



# **TIMELINE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE NIGERIA POLICE IN SOUTH-EASTERN NIGERIA**

**JANUARY 2021 - JUNE 2021**



- GEOPOLITICAL INTELLIGENCE
- MARITIME INTELLIGENCE
- BREAKING NEWS
- CRIME INTELLIGENCE
- SPECIAL INVESTIGATION
- INCIDENT ALERT SYSTEM



---

## WHEN THE HUNTER BECOMES THE HAUNTED: ANALYZING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE NIGERIA POLICEMEN IN SOUTH-EASTERN NIGERIA

The unbridled violence plaguing the nation took a turn for the worse when the hunter became the hunted. In the subsequent dramatic development best described with the Nigerian proverb of a cock developing overnight teeth, “acts of terrorism and banditry” took a leap, nose-diving from the Northern part of the Country to an erstwhile peaceful Eastern region. This sudden development transformed the Eastern region into an epicentre of inglorious attention where dastards acts of brutal violence on police officers and burning of police stations became the order of the day. The Eastern States comprises Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia and Enugu States. While the heated debate was still ongoing on the profiling of the perpetrators, different groups synergized to dampen further the morale of these officers by wreaking intense mayhem on their emotions and psychology by physically rendering them inept at protecting themselves from harm and premature death, let alone protect the citizens, residents and properties entrusted to their care. This has led to police officers in the Southeast avoiding wearing uniforms to work, and while at work, they hardly venture out to investigate cases. Of what use then is an incapacitated police officer at work in a Country wrought in insecurity? Or how can one distinguish a fraud from a genuine officer in a region infested with unknown gunmen?

The absence of prosecution of those behind these acts further brings to limelight the government's helplessness in assuring the security personnel of their safety in perilous times as seen in the interview conducted by Eons Intelligence. “We are being killed like fowls; with not an iota of concern from those vested with power and authority, beyond paying a paltry sum to victims' family as if their compensation-allowance can resuscitate the dead or mitigate the psychological trauma the relative bear at the untimely loss of their dear ones. Even our salary as custodian of the nation's security is barely enough to sustain the pet animals of those in power,” lamented one of the police officers who declined having his name on print. This worrisome and unattended development has rendered us inept within the Eastern geographical region of the Country.

Intel on these attacks blames the development to the abysmal handling of the aftermath violence that followed the #ENDSARS protests.

The unabated rise in the onslaught of attacks on police stations and policemen, especially in the South-Eastern region of the Country begs the question that if the security officers become insecure as to be unable to protect themselves, what then becomes the fate of the citizens and residents entrusted to their care?

Although several categories of security operatives were attacked, the analysis of the violence against the police stations and policemen in the South-Eastern Nigeria showing an orchestrated, unprovoked killings of policemen, carting away of their weapons, and the burning of their assets such as police vehicles and stations forms the major focus of this article with the sole aim of eliciting the requisite assistance from the appropriate quarters as to amicably resolve the underlying issues.





**ATTACKS ON NIGERIA POLICEMEN AND POLICE STATIONS  
IN THE 5 SOUTH-EASTERN STATES  
FROM JANUARY 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2021.**

**JANUARY 2021**

<b>January 8, 2021</b>	Three policemen were attacked at Onueke Police Station in Ezza South Local Government Area (LGA) in Ebonyi State.
<b>January 23, 2021</b>	Two policemen were killed after gunmen and razed two police stations in Aba, Abia State.

**FEBRUARY 2021**

<b>February 1, 2021</b>	Hoodlums razed the divisional police station at Omoba headquarters of Isiala Ngwa South in Abia State, killing a policeman and looting the armoury.
<b>February 4, 2021</b>	A police station was burnt at Isu, Onicha LGA in Ebonyi.
<b>February 5, 2021</b>	Two policemen were killed at the Umulowo police division in Obowo LGA in Imo State.
<b>February 23, 2021</b>	A policeman killed as gunmen attack the Abayi police station in Osioma Ngwa LGA in Abia. The gunmen looted the armory and set the station ablaze.
<b>February 24, 2021</b>	Three police stations razed, four police officers killed in Mkpologwu, Omogho in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State.
<b>February 24, 2021</b>	Hoodlums kill a policeman and set a patrol vehicle ablaze in Ekwuluobia, Anambra State.
<b>February 25, 2021</b>	A policewoman was shot when suspected hoodlums attacked a police station in Aboh Mbaise LGA in Imo State.

**MARCH 2021**

<b>March 18, 2021</b>	An unknown number of policemen were killed in Ekwulobia when gunmen attacked various locations
<b>March 21, 2021</b>	Gunmen set police station ablaze in Isiala Mbano, Imo, free suspects held in detention and cart away arms.
<b>March 22, 2021</b>	Three policemen attached to the Abiriba Police division were killed in Ohafia LGA, Abia State.
<b>March 31, 2021</b>	Three policemen attached to the former Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Prof. Charles Soludo were killed in Isuofia, Anambra State.



## APRIL 2021

<b>April 5, 2021</b>	Gunmen attacked the Imo police command headquarters and the Correctional Centre in Owerri. The armoury was looted, vehicles burnt and no fewer than 600 detainees and 1,844 inmates freed.
<b>April 6, 2021</b>	Gunmen razed the Divisional Police Headquarters in Ehime Mbano LGA, Imo State.
<b>April 8, 2021</b>	Gunmen attacked the Mbieri Divisional Police Headquarters in Mbaitoli LGA in Imo State, freeing suspects.
<b>April 14, 2021</b>	Three policemen attached to the Safer Highway Patrol team in Ebonyi were killed in an attack at Ogoja/Abakiliki Express road by Nwaezenyi junction.
<b>April 15, 2021</b>	Gunmen kill three policemen in Ebonyi, cart away rifles
<b>April 19, 2021</b>	Gunmen killed two policemen during an attack on the Zone 13 Police Headquarters in Ukpo, Dunukofia LGA in Anambra State.
<b>April 21, 2021</b>	Gunmen attack Enugu Divisional Police Headquarters.

## MAY 2021

<b>May 2, 2021</b>	Gunmen attack police station in Ebonyi, injure a policeman.
<b>May 6, 2021</b>	Police in Anambra have confirmed the killing of two of its personnel by unknown gunmen who attacked and razed the Divisional Police Station in Obosi, Idemili North of the State.
<b>May 7, 2021</b>	Gunmen launch a deadly attack at Nnobi, Nneokwa and Ichida police stations in Anambra State.
<b>May 8, 2021</b>	Gunmen attack Nnobi, Nneokwa and Ichida Police stations, in Anambra State.
<b>May 9, 2021</b>	Hoodlums set the Ubani Market Police Station ablaze.
<b>May 17, 2021</b>	Two police Inspectors killed as gunmen attack and set ablaze the Apumiri Ubakala Police Station in Umuahia South LGA, Abia State.
<b>May 25, 2021</b>	Five police officers feared dead and police station razed as gunmen attack police station in Enugu.
<b>May 29, 2021</b>	Gunmen razed down a divisional police station among others in Atta community, Njaba LGA of Imo State.

## JUNE 2021

<b>June 1, 2021</b>	Gunmen raze police station in Umundugba community, Isu LGA of Imo State.
<b>June 12, 2021</b>	Police Inspector killed as gunmen attack Ojoto Police Station in Idemili South LGA, Anambra State.



### ANAMBRA STATE

- Two police stations razed, four police officers killed in Mkpologwu, Omogbo in Orumba North LGA
- Hoodlums kill a police officer and set a patrol vehicle ablaze in Ekwulobia
- Three police officers attached to the former Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Prof. Charles Soludo, lost their lives to gunmen attack in Isuofia.
- Gunmen killed two police officers during an attack on the Zone 13 Police Headquarters in Ukpok, Dunukofia LGA.
- Gunmen attack Nnobi, Nneokwa and Ichida police stations.
- Police in Anambra have confirmed the killing of two personnel by unknown gunmen who attacked and razed the Divisional Police Station in Obosi, Idemili, North LGA.
- Gunmen launch a deadly attack at Nnobi, Nneokwa and Ichida police stations.
- Police Inspector killed as gunmen attack Ojoto Police Station in Idemili South LGA

### ENUGUSTATE

- Gunmen attack Enugu Divisional Police Headquarters.
- Five police officers feared dead, and the police station razed as gunmen attack the police station

Anambra

Enugu

Ebonyi

Imo

Abia

### ABIA STATE

- 2 policemen killed
- Divisional Police station razed in Isiala Ngwa South
- 1 policeman killed as gunmen attack the Abai police station in Osisioma Ngwa LGA in Abia
- Three police officers attached to the Abiriba police division were killed in Ohafia LGA.
- Two police Inspectors killed as gunmen attack police station in Umuahia South LGA.
- Two police inspectors killed as gunmen attack and set ablaze the Apumiri Ubakala Police Station in Umuahia LGA.

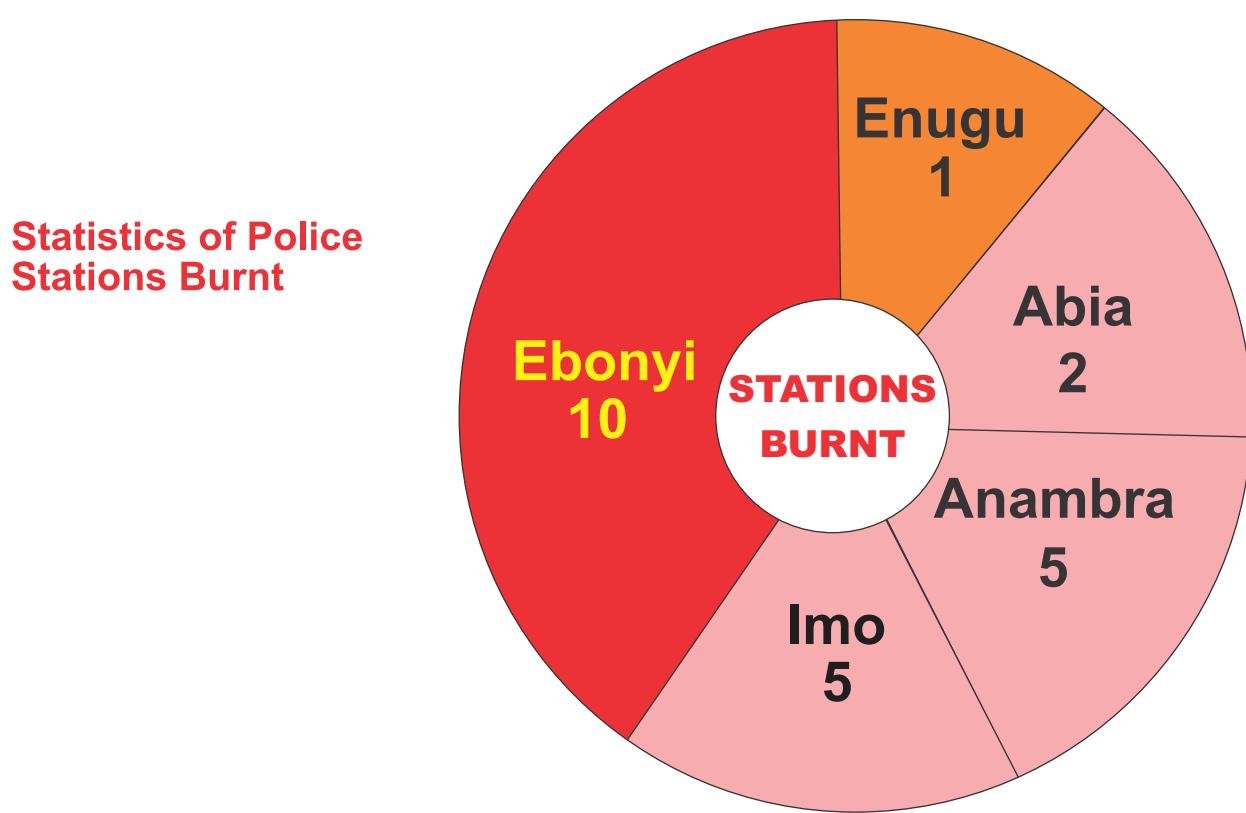
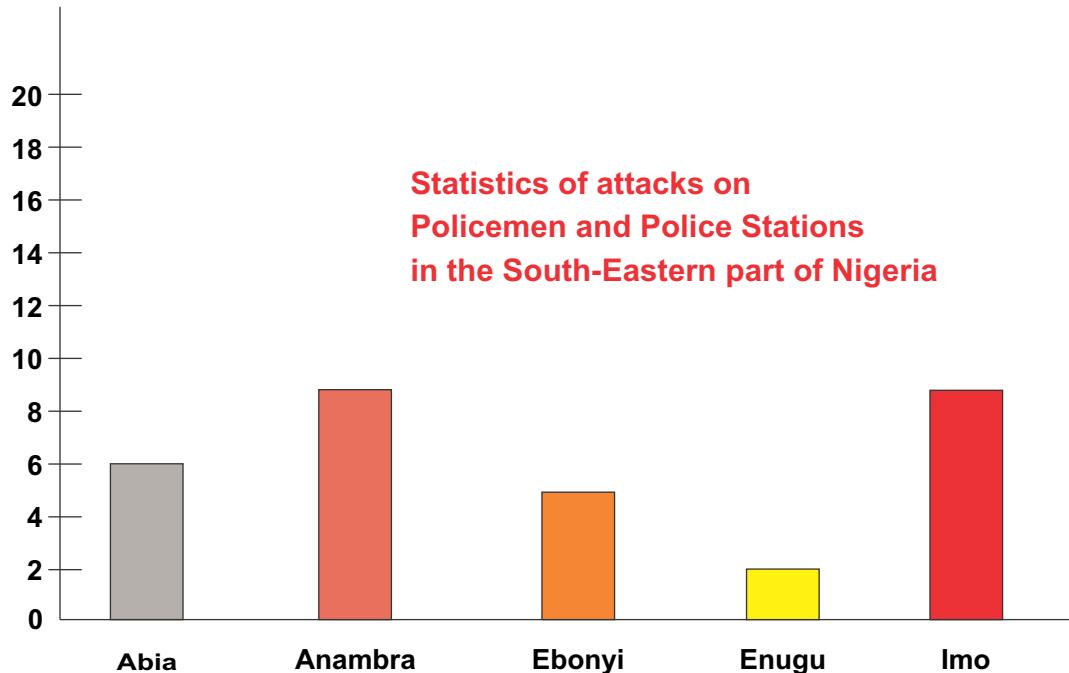
### EBONYI STATE

- 3 policemen were attacked in Ezza South LGA
- Police station was burnt at Isu, Onicha LGA.
- Three policemen attached to the Safer Highway Patrol team were killed in an attack at Ogoja/ Abakiliki Express road by Nwaezenyi junction.
- Gunmen kill three police officers, cart away rifles.
- Gunmen attack police station, injure police officer.

### IMO STATE

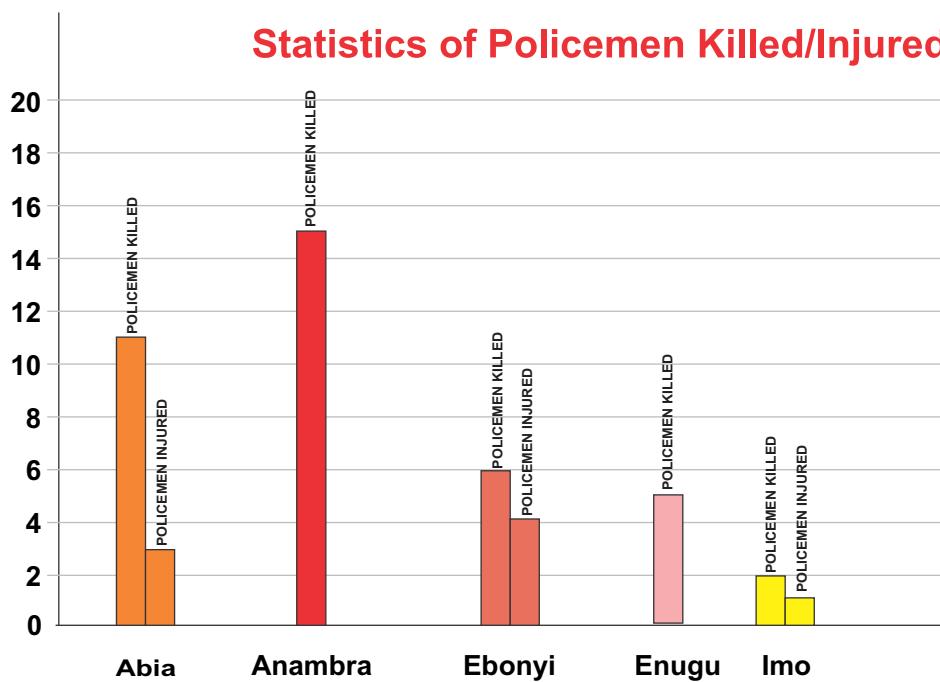
- 2 policemen killed at the Umulovo Police Division
- A policewoman was shot when suspected hoodlums attacked a police station in Aboh Mbaise
- Gunmen set a police station ablaze in Isiala Mbano, free suspects held in detention and cart away arms.
- Gunmen attacked the Imo police command headquarters and the Correctional Centre in Owerri. The armory was looted, vehicles burnt, and no fewer than 600 detainees and 1,844 inmates freed.
- Gunmen razed the Divisional Police Headquarters in Ehime Mbano LGA
- Gunmen attacked the Mbieri Divisional Police Headquarters in Mbaitoli LGA, freeing suspects.
- Gunmen razed down a divisional police station among others in Atta community, Njaba LGA.
- Gunmen raze police station in Umunduba community, Isu LGA

STATES	TOTAL ATTACKS	STATIONS BURNT	VEHICLES BURNT	POLICEMEN KILLED	POLICEMEN INJURED
Abia State	6	2		11	3
Anambra State	9	5	1	15	0
Ebonyi State	5	10		6	4
Enugu State	2	1		5	
Imo State	9	5	5	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6+</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>





## Statistics of Policemen Killed/Injured



In a bid to proffer a valid and enduring solution to these incidents, a renowned security analyst and consultant with an in-depth understanding of the Eastern Region in the person of Victor Okpiri was engaged in a detailed interview for an added external insight to the likely reason and motive for these orchestrated attacks on Eastern Security Operatives. Mr Okpiri's experience in the terrain as a former resident and an intelligence expert threw more light on the situation.

He said, "These attacks on government security agencies in the South-South and South-East regions can be seen on the surface as actions of separatist agitators as the IPOB, and their ESN is fingered as being responsible for these attacks. Separatist agitation is as old as the nation itself, and further deteriorates with the lack of an all-inclusive government at the Federal level of government. He further stated that certain regions of the Country are not happy that the Federal Government appears to favour the dominating ethnic groups. As a multi-ethnic state, these fears of perceived domination have always been there. However, the actions of the current government in recent times have heightened the tension. Furthermore, these tensions now find expression in violence".

He further reiterates, "That besides separatist agitations, there is also the possibility of hostile foreign terrorist groups fuelling some of these attacks. These insurgent groups could have religious or political motives, and the actualization of their objective is through insecurity and widespread dissemination of fear. Hence they target any possible situation that may lead to mass violence and lack of faith in government. They cash into any opportunity that lends itself to violence. It could be recalled that attacks on government security formations are peculiar to the South-East situation. From the Boko Haram insurgency in the North, through the herders/farmers clashes to the recent #ENDSARS protest, it will be observed that in each case, elements strategically hijack these protests and unleash coordinated attacks exclusively on security operatives".



"He concluded by emphasizing the need to strengthen internal security; both state police, community policing and private policing should be encouraged. Security henceforth is not the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Government alone, but ought to be everyone's business.

Drawing from Victor Okpiri's inference and the detailed statistics that abound above, Eons Intelligence advocates the need for the government to be sensitive to the agitations and needs of the diverse ethnic groups within the Country. True and fiscal federalism is best for Nigeria. Leadership should consider restructuring to allow for stronger federating units.

The importance of the above suggestion cannot be over-emphasized as the more intense these attacks get, the more the populace tend to lose faith in government. Moreover, indications are rife that the possible aim of these attacks may be to acquire and stockpile arms for a bigger security problem that is ahead while weakening the morale and capacity of security personnel so the populace will lose confidence in the national security, thereby resorting to self-help. Hence, it is of paramount importance that the Federal Government hastens through peaceful dialogue to engage in productive solutions to prevent an escalation of an already abnormal situation and help resuscitate the dwindling economy of the region.



## IMPACT AND WAY FORWARD

Eons Intelligence suggests the rebuilding of confidence in the Nigerian Police force by seeing to the immediate psychosocial needs of the officers and men in the South-Eastern region of Nigeria where violence has dealt a huge blow to their psyche. This should be preceded with the provision of psychological first aid starting with the most traumatized divisions.

Immediate provisions of basic need especially office accommodation, work tools, furniture and vehicles to replace those that were destroyed.

It will be important for government at the State level to join hands with the Federal Government to build barracks for the policemen serving in this region. This will help in mitigating the high risk exposure of the officers and men currently residing within civilian communities. Although, this may be at variance with the objective of community policing, the current growing threat environments in the region calls for this measure.





The Nigeria Police should take the earlier call by Eons Intelligence for it to engage the Nigeria Association of Clinical Psychologists for psychotherapy collaboration seriously. The officers and men in the region need this support now more than ever.

Though it may appear that things are calming down, but the danger of psychological trauma inflicted may not be immediately apparent. This may later manifest in the most undesirable way if not checked. These officers may become a threat not only to themselves, but also to the society as many already manifest signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Mental Retardation, Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Depression.

*Remember, the fastest way to stagnate and destroy a nation is to incapacitate and render its security apparatus inept.*



## About us

Eons Intelligence is a strategic intelligence and advisory group which specializes in bespoke analysis of crime, political, economic risk and opportunities in Nigeria.

**Location:** Lagos Nigeria

**Email:** [enquiries@eaonsintelligence.com](mailto:enquiries@eaonsintelligence.com)

**Call:** +234 908 358 8787

