Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing a Resurgence of Organized Criminal Violence in Delta State

September 24-30, 2023

Description

This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal violence in Delta State. Organized criminal violence including kidnap for ransom as well as clashes between criminal gangs and government security forces is a prevalent security issue in Delta State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 250 fatalities in Delta State between January 2021 and August 2023. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of criminal violence in the State. In July 2023, for instance, gunmen allegedly killed two policemen and burned a patrol van at a security checkpoint along Ughelli-Asaba Expressway in Oleh town, Isoko South LGA. In August, gunmen reportedly attacked a Divisional Police Headquarters, killed a police officer and injured another in Isiokolo community, Ethiope East LGA. In September, a local vigilante was reportedly killed during a gun battle with hoodlums at 1st Marine Gate in Warri South LGA. Recently, on September 13, 2023, armed kidnappers allegedly abducted a female member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Eku community, Ethiope East LGA.
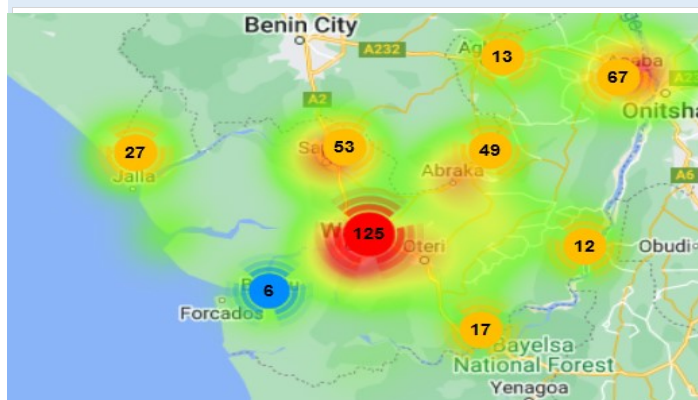
Why it Matters

The prevalence of organized criminal violence could gravely impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. The current wave of criminal violence including targeted killing of security personnel has the potential to escalate in ways that could cause a breakdown of law which could cause unrest, widespread hooliganism and the deployment of repressive strategies by security forces. This could bring about severe socio-economic, political and security repercussions.

Social: The growing prevalence of criminal violence could bring about serious psychosocial and security consequences for residents. It could create a general feeling of uncertainty that could induce residents to adopt violent coping strategies and self-help measures including the creation of local vigilantes and militias that could cause human rights violations and social strife. This could instigate communal tensions which could undermine the social wellbeing of residents in the State.

Economic: Organized criminality including kidnapping for ransom and targeted killing of security personnel could create a climate of fear and uncertainty that could destabilize the local economy. Targeted killings and kidnappings could cause serious economic disruptions by destabilizing businesses, disrupting livelihoods, and depleting family income. This could undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The ongoing wave of organized criminal violence including targeted killing is a serious threat to law and order, and public safety. It could weaken citizens' trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and property. If not de-escalated, the situation could cause unrest which could disrupt politics and governance in the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence in Delta State, Nigeria

Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Delta State from January 2021 - August 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The growing prevalence of criminal violence could change the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in ways that could negatively affect the socio-economic and political situation in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the security agencies to devise strategies to de-escalate the situation. Peace and security stakeholders should also work with the relevant government agencies to develop appropriate institutional and developmental strategies to mitigate the underlying drivers of organized criminality in the State.

Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: ✉ info@PINDfoundation.org   📞 +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.