

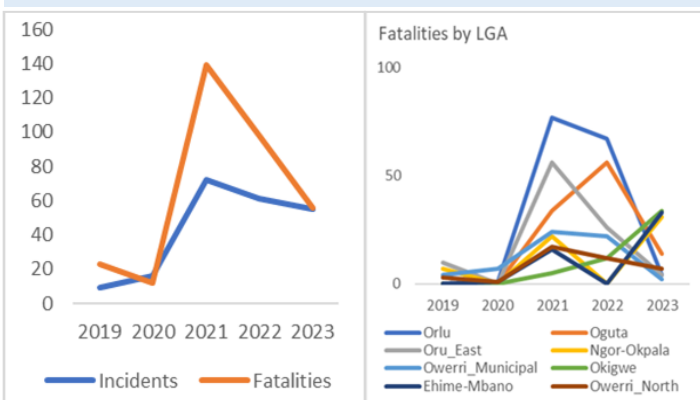
# Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Targeted Killing and Kidnapping in Imo State

February 18-24, 2024

## Background

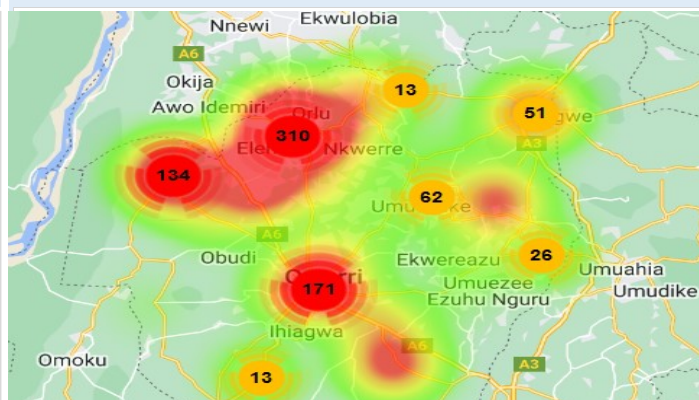
This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on targeted killing and kidnapping in Imo State. Organized criminal violence including targeted killing of government security personnel and abduction of community leaders is a major driver of conflict and insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), organized crime caused over 700 fatalities in Imo State between January 2021 and December 2023. Recent data shows the growing prevalence of targeted killing and kidnapping in the State. In January 2024, for instance, gunmen suspected to be kidnapers reportedly abducted a community leader from his residence at Odumara Orod community in Mbaitoli LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed four persons including two police officers at a security checkpoint at Ohii Junction in Owerri West LGA. More recently, on February 12, 2024, gunmen allegedly attacked a correctional farm settlement, killed a police officer and released seven inmates in Umualomoke community, Okigwe LGA. The officer in charge of the correctional arm settlement was also reportedly abducted.

## Key Facts: Trends of Organized Criminal Violence and Targeted Killing in Imo State



Data shows that Orlu LGA had the highest number of fatalities caused by organized criminal violence during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence and Targeted Killing in Imo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by organized crime and targeted killings in Imo State from January 2021- December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The current wave of organized criminal violence including targeted killing and kidnapping has the potential to exacerbate conflict and insecurity in the State, especially against the backdrop of ongoing separatist agitation in the South-East region of Nigeria. If not de-escalated the situation could snowball into widespread hooliganism and lawlessness and the deployment of security measures that could cause human rights violations. This could result in social unrest that could disrupt the local economy and undermine regional security.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current wave of organized criminal violence has the potential to intensify in ways that could adversely impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to devise strategies to curb the situation. Development actors should work with the national and state governments to develop long-term institutional and developmental measures to address the underlying drivers. Peace actors should work with community leaders to de-escalate the situation.

## Contact Us

Inquiries: [PINDfoundation.org](http://PINDfoundation.org)

Contacts: [info@PINDfoundation.org](mailto: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 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



FOUNDATION FOR NIGER DELTA PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE