

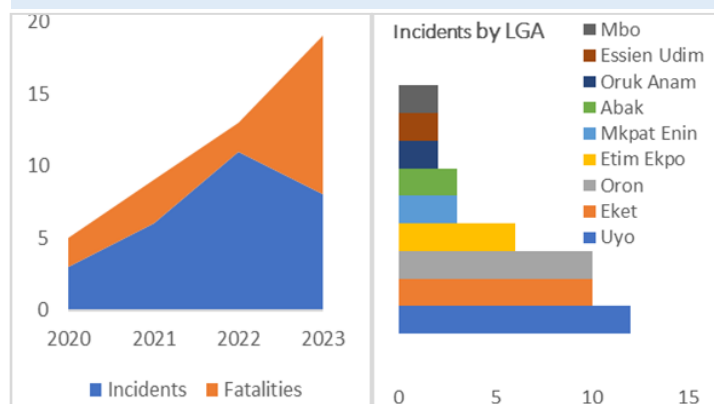
# Niger Delta Weekly: Deescalating Rising Wave of Kidnap for Ransom in Akwa Ibom State

May 19-25, 2024

## Background

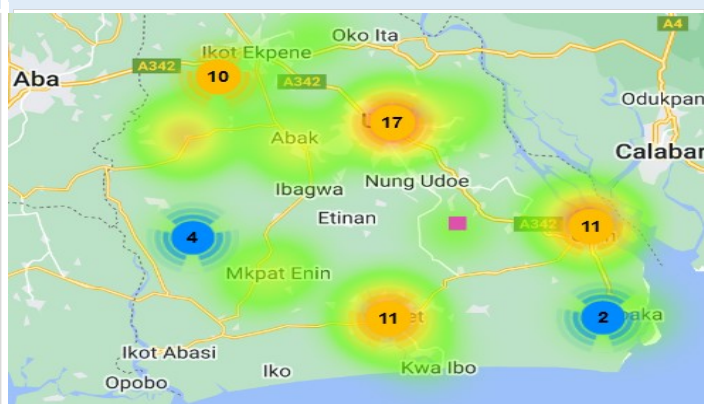
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnap for ransom in Akwa Ibom State. Kidnap for ransom is becoming increasingly prevalent and intense in the State. According to data (see map below), more than 50 kidnapping incidents and over 25 related fatalities were reported in Akwa Ibom State between January 2020 and March 2024. Recent data shows a rise in kidnapping incidents in the State. In March 2024, for instance, a local government official and his wife were reportedly abducted by kidnapers in front of their residence along Oron Road in Uyo, the state capital. In April, gunmen suspected to be kidnapers reportedly killed a businessman and abducted a woman along Airport Road in Uyo, the state capital. They were attacked on their way from the farm. Also, in April, a medical doctor was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Oron LGA. In May, a four-month-old baby was allegedly abducted at gunpoint in Enen-Atai village, Itu LGA. More recently, on May 18, 2024, a traditional ruler was allegedly abducted by gunmen at his palace in Ebughu community, Mbo LGA.

## Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Flashpoints of Kidnap for Ransom in Akwa Ibom State



Data shows that Uyo LGA 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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Incidents Heat Map of Kidnap for Ransom in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported incidents of kidnap for ransom in Akwa Ibom State from January 2020 - March 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Why it Matters

The recent escalation of kidnap for ransom could negatively impact the dynamics of peace and security in the State. If not deescalated, the situation could intensify in ways that could cause a general feeling of uncertainty, fear and distrust. The fear of being kidnapped could scare off investors and force businesses to relocate. Payment of ransom could deplete household savings and destabilize legitimate businesses. This could cause serious hardship for families and undermine the health, economic and social wellbeing of residents.

## Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The current trends and patterns of kidnapping has the potential to intensify in ways that could negatively impact the socio-economic, political, and security situations in the State. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to intensify ongoing efforts to deescalate the situation. Peace actors should work with relevant government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders to develop appropriate developmental strategies to tackle the drivers of the current wave of kidnappings 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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