

# Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting Kidnapping of Students and Educators in Ondo and Edo State

November 28 - December 04, 2021

## Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights kidnapping for ransom in the Niger Delta with a focus on the targeted abduction of students and educators in Ondo and Edo State. According to data (see map below), more than 90 incidents of kidnapping were reported in Edo and Ondo State between January 2020 and September 2021. Recent incidents indicate a rise in the targeted abduction of schoolchildren, students and teachers in Ondo and Edo State. In July 2021, for instance, three students of a Naval School of Engineering were reportedly abducted by kidnapers in Irukepken town in Esan West LGA, Edo State. In October, two female schoolchildren were reportedly abducted by gunmen suspected to be kidnapers in Akure, the Ondo State capital. In November, gunmen suspected to be kidnapers reportedly intercepted a school bus and abducted two pupils along Igarra-Auchi Road near Ikpeshi community in Akoko Edo LGA, Edo State. Recently, on November 26, 2021, a school principal, his deputy and three teachers were reportedly abducted by kidnapers along Auga-Ise Road in Akoko North East LGA, Ondo State.

## Why it Matters

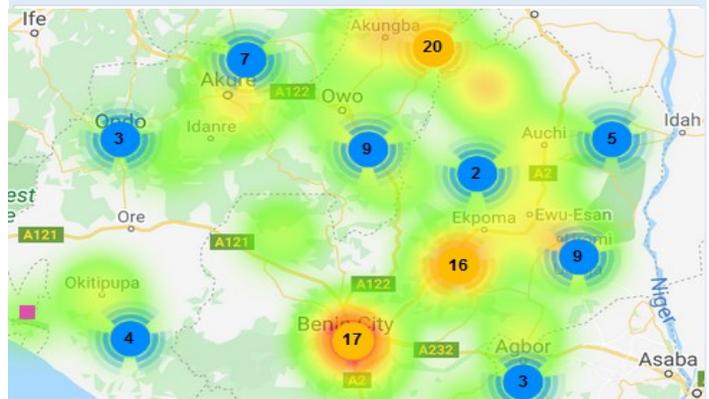
The current trend and pattern of kidnapping in Edo and Ondo State is worrying, especially the targeted abduction of schoolchildren, students and teachers for ransom. If not mitigated appropriately, the current trend could degenerate into economically motivated mass abduction of pupils and students in the targeted States. This could undermine human security and disrupt the education system in the States, with far-reaching socio-economic and political repercussions.

**Social:** Targeted kidnapping of students could be socially disrupting. It could cause anxiety among parents and education personnel, and cause residents to lose interest in the education system. This could bring about long-term impact on learning outcomes, including poor academic performance and a decrease in enrollment rates. This could disrupt the education system and consequently worsen the problem of access to quality and affordable education in the affected States.

**Economic:** Kidnapping in schools could impose huge financial burdens on parents, education personnel and institutions, as well as the government. The cost of ransom and provision of additional security facilities in schools could significantly deplete households' savings, distort the local economy and increase poverty in the affected States.

**Political:** Targeted kidnapping of students and education personnel for ransom could create an insecure environment for teaching and learning which could disrupt the education system. This could also jeopardize government efforts to make quality education accessible to residents, and negatively affect governance in the targeted States.

## Incidents Heat Map of Kidnapping for Ransom in Ondo and Edo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of kidnapping in Ondo and Edo State from January 2020 - September 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

Targeted kidnapping of schoolchildren, students and education personnel is an emerging security threat with the potential to destabilize the education system in Ondo and Edo State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the affected State governments, educational institutions and the relevant security agencies to carry out a comprehensive needs assessment of schools and devise appropriate measures to mitigate the situation. Security agencies should also reinforce the physical security of all schools in the affected States.

## 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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