

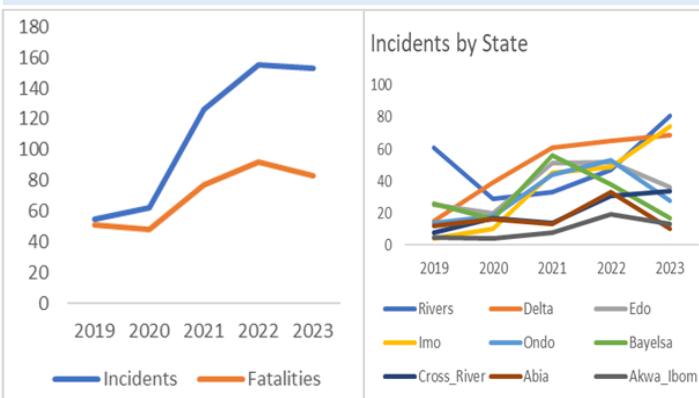
Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Lingering Threat of Kidnapping in the Niger Delta

January 21-27, 2024

Background

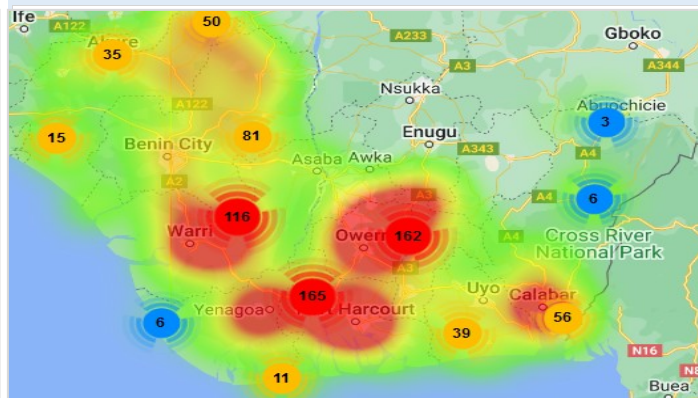
This weekly update spotlights the rising threat of kidnapping in the Niger Delta. Over the years, kidnapping has evolved into a multidimensional organized criminal enterprise and a protracted security threat in the Niger Delta and in Nigeria generally. According to data (see map below), over 300 kidnap incidents and more than 250 related fatalities were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2022 and December 2023. Recent data shows a rise in kidnapping incidents in the region. In January 2024, for instance, several travelers were reportedly abducted by kidnapers in Ikrom LGA, Cross River State. Separately, three travelers were allegedly abducted by gunmen near the Port Harcourt International Airport in Ikwerre LGA, Rivers State. Also, a traditional ruler was allegedly abducted from his residence by gunmen in Mbaitoli LGA, Imo State. In addition, gunmen reportedly abducted a 40-year-old woman and demanded a ransom of 10 million naira in Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa state. Recently, an 8-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and hidden in a bag by a man who disguised as a scavenger in Akure, the Ondo state capital.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Geographical Distribution of Kidnapping in the Niger Delta



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

Incidents Heat Map of Kidnap 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 2022 - December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

Kidnapping is increasingly becoming protracted and multifaceted in the Niger Delta. It has remained prevalent in spite of the efforts of government security agencies to curtail the situation. It has evolved over the years, and taken on various political, social, economic and criminal dimensions including kidnap for ransom and harvesting of human body parts. The situation has the potential to intensify insecurity in the region especially against the backdrop of recent trends of self-kidnapping and crowdfunding of ransom on social media.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The prevalence of kidnap for ransom and the emerging trends of self-kidnapping and crowdfunding of ransom on social media could adversely impact the dynamics of insecurity in the Niger Delta. Crowdfunding of ransom could embolden kidnapers to demand huge ransoms and lengthen detention period. It could also become a major source of financing for other organized criminal activities. Stakeholders should work with the relevant government agencies and community leaders to mitigate the socio-economic drivers.

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.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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