

Niger Delta Weekly: [Spotlighting Kidnapping for Ransom in Cross River State](#)

November 20-26, 2022

Description

This weekly update highlights violent criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnapping for ransom in Cross River State. According to data (see map below), more than 50 incidents of kidnapping and over 15 related fatalities were reported in Cross River State between January 2019 and September 2022. Recent data indicates a rise in incidents of kidnapping for ransom in the State. In August 2022, for instance, armed kidnappers reportedly abducted three clerics at a church in Creek Town, Odukpani LGA. In November, gunmen reportedly attacked two commercial vehicles, abducted nine passengers and injured several others along Ikom-Ogoja Highway between Okomita and Uyanga communities in Akamkpa LGA. Separately, in November, gunmen reportedly invaded a housing estate and abducted the project manager of a construction company in Calabar, the state capital. More recently, on November 18, 2022, gunmen reportedly abducted two medical doctors and two other residents along Calabar-Ikom Highway in Okomita community, Akamkpa LGA. The kidnappers allegedly demanded a 100 million naira ransom.

Why it Matters

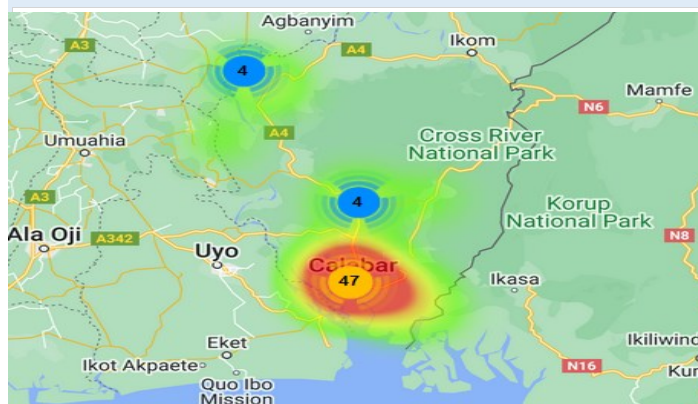
The current trend and pattern of kidnapping in Cross River State is alarming, especially the targeted abduction of travelers, clergymen, medical doctors, and businesspersons. Kidnapping is a major security challenge confronting individuals, businesses and organizations in the State. If not mitigated the situation could intensify in ways that could cause serious social, economic and political disruptions in the State.

Social: The growing intensity of kidnapping could generate a general feeling of uncertainty and insecurity which could force residents to adopt hostile countermeasures and self-help strategies including mob justice, vigilante violence and criminal victimization. This could intensify insecurity, social tensions and communal instability in ways that could negatively affect the health and social wellbeing of residents.

Economic: The prevalence of kidnapping could create a climate of fear and insecurity that could disrupt economic activities in the State. Kidnapping for ransom could impose enormous financial burdens on families, businesses and the government, including the cost of ransom and additional expenses on security. Payment of ransom could also subvert the local economy, cause hardship for families by depleting household savings, and undermine the wellbeing of residents.

Political: The growing prevalence of kidnapping for ransom could destabilize politics and governance in the State. Recurrent incidents of kidnapping could cause public dissatisfaction with government efforts to provide security for residents. This could trigger violent protests and riots which could present additional security challenges for the State. It could also increase government spending on security.

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



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

Prognosis

The prevalence of kidnapping for ransom is a serious security threat in Cross River State. The situation could worsen except appropriate preventive actions are taken by stakeholders. Stakeholders should collaborate with the State government and the relevant security agencies to intensify ongoing efforts to mitigate the situation. Peace actors should also team up with the relevant government agencies and community leaders to address the underlying socio-economic 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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