

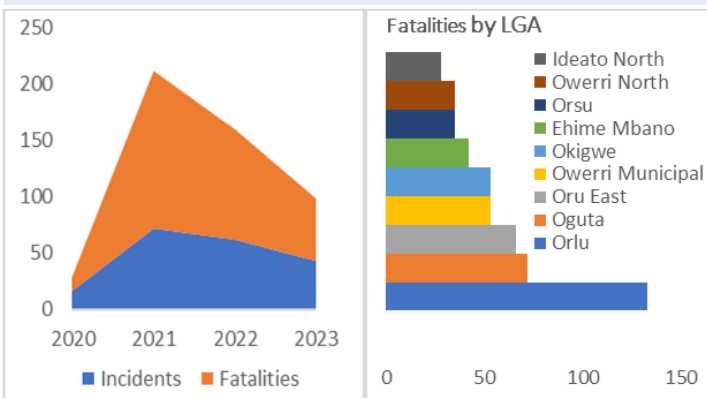
Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Rising Criminal Violence and Targeted Killings in Imo State

September 15-21, 2024

Background

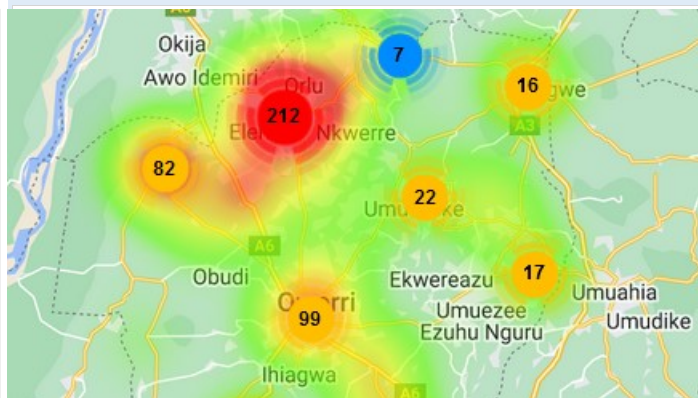
This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on rising criminal violence and targeted killings in Imo State. Criminal violence and targeted killings are major drivers of insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), criminal violence caused over 400 fatalities in Imo State between January 2020 and June 2024. Recent data shows a resurgence of criminal violence, including attacks on government security personnel and civilians. In July 2024, for instance, four police officers and a woman were allegedly killed by suspected separatist militias in Irete, Owerri West local government area (LGA). In September, gunmen reportedly killed two local vigilantes and burned some cars and houses in Umuelemai, the headquarters of Isiala Mbano LGA. Separately, gunmen allegedly attacked a police station and killed a police officer in Umulogho, Obowo LGA. Also, in September, gunmen reportedly attacked a church and killed a man in Orodo, Mbaitoli LGA. Recently, on September 15, 2024, gunmen reportedly attacked a divisional police headquarters and killed three persons in Umuaka, Njaba LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Criminal Violence & Targeted Killings 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 PIND's 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 killings in Imo State from January 2020 – June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The growing prevalence of criminal violence and targeted killings could critically impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State, especially recurrent targeted attacks on government security personnel and facilities. If not swiftly mitigated the situation could escalate in a way that could cause a breakdown of law and order, and the deployment of repressive strategies by government security and law enforcement agencies. This could cause far-reaching social, economic and political disruptions at the state and regional levels.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current wave of criminal violence could dangerously alter the dynamics insecurity in the State, particularly against the backdrop of ongoing separatist agitation in South-East Nigeria. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government security agencies to deploy suitable strategies to mitigate the situation. Stakeholders should also work with other government agencies to develop appropriate institutional, political and developmental strategies to mitigate the underlying drivers of organized criminality in the State.

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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