring about significant socio-economic, political and security repercussions, including the disruption of the local economy.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on the current trend and pattern of violence, and the ongoing separatist agitation in the South-East region, the situation has the potential to escalate and intensify insecurity in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government security agencies to de-escalate the situation. Peace actors including civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders should work in partnership with the State government to devise appropriate developmental, political, and security strategies to mitigate the situation.

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 2222/0912 233 4455**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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