

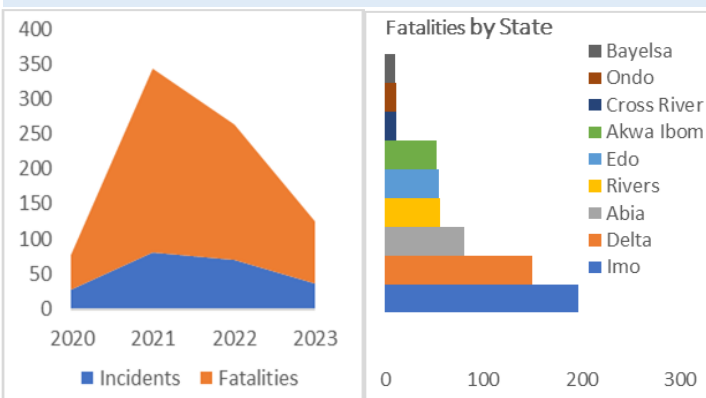
Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Targeted Killing of Security Personnel in the Niger Delta

June 09-15, 2024

Background

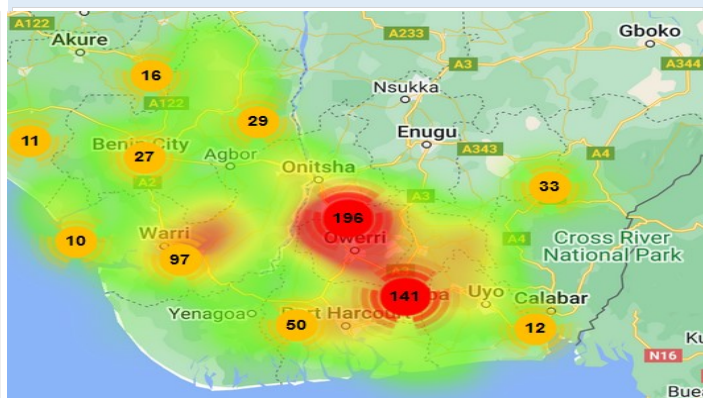
This weekly update spotlights targeted killing of government security personnel by criminals in the Niger Delta. Targeted attack on government security personnel is a major cause of insecurity in the region. According to data (see map below), violence against security forces caused over 500 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2020 and March 2024. Recent data shows a rise in targeted killing of security personnel. In March 2024, for instance, armed youths reportedly killed over 15 soldiers who were responding to a distress call during a clash over a land dispute between Okuama and Okoloba communities in Ughelli South and Bomadi LGAs respectively, in Delta State. In May, five soldiers were allegedly killed by gunmen who were enforcing a sit-at-home order declared by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Obikabia Junction in Aba North LGA, Abia State. In June, gunmen reportedly shot and injured three soldiers in Okomu community, Ovia South West LGA, Edo State. More recently, on June 11, 2024, gunmen allegedly killed two policemen at a security checkpoint in Akabo community, Ikeduru LGA, Imo State.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends of Targeted killing of Security Personnel in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Imo and Delta States had the highest number of targeted killing of security personnel during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Personnel in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of targeted killing of security personnel in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - March 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The prevalence of targeted killing of government security personnel could negatively impact the dynamics of violence and insecurity in the region. It could cause a breakdown of law and order which could result in unrest, hooliganism, extra-judicial killings, and deployment of repressive measures by security forces. This could weaken police-community relations. Theft of weapons during attacks on security facilities and personnel could also deepen arms proliferation, and increase the intensity and lethality of criminal violence in the region.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The ongoing wave of targeted killings of security personnel could escalate in ways that could severely affect the dynamics of violence and insecurity in the region. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to devise strategies to improve the safety of security personnel and facilities. Peace and security actors should also work with the relevant national, regional and State governments' agencies to devise appropriate developmental, institutional, political and security strategies to address the situation.

Contact Us

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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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