

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Resurgence of Kidnap for Ransom in Cross River State

November 19-25, 2023

Description

This weekly update spotlights organized criminality in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnap for ransom in Cross River State. According to data (see map below), over 65 incidents of kidnapping and more than 20 related fatalities were reported in Cross River State between January 2020 and September 2023. Recent incidents indicate a resurgence of kidnap for ransom in the State. In July 2023, for instance, a medical doctor with the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) was reportedly kidnaped from her residence in Calabar, the state capital. In September, three residents including a clergyman and his daughter were reportedly abducted by gunmen at a satellite town in Calabar Municipal LGA. Also, in September, many travelers were reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ikingi community, Akpabuyo LGA. In November, a professor was reportedly kidnaped from his residence at the staff quarters of the University of Calabar in Calabar Municipal LGA. More recently, on November 19, 2023, the local chairman of a political party and his son were allegedly abducted by armed kidnapers along Ikom-Ogoja Road in Ikom LGA.

Why it Matters

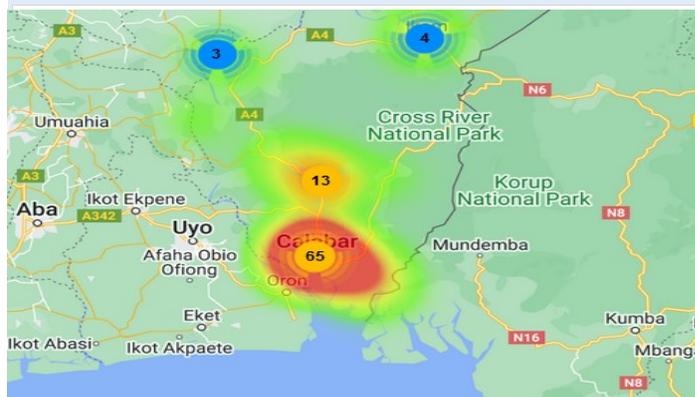
The recent resurgence of kidnap for ransom could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. The current trend and pattern of kidnapping is worrying, especially the targeted abduction of medical doctors, university teachers and travelers. If not mitigated, the situation could intensify in ways that could disrupt public service delivery and thus undermine human security in the State. This could bring about serious socio-economic and political consequences.

Social: The growing prevalence of kidnap for ransom could be socially disrupting especially in terms of the distress it causes families, the threat to lives of victims, and the feelings of uncertainty it creates among residents. The situation could force residents to adopt violent coping mechanisms and self-help strategies including vigilante and mob justice. This could intensify communal tensions and insecurity in ways that could adversely impact the social wellbeing of residents.

Economic: A resurgence of kidnap for ransom could create a climate of insecurity that could disrupt the local economy. Ransoms could impose enormous financial burdens on families, businesses and the government. This could distort the local economy by destabilizing legitimate business and reducing government revenue from taxation. Payment of ransom could also reduce household savings, cause hardship for families, and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: Targeted kidnapping of public employees for ransom could disrupt governance and public service delivery in the State. This could trigger violent protests and unrest which could cause political instability, and present additional security challenges for the government.

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



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of kidnapping incidents in Cross River State from January 2020 - September 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The current trend and pattern of kidnapping has the potential to intensify conflict risks and insecurity in ways that could negatively affect the socio-economic and political situation in the State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant security agencies to intensify ongoing efforts to deescalate the situation. Peace actors should work with relevant government agencies and community leaders to develop appropriate developmental strategies to tackle the underlying social and economic drivers of kidnap for ransom 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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