

# Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in Rivers State

May 09-15, 2021

## Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights growing anti-police insurgency in the Niger Delta with a focus on targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel in Rivers State. According to data (see map below), violence against security forces caused over 120 fatalities in Rivers State between 2018 and 2020. Recent incidents indicate an increase in targeted violence against security forces in the State, purportedly driven by growing anti-police insurgency in south-eastern Nigeria. In April, for instance, more than 12 security personnel were reportedly killed in a series of coordinated attacks by gunmen at different locations in Rivers State. In one of the incidents, gunmen reportedly killed eight security personnel at different security checkpoints along Omagwa/Isiokpo/Elele-Owerri expressway in Ikwerre LGA. Separately, in April, gunmen reportedly attacked a military camp and killed four soldiers in Omenema community, Abua/Odual LGA. Recently, on May 07, 2021, seven policemen were reportedly killed in a series of attacks on police stations and security checkpoints at different locations in Obio/Akpor and Emohua LGAs.

## Why it Matters

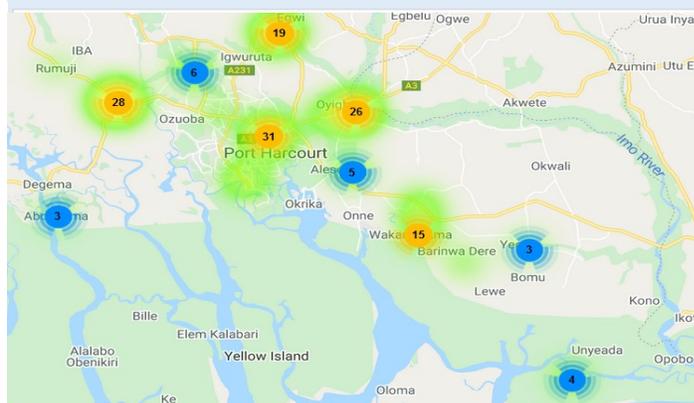
The spread of anti-police insurgency in Rivers State could adversely impact the peace and conflict dynamics in the State. It could cause a breakdown of law and order which could result in public unrest, widespread hooliganism and arbitrary killings, and the deployment of repressive measures by security forces. The situation could also intersect with organized criminality and ethno-regional tensions to cause socio-economic disruptions and political instability in the State.

**Social:** Growing incidents of targeted attacks on security facilities and personnel by criminal gangs could result in the use of repressive security strategies that could result in collateral damage and human rights violations. It could also intensify arms proliferation and increase communal tensions and general insecurity which could be exploited by criminals and separatist groups to engage in organized violence.

**Economic:** Recurrent attacks on security facilities and personnel could create an atmosphere of insecurity that could be detrimental to economic development. It could result in the restriction of human and vehicular movement, destruction of livelihoods and disruption of economic activities. Attacks on security facilities could also scare away investors and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** The recurrence of targeted violence against security forces by criminals could erode the State's authority and weaken citizen's trust in the capacity of the government to protect lives and properties. The situation could also be exploited by hooligans and separatist groups to undermine the government and cause political instability.

## Fatalities Heat Map of Targeted Violence Against Security Forces in Rivers State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of fatalities caused by violence against security forces in Rivers 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

The ongoing anti-police insurgency in South-eastern Nigeria is escalating and increasingly spreading to Rivers State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant security agencies to devise appropriate strategies to prevent the spread of anti-police insurgency in the State. Stakeholders should also collaborate with the national and state governments in the South-South and South-East regions to develop long-term political, developmental and institutional strategies to discourage separatist agitations and armed insurgency.

## 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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