

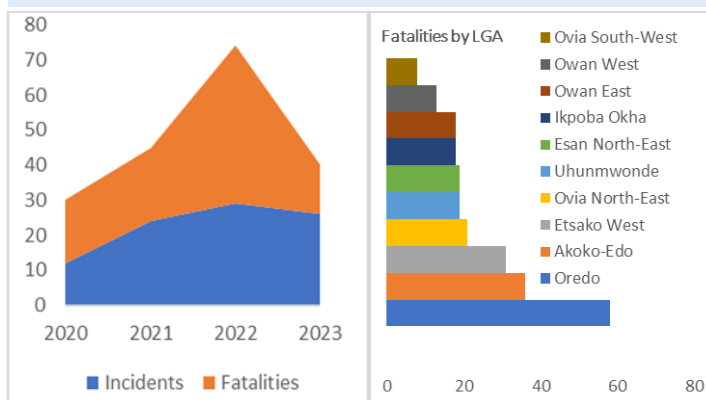
Niger Delta Weekly: Deescalating Rising Criminal Violence and Targeted Killings in Edo State

May 05-11, 2024

Background

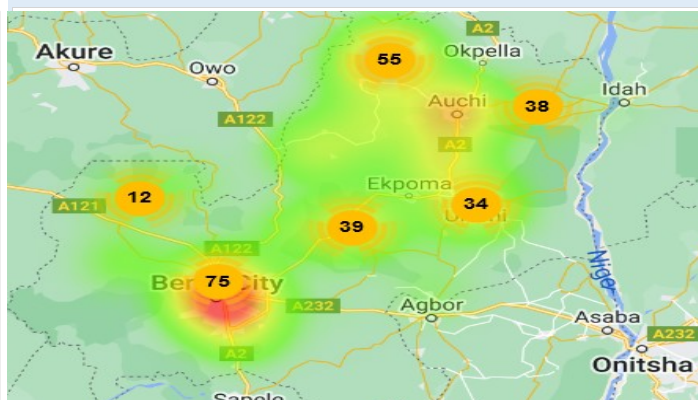
This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on rising criminal violence and targeted killings in Edo State. Criminality is a major driver of violence and insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 250 fatalities in Edo State between January 2020 and March 2024. Recent incidents indicate a rising wave of criminal violence in the State. In March 2024, for instance, gunmen allegedly killed a man at a church along Murtala Muhammed Way in Benin City, the State capital. Separately, in March, gunmen reportedly killed a man at his farm in Ubune-Ivbiaro community, Owan East LGA. In April, gunmen reportedly killed three men at two different locations in Obagie community, Ikpoba Okha LGA. One of the victims was killed at a sport betting shop while the others were killed in their vehicle. Also, in April, a 19-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and killed by kidnapers in Iru Egbede community, Orhionmwon LGA. Recently, on May 06, 2024, gunmen allegedly killed three employees of an oil palm company in Okomu community, Ovia South-West LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Violence & Targeted Killings in Edo State



Data shows that Oredo LGA had the highest number of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Edo State during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Criminal Violence and Targeted Killings in Edo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of fatalities caused by criminal violence in Edo State from January 2020 - March 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The growing prevalence of criminal violence and targeted killing have the potential to intensify in ways that could dangerously affect the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State, especially against the backdrop of rising political tensions in the lead-up to the upcoming September 2024 governorship election in the State. If not immediately deescalated the situation could spiral into widespread hooliganism and reprisal killings. This could bring about far-reaching social, economic, political and security consequences in the State.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current trajectory of criminal violence indicates an increased risk of further escalation. This could dangerously impact the socio-economic, political and security situation in the State. Stakeholders should therefore collaborate with the relevant government security agencies to devise strategies to deescalate the situation. Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs) should also work with the State government to develop suitable institutional, political and developmental strategies to mitigate the underlying drivers.

Contact Us

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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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