

# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Targeted Killing of Security Personnel in the Niger Delta

July 16-22, 2023

## Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights targeted killing of government security personnel by criminal gangs in the Niger Delta. According to data (see map below), targeted violence against security personnel caused over 150 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2021 and April 2023. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of targeted killings of security personnel in the region. In March 2023, for instance, three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were reportedly killed by gunmen in Obiangwu community, Ngor Okpala LGA, Imo state. In April, gunmen reportedly killed three police officers at a security checkpoint along the Igarra-Auchi Road in Agor community in Akoko Edo LGA, Edo State. In May, gunmen reportedly killed a policeman at a security checkpoint along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA, Rivers State. Separately, in May, gunmen allegedly killed two policemen in Ekredjebor community in Ughelli North LGA, Delta State. Recently, on July 12, 2023, gunmen reportedly killed a police inspector and stole his rifle along the East-West Road in Ughelli North LGA, Delta State.

## Why it Matters

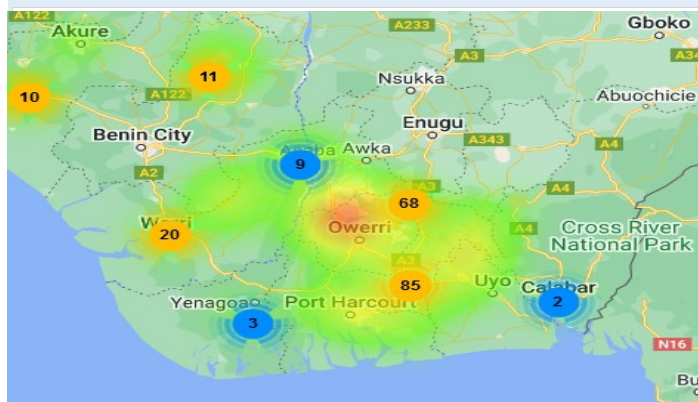
The current wave of targeted killing of security personnel could affect the dynamics of lethal violence and insecurity in the Niger Delta. It could cause a general breakdown of law and order which could result in unrest, hooliganism, extra-judicial killings, and the deployment of repressive countermeasures by government security forces. The situation could also increase arms proliferation and organized criminal violence. This could cause socio-economic and political disruptions.

**Social:** Targeted killing of government security personnel could undermine police-community relations and cause a general feeling of insecurity among residents. This could result in the deployment of countermeasures that could cause collateral damage and human rights violations. Attacks on security personnel and theft of weapons by criminals could also intensify arms proliferation and consequently increase the intensity and lethality of criminal violence in the region.

**Economic:** Recurrent killings of security personnel by hoodlums could create a climate of insecurity that is detrimental to human security and economic development. Weapons stolen from security personnel could be used to facilitate other violent crimes including robbery and kidnapping for ransom. The situation could scare off investors, reduce government's revenue from taxation, increase expenditure on security, and consequently undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** Targeted killing of government security personnel by criminals could undermine the authority of the State and weaken citizen trust in the capacity of government security agencies to protect lives and property. This could cause civil disorder and political instability.

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



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of targeted violence against security forces in the Niger Delta from January 2021 - April 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

The current wave of targeted killings of security personnel could escalate in ways that could adversely affect the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the region. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to devise strategies to enhance the safety of security personnel and facilities. Peace and security actors should also work with the relevant national, regional and State governments' agencies to develop long-term developmental, political and institutional measures to address the security situation.

## 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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