

# Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Update

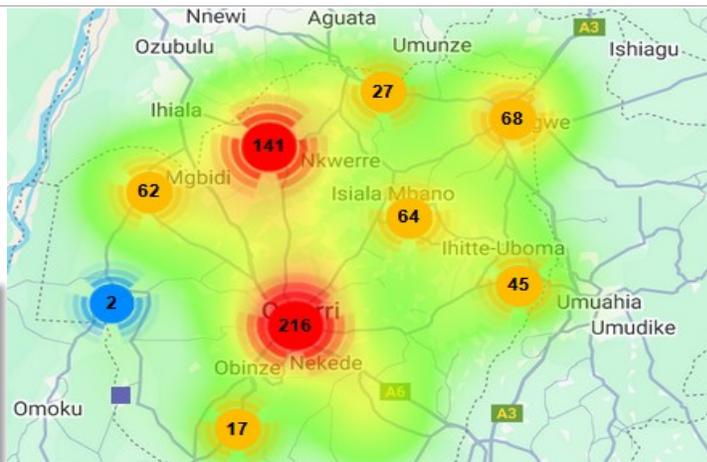
## Mitigating the Escalation of Kidnappings and Targeted Killings in Imo State

May 11-17, 2025

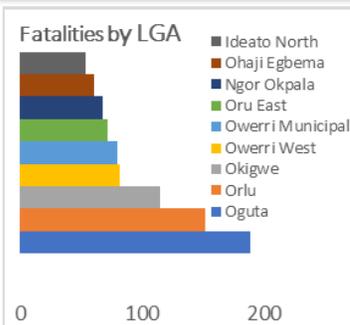
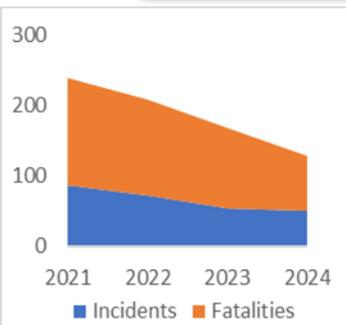
This update highlights the growing threat of organized crime in the Niger Delta, with a focus on Imo State. Data shows a rise in kidnappings and targeted killings, particularly of travelers, by criminal gangs in the state. The prevalence of such violence underscores the urgent need for coordinated strategies to address and mitigate the situation.



### Trends and Flashpoints of Kidnappings and Targeted Killings in Imo State



Heat Map shows the concentration of reported incidents of targeted killings and kidnappings in Imo State from January 2021 - March 2025. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map [www.p4pnigerdelta.org](http://www.p4pnigerdelta.org)



### Timeline of Recent Incidents of Targeted Killings and Kidnappings



**May 11, 2025**  
Gunmen abducted a 35-year-old woman in Umuhu community, Aboh Mbase LGA, and demanded a ₦2 million ransom for her release.

**May 08, 2025**  
Gunmen killed about 30 travelers and set many vehicles on fire along the Okigwe-Owerri Road in Amuro community, Okigwe LGA.

**May 06, 2025**  
Gunmen reportedly abducted several travelers and killed a driver during an ambush along the Owerri-Aba Highway in Ngor Okpala LGA.

**March 05, 2025**  
Youths reportedly rescued a kidnapped woman from a forest in Umuokanne community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA, after a distress call.

### Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

If left unchecked, the spate of targeted killings and abductions could escalate, deepening public fear and weakening trust in security institutions. Continued attacks on travelers and residents could destabilize communities and disrupt socio-economic activities in the state.

### Actions Taken to Mitigate the Situation

Security agencies have intensified efforts to combat organized crime through targeted patrols and coordinated rescue operations. Also, community leaders are working with law enforcement to strengthen intelligence gathering and improve response effectiveness.

**Our Services:** PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) provides technical support to stakeholders and implementing partners across the public and private sectors. With over 12 years of experience in peacebuilding, and conflict management, our in-house team of subject-matter experts, alongside a network of partners on the ground, delivers tailored support to national and international stakeholders. We specialize in peacebuilding, conflict early warning and response, conflict-sensitive development, research, and the production of data-driven conflict reports.

### Contact Us

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**What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)**

### 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.

