

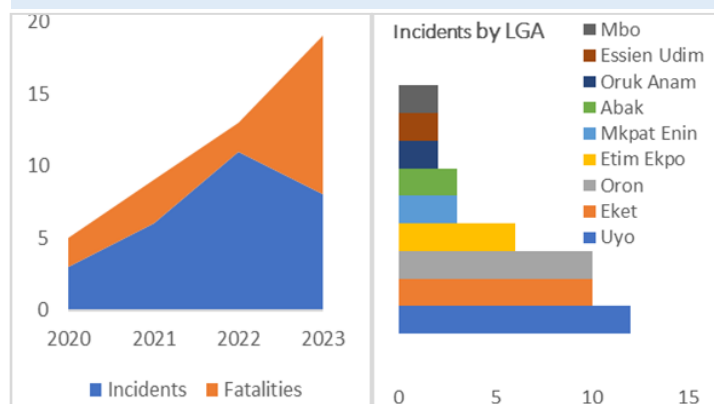
Niger Delta Weekly: Responding to the Rising Threat of Kidnapping in Akwa Ibom State

August 25-31, 2024

Background

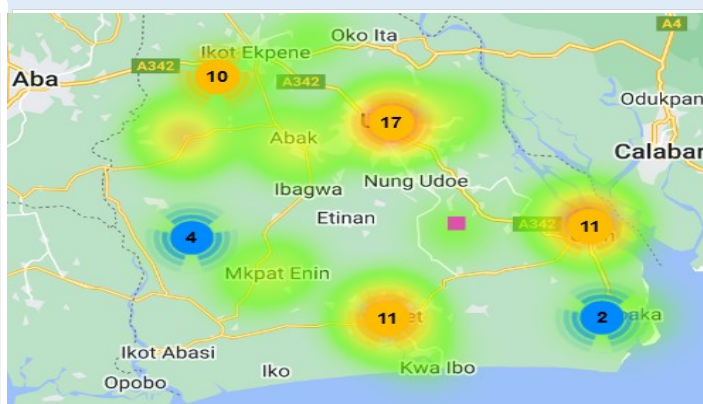
This weekly update spotlights organized criminal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on kidnap for ransom in Akwa Ibom State. Kidnapping is a prevailing security threat in the State. According to data (see map below), more than 50 kidnapping incidents and over 25 related fatalities were reported in Akwa Ibom State between January 2020 and June 2024. Recent data shows the prevalence of kidnapping in the State. In June 2024, for instance, kidnapers allegedly abducted a businessman at gunpoint along Afaha Eket Road, Eket LGA. In July, eight persons, including a naval rating, were allegedly abducted by gunmen in Ibaka community, Mbo LGA. Separately, in July, the state coordinator of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and his driver were allegedly abducted by gunmen in Uyo, the State capital. Also, in July, a driver and 18 passengers were reportedly abducted by gunmen along Azumini Road in Etim Ekpo LGA. More recently, on August 28, 2024, a kidnap kingpin who has been terrorizing many communities in Uruan and Oron LGAs was allegedly killed in a gun battle with the police in neighboring Cross River State.

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



Data shows that Uyo LGA had the highest reported incidents of kidnapping for ransom in the State during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Incidents Heat Map of Kidnapping 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 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The prevalence of kidnapping could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. The current trend is worrying, especially the targeted abduction of travelers. If not mitigated, the situation could intensify in ways that could cause a general feeling of insecurity in the State. 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 socio-economic and political consequences.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent trends and historical data, kidnapping for ransom could increase, especially against the backdrop of current economic hardship in the country. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant security agencies to intensify ongoing efforts to mitigate the situation. Peace and development actors, including civil society organizations (CSOs), should work with the relevant government agencies and community leaders to develop appropriate strategies to tackle the underlying drivers of kidnapping in the State.

Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: info@PINDfoundation.org +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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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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