

Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting Kidnapping for Ransom in Ondo State

September 25 - October 01, 2022

Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnapping for ransom in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), more than 80 kidnapping incidents and over 20 related fatalities were reported in Ondo State between January 2019 and June 2022. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of kidnapping in the State, especially the targeted abduction of passengers for ransom. In August 2022, for example, four persons including two community leaders and a chieftain of a major political party were reportedly abducted by gunmen along Owo-Ikare Expressway in Ago-Panu community, Owo LGA. The kidnappers later demanded 50 million naira ransom. In September, a senior civil servant was allegedly abducted and killed by gunmen in Akure, the state capital. Recently, on September 04, 2022, gunmen reportedly kidnapped 32 passengers along Owo-Benin Highway in Ifon community, Ose LGA. The passengers were reportedly abducted while they were returning from a funeral in Edo State. The kidnappers reportedly demanded 90 million naira ransom to release the passengers.

Why it Matters

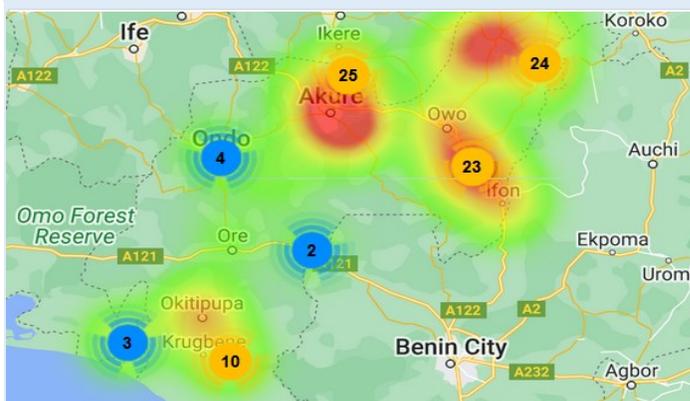
Kidnapping for ransom is increasingly becoming a serious threat to human security and economic development in the State. The prevailing trend and pattern is alarming, especially the targeted kidnapping of passengers and community leaders for ransom. If not mitigated, the situation could intensify in ways that could cause significant socio-political and economic disruptions at the state and regional levels.

Social: The prevalence of kidnapping could cause social disruptions, especially in terms of the distress it causes victims and their families, and the feelings of insecurity it generate among residents. The resurgence of kidnapping for ransom could force residents to adopt hostile countermeasures including the proliferation militias and vigilantes which could result in mob violence and other human rights violations. This could undermine the health and social wellbeing of residents.

Economic: Kidnapping for ransom could cause serious economic distortions and insecurity that could destabilize the local and regional economies. It could create a climate of insecurity that could scare away businesses and thus cause loss of livelihoods and a reduction in government revenue from taxation. Ransoms usually impose huge financial burdens on individuals, families and businesses. This could cause economic hardship for families by depleting household savings.

Political: The prevalence of kidnapping could cause public dissatisfaction with efforts of government security forces to safeguard lives and properties. This could cause protests and civil unrest which could present additional security challenges that could disrupt governance.

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



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

Prognosis

Kidnapping for ransom is a prevailing threat to human security and economic development in Ondo State. Stakeholders should work with government security agencies to devise appropriate strategies to mitigate the situation. Peace actors and development partners should also work with other relevant government agencies to develop lasting developmental and institutional measures to address the underlying drivers. Interestingly, several organizations are working to address various forms of criminal violence 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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