

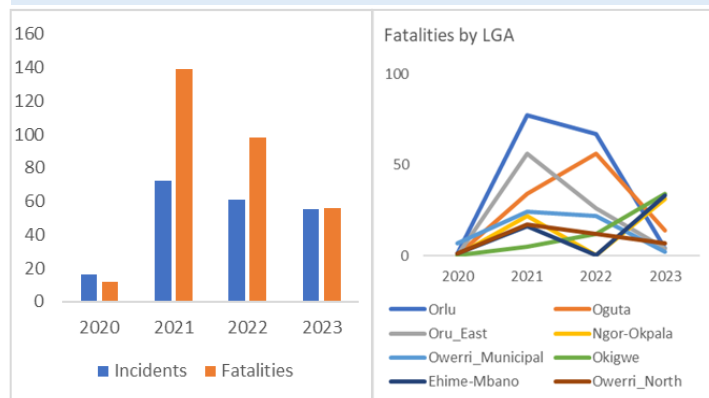
Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Rising Criminal Insurgency and Targeted Killings in Imo State

March 31 - April 06, 2024

Background

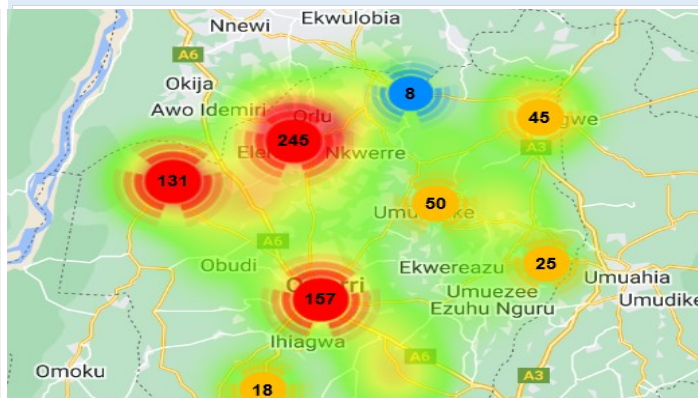
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal insurgency and targeted killing in Imo State. Organized criminality including targeted violence by separatist militias and criminal gangs has been a major driver of violent conflict and insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), organized crime caused over 600 fatalities in Imo State between January 2020 and December 2023. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of criminal insurgency and targeted killings in the State. In February 2024, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked a correctional farm settlement, killed a police officer and released seven inmates in Umualomoke community, Okigwe LGA. In March, masked gunmen on motorcycles reportedly killed four young men in Abacheke Community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. Also, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias allegedly ambushed and killed two police officers on patrol duties along Gariki Road in Okigwe LGA. Recently, on March 29, 2024, gunmen reportedly attacked and killed a woman at her residence in Umudiaku Egbuoma community, Oguta LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Violence in Imo State



Data shows that Orlu and Oguta LGAs had the highest fatalities caused by criminal violence in Imo State during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence and targeted killings in Imo State from January 2020- December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The growing prevalence of criminal insurgency and targeted killing of government security personnel and residents has the potential to escalate in ways that could cause a breakdown of law and order, widespread hooliganism, communal tensions and reprisal killings. This could result in the deployment of security strategies that could cause human rights violations. If not deescalated, the situation could degenerate and bring about serious humanitarian, socio-economic, political, and security consequences at the state and regional levels.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on the current trend and pattern of violence, the situation has the potential to escalate and deepen insecurity in the State, especially in the context of separatist agitation in the South-East region of Nigeria. Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders should collaborate with the relevant government security agencies to identify the underlying drivers and triggers of the current wave of violence, and devise appropriate developmental and security strategies to mitigate the 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 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



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