

# Niger Delta Weekly: Deadly Armed Robbery in Ondo State

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## Description

Armed robbery is one of the most lethal and prevalent organized crimes in Ondo state, Nigeria. Armed robbery has caused over a dozen fatalities in the state since January 2019, particularly in Akure North, Akure South, Owo, Okitipupa, Ose, and Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo LGAs. On February 6, 2020, four persons including two policemen were reportedly shot dead during two coordinated bank robberies in Ile-Oluji town in Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo LGA, Ondo state. During the incident, about 20 armed bandits reportedly attacked two commercial banks simultaneously, blew up security doors with dynamites, shot sporadically, and made away with undisclosed amount of money. The above incident is the latest in a series of deadly bank robberies in the state since 2018. In April 2019, for instance, six people were reportedly shot dead during a bank robbery in Idoani community in Ose LGA, Ondo state. The prevalence of bank robberies is causing anxiety among residents and contributing to insecurity in the state.

## Why it Matters

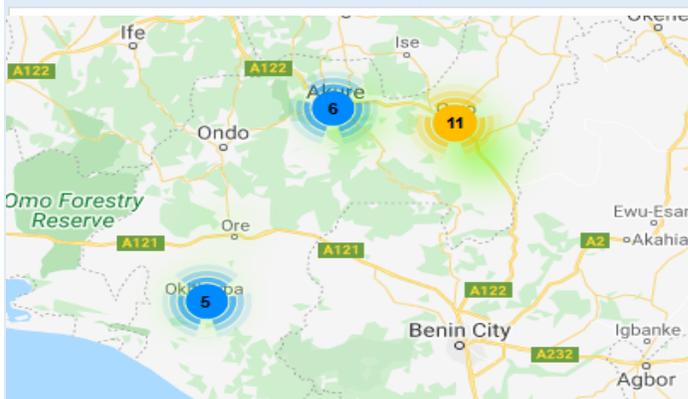
Frequent attacks on businesses in any country or state is a cause for alarm. Most robberies in Ondo state involved deadly attacks on commercial banks, petrol stations and other businesses. The prevalence of deadly armed robberies therefore constitutes severe social, economic and political implications for the state.

**Social:** The agony of armed robbery is not only in the properties or money stolen, but also in the human misery it caused. By its very nature armed robbery involves violence which is extremely distressing for the victims. Armed robberies create shocks and anxieties among residents, and contribute to general insecurity.

**Economic:** Insecurity increases the cost of doing business which could be the loss of goods or the cost of precautionary measures taken. When bank robberies become prevalent residents can become apprehensive in the way they conduct their businesses, and this can also scare off investors and force existing businesses to relocate.

**Political:** The prevalence of robbery highlights the seeming inability of the State to protect lives and property of citizens. One of the implications of the prevailing situation is that citizens may lose confidence in the capacity of national security agencies to protect them. As the national police struggle with the provision of security for citizens, there will continue to be agitation for the creation of regional or state security outfits. Recently, the Ondo State Government approved a draft bill for the creation of the Ondo State Security Network Agency and Amotekun Corps, code-named "Operation Amotekun".

## Fatalities Heat Map of Armed Robbery in the Ondo State



Heat Map shows concentration of reported fatalities resulting from armed robberies in Ondo State from January 2018 – December 2019. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

Armed robbery is a major security issue in Ondo state, largely driven by harsh economic conditions and high levels of youth unemployment. The prevailing situation is not likely to improve anytime soon unless proactive actions are taken by stakeholders. While there is ongoing efforts towards the creation of a regional security outfit in the state as a long term strategy, existing security apparatuses should be optimized in high risk areas in the short term.

## 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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