Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Resurgence of Kidnap for Ransom in Edo State

July 02 - 08, 2023

Description

This weekly update highlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnap for ransom in Edo State. According to data (see map below), more than 100 incidents and over 50 kidnap related fatalities were reported in Edo State between January 2021 and April 2023. Recent data shows a resurgence of kidnap for ransom, especially the targeted abduction of travellers and clergymen in the State. In March 2023, for instance, two young men were reportedly abducted by armed kidnappers in Ugbokuli community, Ovia North East LGA. In May, 12 travellers including a 9-year-old girl were reportedly ambushed and abducted by kidnappers along Auchi-Afuze Road in Ihievbe community, Owan East LGA. The kidnappers reportedly hijacked two vehicles and led the travellers into the bush. In June, a Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by kidnappers along Agbor Road in Ikhueniro community, Orhionmwon LGA. Recently, on June 15, 2023, a young woman was reportedly killed by kidnappers in Sobe community, Owan West LGA. She was allegedly killed after a ransom has been paid.

Why it Matters

Kidnap for ransom is increasingly becoming widespread and life-threatening in Edo State. The current trend and pattern of kidnapping is worrying, especially the targeted abduction and killing of clergymen, businesspersons and travellers. If not mitigated, the situation could escalate in ways that could endanger human security and cause significant social, economic and political disruptions in the State.

Social: The resurgence of kidnapping for ransom could be socially disrupting especially in terms of the threat it poses to the lives of victims, the anguish it causes families, and the feelings of uncertainty it generates in society. The growing intensity of kidnapping could force residents to adopt hostile countermeasures and self-help strategies including mob justice and vigilante violence. This could deepen social tensions and undermine the health and wellbeing of residents.

Economic: The prevalence of kidnapping for ransom could create a climate of fear and uncertainty that could disrupt economic activities. Kidnapping for ransom could impose enormous financial burdens on individuals, families, businesses and the government, including the cost of ransom and additional expenses on security. Payment of ransom could undermine the economic wellbeing of residents as it could cause economic hardship for individuals and families by depleting household income and savings, and subverting legitimate businesses.

Political: The rising cases of kidnapping for ransom could cause public dissatisfaction with the efforts of government security forces to protect lives and properties. This could cause violent protests and unrest which could present additional security challenges for the State.

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

Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of reported incidents of kidnap for ransom in Edo State from January 2021 - April 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Kidnap for ransom is increasingly becoming lethal and widespread in Edo State. The situation could worsen except appropriate remedial and preventive actions are taken by stakeholders. Peace actors should work with the State government and the security agencies to intensify ongoing efforts to mitigate the situation. Stakeholders should also collaborate with community leaders and the relevant government agencies to identify and address the underlying socio-economic drivers of the current trend of kidnapping in the State.
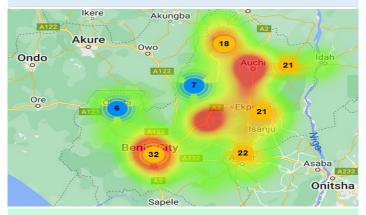
Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: ✉ info@PINDfoundation.org   ☎ +234 (0) 9 291 0454

What do you think about the report? - We value your feedback

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.