

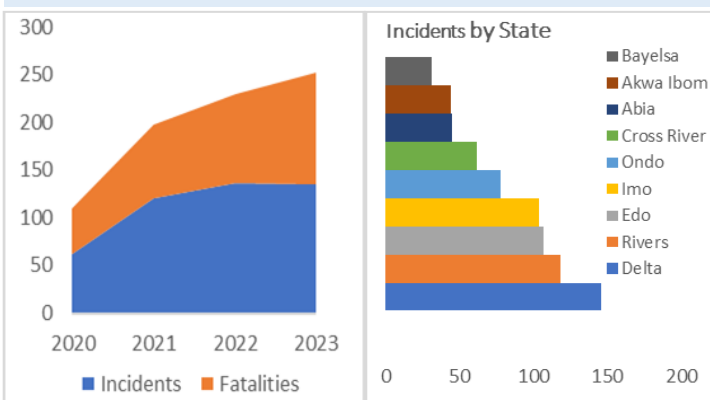
Niger Delta Weekly: Addressing the Rising Trend of Kidnapping in the Niger Delta

December 15-21, 2024

Background

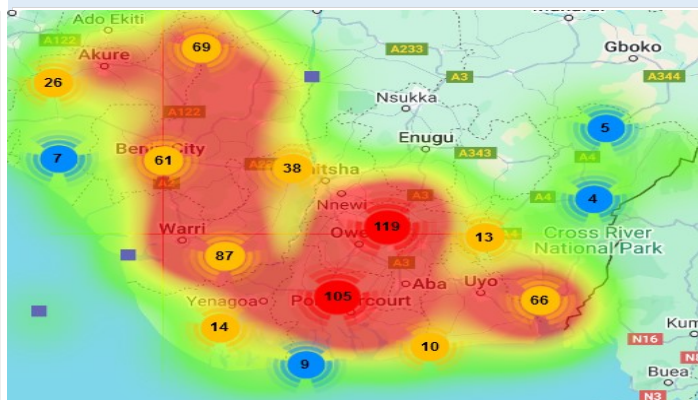
This weekly update highlights the rising trend of kidnapping in the Niger Delta, which remains a significant security threat in the region. Over the years, kidnapping has evolved into a complex, organized criminal enterprise and a persistent security challenge. This threat often escalates during specific seasonal periods when criminal groups exploit increased activities and movement to carry out abductions for ransom. According to available data (see map below), over 500 kidnapping incidents were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2021 and September 2024. Recent statistics indicate a worrying upward trend in kidnapping cases across the region. In October 2024, for instance, gunmen attacked a commercial bus along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA, Rivers State, abducting all passengers. In November, gunmen kidnapped a Catholic priest in Obollo, Isiala Mbano LGA, Imo State. Similarly, a businessman was abducted, and his driver killed by gunmen in Eket LGA, Akwa Ibom State. Most recently, on December 9, 2024, soldiers rescued four kidnap victims after an armed clash with their captors in Ugbolu, Delta State.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Flashpoints of Kidnapping for Ransom in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Delta State had the highest number of reported incidents of kidnap for ransom in the region during the period. Sources: Nigeria Watch and ACLED data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Incidents Heat Map of Kidnapping for Ransom in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported incidents of kidnap for ransom in the Niger Delta from January 2021 - September 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The prevalence of kidnapping poses significant risks to conflict dynamics and security in the Niger Delta. Targeted abductions, especially of travelers, threatens to escalate if left unaddressed, leading to widespread insecurity. The fear of kidnapping may discourage investors, force businesses to relocate, and undermine economic growth. Additionally, ransom payments can deplete household savings and destabilize legitimate enterprises. These far-reaching consequences could ultimately jeopardize human security in the region.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent trends and historical data, kidnapping is expected to rise during the end-of-year festivities. This seasonal surge poses significant risks to human security, potentially worsening insecurity and undermining regional stability. Stakeholders should collaborate with security agencies to de-escalate the situation and address these seasonal dynamics. Peace actors should also work with government agencies and community leaders to develop targeted strategies to tackle the root causes of kidnapping in the region.

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 2222/0912 233 4455**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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