

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Resurgence of Kidnapping in Akwa Ibom State

September 18-24, 2022

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights violent criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnapping for ransom and human trafficking in Akwa Ibom State. According to data (see map below), more than 120 incidents of criminal violence including over 25 kidnapping incidents were reported in Akwa Ibom State between January 2019 and June 2022. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of kidnapping for ransom and human trafficking in the State. In July 2022, for example, 28 fishermen were reportedly robbed and abducted by sea robbers who double as kidnapers along the Uruan Water Channel in Akwakpa community, Uruan LGA. In August, kidnapers reportedly killed a woman and abducted her two male children in Ikot Akpa Etok community, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA. The children were later sold to a child trafficker in Abia State. Separately, in August, kidnapers reportedly abducted a man, collected a ransom of one million naira and killed him in Nwaniba village, Uruan LGA. More recently, on September 03, 2022, school principal was reportedly abducted by kidnapers in Udianga Enem community, Etim Ekpo LGA.

Why it Matters

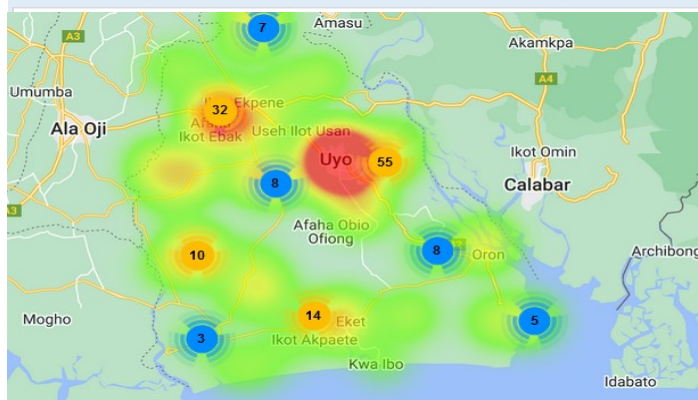
The recent resurgence of kidnapping could intensify insecurity and adversely impact the peace and security landscape in the State. The current trend of kidnapping is alarming, especially targeted kidnapping for ransom and child trafficking. If not appropriately mitigated, the emerging situation could endanger public security and undermine the safety of women and children in the State. This could bring about devastating social, economic and political consequences in the State.

Social: Kidnapping for ransom and child trafficking could be socially disrupting, especially in terms of the threat it poses to the lives of victims, the agony it causes families, and the feelings of uncertainty and insecurity it generates in society. The resurgence of kidnapping could force residents to adopt hostile countermeasures including mob justice and vigilante violence. This could intensify social tensions and insecurity which could undermine the wellbeing of residents

Economic: Kidnapping could inflict substantial economic costs on individuals, families, businesses and the government, including the cost of ransom and additional security. It could distort and disrupt the local economy by depleting households' savings, scaring off investors, and forcing businesses to relocate. This could also cause loss of livelihoods and a reduction in governments' revenue from taxation.

Political: Recurrent incidents of kidnapping for ransom and human trafficking could cause widespread public dissatisfaction with the efforts of government security forces to safeguard lives and properties. This could trigger protests and civil unrest which could disrupt governance and present additional security challenges for the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Violent Criminality in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported incidents of violent criminality in Akwa Ibom State from January 2019 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Kidnapping for ransom and human trafficking is a prevailing security threat in Akwa Ibom State. The situation could intensify except appropriate preventive actions are taken by stakeholders. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government and the relevant security agencies to reinforce ongoing efforts to mitigate the situation. Peace and development actors should also work with the law enforcement agencies and community leaders to address the underlying drivers of the current trend of kidnapping 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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