

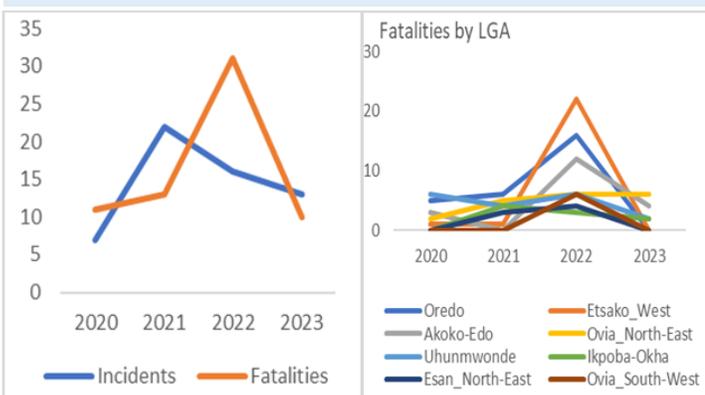
Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Resurgence of Kidnap for Ransom in Edo State

March 24-30, 2024

Background

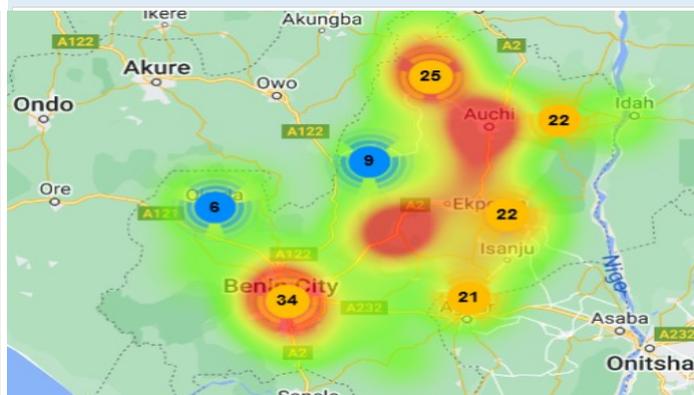
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnap for ransom in Edo State. Kidnap for ransom has been a major cause of violence and insecurity in the State. According to data (see map below), more than 100 incidents and over 60 kidnap related fatalities were reported in the State between January 2021 and December 2023. Recent data shows a resurgence of kidnap for ransom including targeted abduction of travelers and political figures in the lead-up to the upcoming gubernatorial election in the State. In March 2024, for instance, the chairman of a major political party was reportedly abducted by gunmen near his residence in Benin City, the state capital. Separately, in March, a man was allegedly shot dead while attempting to escape from kidnapers along Ohen Road in Uromi community, Esan North-East LGA. Also, in March, a cleric was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Isihor community, Ovia North-East LGA. Recently, on March 20, 2024, gunmen suspected to be kidnapers reportedly attacked travelers and abducted 10 persons along Sobe-Ifon Road in Owan West LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Geographical Distribution of Kidnapping in Edo State



Data shows that Etsako West and Oredo LGAs had the highest number of reported incidents of kidnapping 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 Edo State, Nigeria



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

Why it Matters

The current trend and pattern of kidnapping have the potential to negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity, especially against the backdrop of rising political tensions in the lead-up to the upcoming September 2024 off-cycle governorship election in the State. Targeted abduction of political figures, clergies and travelers could cause communal tensions and general feeling of insecurity in the State. This could force residents to adopt violent self-help strategies that could cause economic and political disruptions in the State.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current wave of kidnapping has the potential to intensify gang violence and insecurity, especially within the context of rising political tensions in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government security agencies to intensify efforts to mitigate the situation. Peace and development actors including civil society organizations (CSOs) should work with relevant government agencies and community leaders to develop appropriate strategies to tackle 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 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



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