

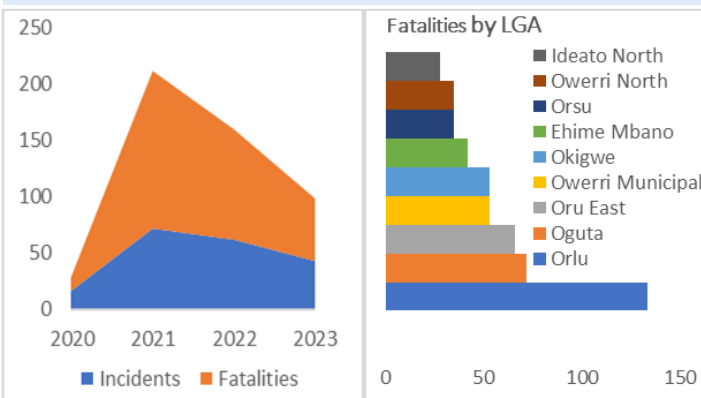
Niger Delta Weekly: De-escalating Rising Criminal Violence and Targeted Killings in Imo State

July 07-13, 2024

Background

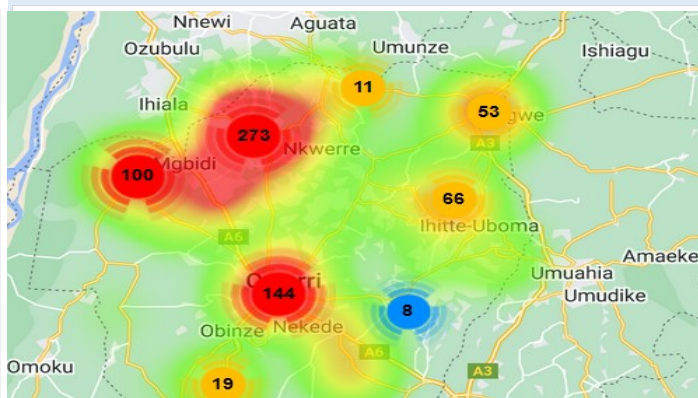
This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on criminal violence and targeted killings in Imo State. Criminal violence including targeted killings by criminal gangs and separatist militias has been a major driver of insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 650 fatalities in Imo State between January 2020 and May 2024. Recent incidents indicate escalation of criminal violence and targeted killing of government security personnel, local vigilantes, and unarmed residents in the State. In June 2024, for instance, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly attacked and killed two police officers and a civilian at a security checkpoint at Akabor community in Ikeduru local government area (LGA). Separately, In June, gunmen allegedly attacked and killed six persons at Ama Hausa in Garki, Okigwe LGA. More recently, on July 07, 2024, gunmen reportedly ambushed and killed three local vigilantes and a passerby at Afor Umuaka community in Njaba LGA. The vigilantes were attacked while they were on a routine security patrol in the community.

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



Data shows that Orlu LGA had the highest number of 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 Killings in Imo State, Nigeria



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

Why it Matters

The current wave of organized criminal violence and targeted killing of government security personnel, local vigilantes, and unarmed residents could severely affect the dynamics of conflict risks and insecurity in the State. If not properly managed, the situation could spiral and cause a breakdown of law and order and the deployment of security strategies that could result in human rights violations including extrajudicial killings. This could bring about serious and far-reaching socio-economic, political and security repercussions.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on historical data, the current wave of criminal violence and targeted killings has the potential to escalate and alter the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in a way that could dangerously impact the social, political, economic, and security situations in the State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant security agencies to de-escalate the situation. Peace actors including civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders should work in partnership with the government to devise 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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