

# Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Resurgence of Bank Robbery in Ondo State

July 18-24, 2021

## Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights armed robbery in the Niger Delta with a focus on bank robbery in Ondo State. Armed robbery - including coordinated lethal attacks and burglary of commercial banks - is increasingly becoming a recurring security threat in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), over 25 incidents of armed robbery were reported in Ondo State between 2018 and 2020. Recent data shows the resurgence of bank robbery in the State. For instance, in May 2021, armed robbers reportedly attacked a bullion van belonging to a commercial bank, killed two persons and carted away unspecified amount of money along the Akure-Ondo expressway in Elemosho village, Ondo East LGA. More recently, on July 15, 2021, a gang of robbers reportedly attacked a commercial bank, blew up its security doors with dynamites, killed three persons including a policeman and a journalist, and stole an undisclosed sum of money in Ilara-Mokin community, Ifedore LGA. Three other persons were reportedly hit by stray bullets as the robbers shot sporadically to scare away people within the vicinity of the bank.

## Why it Matters

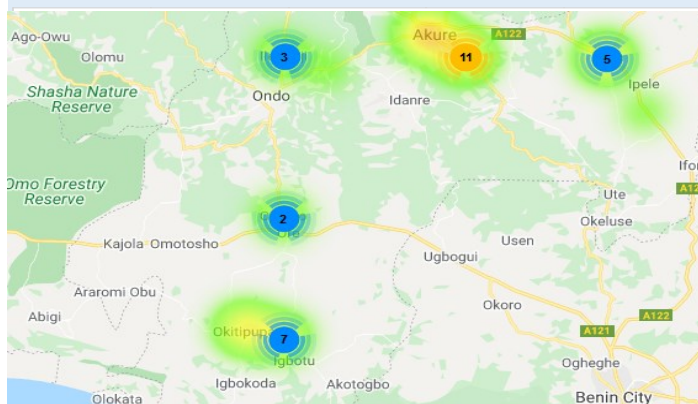
Bank robbery is a grievous crime with far-reaching consequences for the victims and society. The resurgence of bank robbery therefore portends serious threats to human security in the State. Recent incidents caused several fatalities, loss of funds, destruction of property and disruption of businesses. The prevailing situation has the potential to cause socio-economic and political instability in the State.

**Social:** By its very nature, bank robbery often involves lethal violence which could be extremely distressing for the victims and the general public. The growing prevalence of bank robbery could cause anxiety among bank staff, customers and residents because of the danger it poses to lives and property. It could also force banks to shut down local branches and therefore undermine their capacity to render services to residents. This could negatively affect social activities with wide-ranging consequences for the social wellbeing of residents.

**Economic:** The prevalence of bank robbery could have far-reaching adverse effects on the local economy. It could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could cause economic disruptions and increase expenditure on public security. This could increase the cost of doing business, cause financial distress in the banking sector, scare off investors and consequently reduce government revenue from taxation.

**Political:** Recurrent incidents of bank robbery could cause public dissatisfaction with the capacity of law enforcement agencies to protect lives and property. This could cause violent protests and unrest which could present additional security challenges for the State.

## Incidents Heat Map of Armed Robbery in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of armed robbery in Ondo State from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

Bank robbery is becoming increasingly recurrent, widespread and lethal in Ondo State. The situation could escalate and exacerbate insecurity in the State. Stakeholders should continue to monitor the situation and respond appropriately. Peace actors should work with the State government, financial institutions and the relevant security agencies to prioritize investment in the optimization of the physical security of banks. Law enforcement agencies should also optimize 'hot spot policing' and 'focused deterrence' in high risk areas.

## 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.



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