

# Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting Rising Criminal Violence in Cross River State

September 11-17, 2022

## Description

This weekly update highlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal violence in Cross River State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused more than 180 fatalities in Cross River State between January 2019 and June 2022. Recent data shows a rise in criminal violence in the state, including armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, gang violence, targeted killing, and human rights violation. In June 2022, for instance, gunmen reportedly killed a policeman, abducted a businessman and robbed several residents in Calabar, the state capital. Separately, in June, a policeman was allegedly killed by gunmen in a supermarket in the state capital. In July, kidnappers reportedly abducted a female student and injured several others at a private university in Ikot Effanga town, Akpabuyo LGA. In August, hoodlums suspected to be members of a cult gang reportedly attacked and killed a traditional ruler in Orimekpang community, Boki LGA. Recently, on August 27, 2022, irate youths reportedly tortured and killed two widows over alleged witchcraft practices in Ebbaken community, Boki LGA.

## Why it Matters

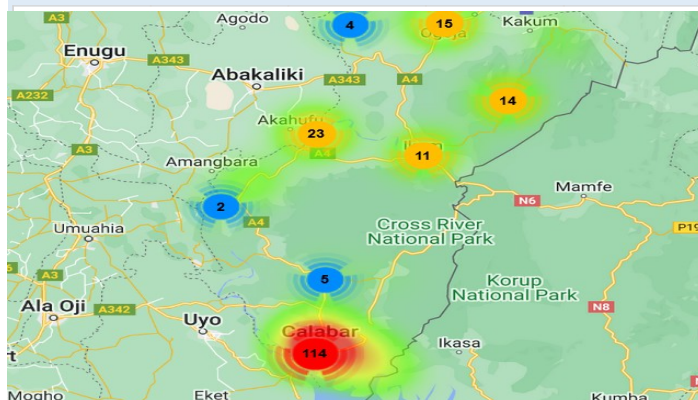
The rising wave of criminal violence has the potential to intensify insecurity and negatively impact the peace and security dynamics in the State. If not mitigated, the situation could cause widespread hoodliganism and lawlessness which could result in public unrest and the deployment of repressive measures by law enforcement agencies. This could cause political instability and socio-economic disruptions.

**Social:** Rising criminal violence could have devastating effects on the social wellbeing of residents. It could create wider feelings of distrust and insecurity that could weaken social capital by undermining social relations and civic cooperation. This could embolden residents to adopt aggressive self-help strategies including mob justice which could bring about human rights violations and social strife. This could create tensions and undermine the social wellbeing of residents.

**Economic:** The prevalence of criminal violence could create a hostile and insecure environment that is inimical to economic development. Criminal violence could disrupt economic activities by causing loss of lives and destruction of livelihoods. This could scare away investors and consequently restricts residents' access to vital resources for survival. This could also undercut government's revenue from taxation and therefore undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** The growing wave of criminal violence could cause serious challenges for law enforcement, governance and politics in the State. It could compel residents to adopt aggressive coping mechanisms and self-help strategies that could result in lawlessness and civil disorder.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence in Cross River State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Cross River State from January 2019 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

The current wave of criminal violence has the potential to escalate and intensify insecurity in the State, especially in the context of political polarization in the run-up to the 2023 general elections and lingering communal tensions over long-standing land disputes in the State. Stakeholders should work with the State government and the security agencies to deploy appropriate strategies to mitigate the situation. Peace actors should also work with community leaders to address the drivers of the current wave of violence.

## Contact Us

**Inquiries:** Afeno Super Odomovo, Research Coordinator

**Contacts:** ✉ [afeno@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afeno@pindfoundation.org) ☎ 08172401595

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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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