

# Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Resurgence of Kidnapping in Edo State

May 02-08, 2021

## Description

This edition of the weekly update highlights kidnapping in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnapping for ransom in Edo State. According to data (see map below), over 50 incidents of kidnapping were reported in Edo State between January 2019 and March 2021. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of kidnapping for ransom in the State, after a relative decrease in reported incidents during the first quarter of 2021. In the last few weeks, more than six residents have been reportedly kidnapped for ransom in the State. In April 2021, for instance, three residents including two women were reportedly abducted by armed herdsmen in Utesi community, Ovia North-East LGA. Separately, in April, three passengers were reportedly abducted by gunmen along the Benin-Lagos Expressway in Ahor community, Uhumwonde LGA. Two of the victims were later rescued by the police. More recently, on April 29, 2021, a university professor was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Egoro town near Ekpoma, Esan West LGA. The kidnapers reportedly demanded a ransom of 18 million naira. The victim was released two days later.

## Why it Matters

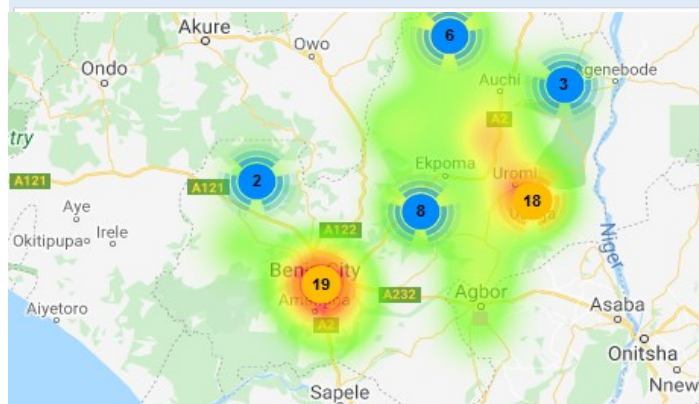
The emerging trends and patterns of kidnapping for ransom in Edo State is worrying. The phenomenon is increasingly becoming recurrent and intense, including targeted abduction of students, teachers, businesspersons, and travelers. The growing incidents of kidnapping for ransom could cause serious threat to human security with far-reaching socio-economic and political consequences for the State.

**Social:** Kidnapping for ransom could be socially disrupting in terms of the threat it poses to the life of victims and the anguish it causes in society. An increase in kidnapping incidents could cause distrust and a general feeling of insecurity. This could compel residents to adopt aggressive coping strategies and self-help measures including victimization and mob justice. This could cause communal tensions and instability in ways that could undermine the wellbeing of residents.

**Economic:** The prevalence of kidnapping could impose heavy financial burdens on individuals and businesses including the cost of additional security and ransom. Kidnapping for ransom could cause significant economic distortions that could destabilize legitimate business activities. This could scare off investors and force businesses to relocate from the State. Payment of ransoms could also undercut household income and cause serious economic hardship for families.

**Political:** 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 kidnapping in Edo State from January 2019 - March 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

Kidnapping for ransom is a major threat to human security in Edo State. It is becoming more intense and geographically concentrated, especially the abduction of travelers, lecturers and students. The situation could worsen unless preventive actions are taken by stakeholders. Peace actors should work with the relevant security agencies to intensify ongoing efforts to mitigate the situation. Stakeholders should also work with the relevant government agencies to address the underlying drivers 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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