

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotighting Targeted Kidnapping of Students in Cross River State

October 24-30, 2021

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights the growing threat of kidnapping for ransom in the Niger Delta with a focus on targeted kidnapping of students and educators in Cross River State. According to data (see map below), more than 35 incidents of kidnapping for ransom were reported in Cross Rivers State between January 2018 and September 2021. Recent data shows an upsurge in reported incidents of kidnapping for ransom including targeted kidnapping of university students and lecturers in the State. In July 2021, for example, two male students of the University of Calabar were reportedly kidnapped on the university campus in Calabar, the state capital. The victims were later released after a ransom was allegedly paid. Separately, in October, a male and a female student of the University of Calabar were reportedly abducted by gunmen suspected to be kidnapers in Calabar town. More recently, on October 23, 2021, a former professor in the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS) was reportedly abducted by gunmen at his residence at a housing estate in Calabar town, Calabar Municipal LGA.

Why it Matters

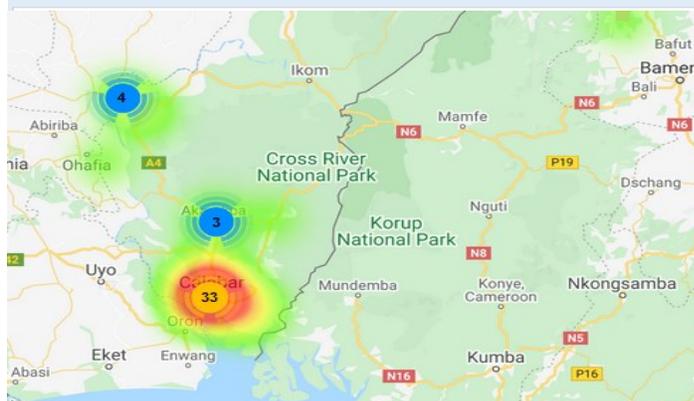
The recent spate of targeted kidnapping of students and educators in Cross River State is alarming. The current trend could be linked to the rising spate of economically motivated mass abduction of schoolchildren and students in northern Nigeria. If the current trend of targeted kidnapping is not appropriately mitigated, it could intensify insecurity and undermine the education system in the State. This could cause serious socio-economic and political challenges for the State.

Social: Targeted kidnapping of students and educators could have disrupting psychosocial impacts on residents. The growing spate of targeted kidnapping in schools could cause a general feeling of insecurity and anxiety among students, educators, parents and educational institutions. This could cause parents and students to lose trust and interest in the education system, and consequently deepen the problem of access to quality and affordable education in the State.

Economic: Recurrent incidents of targeted kidnapping of students and educators could impose enormous economic burdens on students, parents, educators, educational institutions and the government, including the cost of ransom, additional security, and disruption in academic activities. Ransoms could significantly deplete households' savings, distort the local economy and increase poverty.

Political: Targeted kidnapping of students and educators could create an insecure environment for learning and thus undermine government effort in achieving inclusive and quality education, and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for residents in the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Kidnapping for Ransom in Cross River State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of kidnapping for ransom in Cross River State from January 2018 - September 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Targeted abduction of students and educators is an evolving security threat with the potential to destabilize the education system in the State. Peace actors should collaborate with the State government, educational institutions and the relevant security agencies to carry out a comprehensive security needs assessment of schools in the State and devise appropriate strategies to counteract the current trend of targeted kidnapping in schools. Security agencies should also optimize the physical security of all schools in the State.

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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