

# Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Sexual Violence in Akwa Ibom State

June 28 - July 04, 2020

## Description

This weekly update spotlights rising cases of sexual violence in the Niger Delta with a particular focus on rape and female child molestation in Akwa Ibom State. According to data (see map below), over 20 incidents of sexual violence including rape and child molestation were reported in Akwa Ibom State between January 2016 and May 2020. Recent data indicates an increase in reported cases of rape and child sexual abuse in the state. In May 2020, for instance, a 17-year old girl was reportedly raped by her 30-year old nephew in Ikot Ambon community, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA. In June 2020, an 8-year old girl was reportedly defiled by a clergyman in Ntak Inyang village, Etim Ekpo LGA. In a separate incident, in June 2020, an 11-year old girl was reportedly raped by a 60-year old village head in Ikot Inyang, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA. In a more recent incident, on June 23, 2020, a 16-year old girl was reportedly drugged and raped by a 35-year old clergyman in Okon Eket community, Eket LGA. The rising cases of sexual violence has triggered public outcry including a series of protests within the State and the Niger Delta.

## Why it Matters

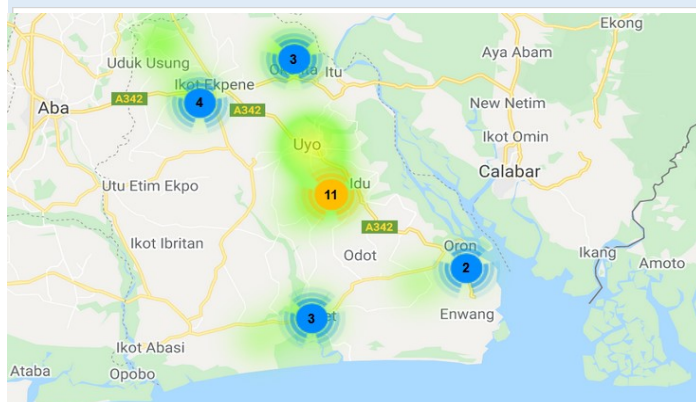
Recent data indicates an increase in incidents of sexual violence in Akwa Ibom State, especially rape and sexual abuse of underage girls. The situation could worsen with severe social, economic and political implications for the State and the Niger Delta, especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis which has seemingly aggravated existing vulnerabilities and risks of sexual abuse and violence.

**Social:** The impact of sexual violence could be socially disrupting and agonizing. It could have far-reaching psychosocial and health impacts on victims and their families, including bodily or mental harm, reproductive health challenges, sexually transmitted infections and Vesico-Vaginal Fistula (VVF) in underage girls. Sexually abused girls and women could become depressed and frustrated. Also, when sexual violence is condoned, it can induce culprits to commit more violations, and create a feeling of injustice and insecurity among residents.

**Economic:** Rising cases of sexual violence could have huge economic impact on victims, households, businesses and the wider society. These may include the costs of psychosocial support and healthcare services or legal expenses. The psychological, social and health consequences of sexual violence could also diminish productivity of victims in their homes and workplace, and thus reduce household income.

**Political:** Sexual violence could have serious implications for politics and governance in the state. Increasing cases of sexual violence could incite public outrage, mass protests and anti-rape rallies. This could cause political instability and disrupt governance in the state.

## Incidents Heat Map of Rape and other Forms of Sexual Violence in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of sexual violence in Akwa Ibom State from January 2016 - May 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

Sexual violence is becoming prevalent in Akwa Ibom State. The prevailing situation could deteriorate unless preventive measures are taken, especially within the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government to reinforce existing policies to curtail the various forms of sexual violence. Stakeholders should also engage with relevant government agencies and media outfits to raise awareness on sexual violence, and advocate for appropriate punitive and remedial measures.

## 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**

**Incident Details:** Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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