

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Growing Threat of Bank Robbery in the Niger Delta

February 27 - March 05, 2022

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights armed robbery in the Niger Delta with a focus on the growing threat of bank robbery in the region. Bank robbery - including coordinated armed attacks and burglary of commercial banks and bullion vans - is increasingly becoming prevalent and deadly in the Niger Delta. According to data (see map below), more than 25 incidents of armed robbery and over 70 related fatalities were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2018 and December 2021. Recent data indicates an escalation of bank robbery in the region. In January 2022, for instance, armed robbers reportedly attacked a bullion van belonging to a commercial bank and carted away unspecified amount of money along the Ughelli-Asaba expressway in Otor-Owhe community in Isoko North LGA, Delta State. More recently, on February 24, 2022, a gang of robbers reportedly attacked four commercial banks simultaneously, blew up their security doors with dynamites, killed seven persons including two security personnel, and stole an undisclosed sum of money in Uromi community, Esan North-East LGA, Edo State.

Why it Matters

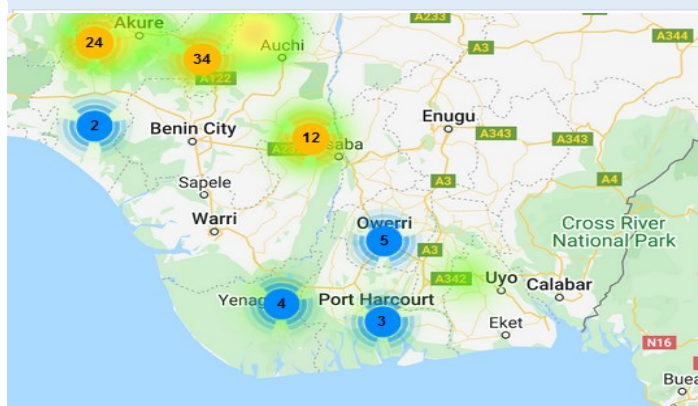
The growing prevalence of bank robbery portends serious threats to human security and development in the Niger Delta. Recent incidents show that bank robberies are becoming more deadly, causing several fatalities and destruction of properties. The emerging situation has the potential to intensify insecurity and cause serious social economic and political instability at the local, State and regional levels.

Social: The prevalence of bank robbery could be socially disrupting and agonizing for the victims and the general public. Recurrent incidents of robbery could cause anxiety among bank staff, customers and residents. It could also force banks and other financial institutions to shut down and therefore undercut their capacity to render services to residents. This could cause social tensions in ways that could adversely impact the health and social wellbeing of residents.

Economic: Recurrent bank robbery could have far-reaching adverse impact on the economy at the local, State and regional levels. It could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could disrupt economic activities and increase expenditure on private and public security. This could increase the cost of doing business, cause financial distress in the banking sector, scare away investors, bring about job displacements, and consequently reduce government revenue from taxation.

Political: The recurrence of bank robbery could present additional security challenges for government. It could weaken citizen's trust in the capacity the government to protect lives and properties. This could trigger protests and civil unrest that could disrupt governance.

Fatalities Heat Map of Armed Robbery in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported incidents of armed robbery in the Niger Delta from January 2018 - December 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Bank robbery is a growing security threat in the Niger Delta. It is increasingly becoming recurrent, intense and deadly. Peace and security stakeholders should continue to monitor the situation and respond appropriately. Security actors should work with the State governments, financial institutions and relevant law enforcement agencies to prioritize investment in the optimization of the physical security of banks. Law enforcement agencies should also reinforce 'hot spot policing' and 'focused deterrence' in high risk areas.

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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