

## KIDNAPPING, SECURITY CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES TO THE CONTROL OF HOSTAGE TAKING IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

Kidnapping in Nigeria is a serious national security challenge. It takes various forms and adopts violence, terror, coerciveness, intimidation and aggression. These acts are performed with the intent to receive ransom with forceful threats. The purpose of this study is to take a critical look on this new wave of criminal behavior [kidnapping], and streamline the impediments to its control. Series of factors contribute to the difficulty in controlling this criminality. Such factors include unemployment, worsening political instability, internal grievances, and get rich quick syndrome. The federal government is yet to realize that massive job creation, improved political structure, and resolution of internal grievances are the measures that would cure or minimize the commission of this criminality. We therefore recommend sound policy programs that are youth friendly and such policies that will tackle major internal grievances among the nation's youths.

**Keywords:** Kidnapping, Hostage-taking, Terror, Obstacle, Insecurity, Nigeria

### **Introduction**

Kidnapping is a violent, terrible, sensational crime and poses national security challenge for the country. Kidnapping gained momentum in Nigeria as a response to joblessness, moral decadence, hopelessness and frustration among the youths. The politicians and disgruntled individuals seized the opportunity to perpetuate criminality. The miscreants use this criminal model as the easiest method for intimidating human beings for easy access to cash. Osumah and Aghedo (2011) argue that kidnapping is "an engagement for economic survival, securing political and business advantage over rivals and co-competitors" (p.277).

Hostage-taking and kidnapping are intermingled as one evil, enthralled by the criminal [apollyon], with characteristic features of crime of violence. Therefore, kidnapping is a crime committed by a criminal. Vold (1979) states that "crime is the commission of any act prohibited by criminal law---, and a criminal is any person who commits a crime" (p.9). The crime of kidnapping has grown over the years as an industry. It has been adopted as an industry for abducting political rivals, village rivals, and financially advantaged calibers in society. Emewu and Anyanwu (2009) attest that the former Governor of Anambra State was kidnapped in July 10,2003 by members of his political party who opposed his visionary scheme. The politicians are not the only victims, the nation in general is victimized and this has depicted the country into senseless insecurity. Kidnapping and terrorism are twin demons eating up the nation's sense of identity and security, as it affects virtually everybody. The crime of kidnapping has created

serious security challenges for the nation as it affects foreign expatriates, oil industries, and create negative image for the country. The security of the nation is at stake with series of incidence of kidnapping activities in many parts of the country.

This study exposes various factors that are virtually standing as impediments for the solution [or eradication] of the problem of kidnapping behavior in Nigeria. Several social factors that have hindered solutions to kidnapping behaviors are linked to massive unemployment, worsening political instability, internal grievances, get rich quick syndrome and perceive weaknesses of the state security outfits. Those social issues are the obvious impediments to the control of the crime of kidnapping behavior in Nigeria. Our methodological approach is exploratory, by reviewing the existing literatures to support our theoretical positions, exposing the kidnapping problem, security challenge for the nation, and the impediments to the solutions of kidnapping behavior.

### **Etymology of the Word Kidnap**

The history of the word kidnap can be traced back to its earliest root, which evolved from two English words, principally 'kid' (meaning infant) and 'nap' (meaning sleep). The etymology of kidnap is dated back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century child abduction in Britain when the kids of the rich families were abducted for "ransom while asleep (nap)" (Tzanelli, 2009, p. 931). Ezeibe and Eze (2012) claim that kidnapping started as far back as 1874 in the form of child abduction. The four year old boy in Pennsylvania in United States was abducted for ransom during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Tzanelli, 2006).

The word Kidnap is not an emerging crime as some observers may claim, the problem has been in existence as an essential part of criminal pathology in both old and recent times in human society (Caplan, 2011; Tzanelli, 2006). During the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries in Nigeria, the indigenes kidnapped their brothers, sisters, relatives, notorious criminals and sold them out to slave traders (Dode, 2007). Hostage taking is a crisis in Nigeria, and poses national security challenges (David, 2009). The crime of kidnapping has transcended from the infant kidnapping into sophisticated organized pattern of crime with great deal of political and economic strategies. It has become a significant enterprise with human as a commodity.

Ritualism poses another threat in human society. People were kidnapped for ritual sacrifices, especially, the children and virgins were abducted and murdered for money making rituals, appeasement to some gods, and invocations (Sanyaolu, 2009).

Kidnapping is a false imprisonment of an individual against his or her will by another individual in violation of the individual's fundamental human rights. Goldberg (2000) argues that kidnapping is a criminal act involving seizure, confinement, abduction, subjection, forcefulness, acts of threats, acts of terror and servitude. The characteristic behavioral actions of kidnapers are erratic [eccentric], egocentric, and dogmatic. These are situations that criminologists classify as freewill actions that are characteristically planned and executed by the criminal.

A classical criminologist would see a kidnapper as a criminal, and it is an action of a freewill. Vold (1979) argues that, in classical criminology, the behavior of the kidnapper is "a product of freewill or the choice of the individual, who assesses the potential benefits of

committing the crime against its potential costs” (p.10). Kidnapping is a violent crime committed by individuals voluntarily after weighing the benefits of committing the crime against the various costs when apprehended. Garner (2009) sees kidnapping as a crime of unlawful seizing and taking a person away by force or detaining a person against his or her will with the intent of carrying that person away at a later period. In this regard, Nigeria has punitive sanctions against kidnapers. The Nigeria Criminal Code’s punitive prescription for kidnapers on kidnapping business is that, any person who unlawfully imprisons another person against his or her will and without his or her consent or unlawfully imprisons any person within Nigeria in such a manner as to prevent him or her from applying to court for his or her release or from disclosing to any other person where he is imprisoned, or prevent any person’s entitlement to have access to him or her place of imprisonment, is guilty of a felony, and is liable to imprisonment for ten years (Tar Hon, 2004; Okonkwo, 1990). Does this law create effect behavioral change among the kidnapers? Instead, the nation is deepened in the crisis of kidnapping problem. Hostage-taking and kidnapping are cognate crimes that have cultural elements, metamorphoses and commercial ingredients that can be tackled by curing their social maladies. The social maladies are embedded in joblessness and other economic factors producing various security challenges.

Security challenges in the nation has hampered economic growth as the youth unemployment escalates. The horror of kidnapping has impacted the economy in the sense that it created a state of insecurity in all four walls of the nation (Ejimabo, 2013). This is evidence as we witness the torture of Boko Haram in the north, the insurgences of the militants in the south, the kidnapping waves in the southeast, and ritualism in the Midwest.

The obvious challenge facing the nation is to streamline measures to tackle the impediments or obstructions to the solution of kidnapping behaviors. Impediments are the roadblocks for structural solutions to a situation Uzorma and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) termed as “crime culture’s metamorphosis” (p.132). Nwogwugwu, et al. (2012) argue that the terror created by kidnapping in the nation has “by extension affected Nigeria’s economic growth, because of the monolithic nature of the national economy” (p.24).

### **Impediment to the Control of Kidnapping Activities**

Some recent studies have confirmed that, the control of kidnapping has been hindered by prolonged persistence of unemployment, worsening political instability, internal grievances, get rich quick syndrome, and perceived weakness of the state security (Ezeibe & Eze, 2012; Caplan, 2011).

**Unemployment** - The youth unemployment has been implicated as one of the strongest impediments for the solution of kidnapping behavior (Inyang, 2009 & Dode, 2007). In a study conducted by Adegoke (2015), unemployment was by a wide margin of 88% identified as the contributory factor for the youths engaging in kidnapping operation. To solve this problem, job creation must be in the frontline as some of the unemployed youths are university graduates and able-bodied individuals who are virtually frustrated with lack of employment opportunities. Inyang (2009) states that a graduate, who is unable to secure employment is bereft of possible means of economic survival. The aftermath of such deprivation is psychological developmental

stage of negative behavior against the status-quo and socio-system. The negative developmental behavior emerges as resistant tool against the social norms that may demand individual social compliance of the normative rules of the society. Curing this social ill would close down the social destructiveness that kidnappers are trapped (Inyang & Abraham, 2013).

The perpetrators of kidnapping choose their victims based on their ability to cough out the money (Tzanelli, 2006). The problem of unemployment has become a national ‘thorn in the flesh’ in Nigeria. Ejimabo (2013) argues that “Nigeria needs problem-solving skills of leaders to help fight fraud and corruption in the country” (p. 12), otherwise, issues such as job creation and worsening political crisis would continue to be impediments to the control of crimes and delinquencies in the country. Job creation, along with other economic incentives would magnetized the youths’ interest to abandon the illegal commercialization of human commodity (Persson, 2014; Dode, 2007). Kidnapping has been commercialized, whereby, even the most revered clerics and clergies of religious bodies have fallen victims to the crime.

**Worsening Political Instability-** Kidnapping in Nigeria, before the oil exploration, has its origin within the village clans and village rivalries. The indigenous hate-rivalry was enough to capture human and carry the person away for humiliation and elimination. With the advent of civilian democracy, political undertone adopts the indigenous hate-system of ‘capture and carry away’. During the political season, it is easy for an opponent to vanish without a trace. In this method of kidnapping, politicians are linked to this behavior as unemployed youths are deployed as political thugs against their political opponents, and sometimes, they are empowered to kill their opponent (Effiong, 2009). Kidnapping is no longer focused on the oil companies alone, it has taken a broader tone as business enterprising, spreading from political opponents, rivalry revenges, hatred, business ventures, to ethnic disagreements in all corners of the country.

Relatives of politicians are usually abducted for political motives (Abati, 2009). Sometimes, politicians under-mind the criminal law, indulge in ‘do or die’ political games in their local politics, provide arms and ammunitions to their political thugs, and eventually kidnap and destroy their political opponents in the process (Ikpang, 2009; Badiora, 2015; Effiong, 2009). Political kidnapping involves political concessions or demands that require government’s attention (Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben, 2014). In fact, they mobilize political thugs with weaponry. The mobilization of political thugs with weapons during election process makes weapons available for further commission of other types of crime after the election. Ikpang (2009) states that such weapons are usually not withdrawn from their political thugs after the election, creating more impediment for the control of kidnapping behavior. When criminals are armed with sophisticated assault weapons in society, removing them from their hands are obstructed.

**Internal Grievances -** The Nigerian communities are blessed with the abundance of mineral resources and crude oil reserves, especially in the Niger Delta Regions. The contemporary crime of kidnapping the expatriates and the staff of the oil companies slowly began with the communities’ grievances against the Federal government and the oil companies for usurping their mineral resources without compensations. The oil companies such as the Exxon Mobile, Shell Exploration Company, Agip, and others, have tapped their resources, polluted their

environments, and generally neglected their communities where those mineral reserves are located. The environmental degradation was quite obvious and offensive to the communities. This negligent behavior ignited aggression against the oil companies and expatriates.

The unemployed youths in the communities formed internal militant organizations as a means of drawing national and international attention to their demands for compensations. As a result, ethnic militias such as MEND was formed by the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV), the Bush Boys, the Dodan Barrack Group, the Ogoni Movement (MOSOP), and the Titanians sprang up soliciting for their rights and kidnapped the expatriates working at the oil wells. These organizations were made up of youths who were virtually unemployed, poor and frustrated with the system of government that exploits their resources, pollute their environment and leave their areas underdeveloped.

The indigenes expected adequate compensations with infrastructural developments such as good roads, hospitals, good schools, modern commercial trading centers, good drinking water, and even award scholarships to the indigenous sons and daughters for further studies as remuneration for the minerals extracted from their communities. The failures to reward those communities plus the stench from unemployment ignited and heightened the internal grievances against the Federal Government and the oil companies. The crime of kidnapping cannot be halted easily without meeting the demands of the kidnappers. The inability of the government and oil companies to meet the demands of the kidnappers have become a frustrating impediment to the solution of the crime of kidnapping in the nation. Because kidnappers owned the means of assessing their potential victim, they are also able to exert almost total control over social domain of the crime, the limitation of their victim and criminal justice system (Akanni, 2014; Ezeibe & Eze, 2012).

**Poorly Developed Communication Networks**—One of the prominent methods of locating abducted victims is through tower communication device. Idachaba (2011) states that “kidnapping in Nigeria is fueled by the inability of security agencies to quickly identify the location of the kidnapped persons” (p. 56). The inability of the law enforcement authorities to comprehend the complexity of the Global Positioning System (GPS) is a serious impediment to the control of kidnapping activities. According to Idachaba (2011), the GPS Module is configured as a data pusher in that it sends the position data of the tracked object through a GSM Network. This transmission is facilitated by the use of a GSM Modem and microcontroller. The module stores the location data and sends it at predetermined intervals. The complexity of the communication device is an impediment to the control of kidnapping in the nation.

**Get Rich Quick Syndrome** - In Nigeria society, some people just emerge rich anyhow without anybody asking question how such individuals got their money. In this contemporary society, everybody is a businessman; nobody questions the nature of the business or how some people acquire their wealth (Inyang, 2009). It is easy in Nigeria to see a poor young college dropout today build a ‘Ten Storey-Building’ without the government or private citizens questioning how such a youth made that kind of money. Therefore, the kidnappers are not afraid of demanding excessive ransom payment, knowing that nobody would dare question its sources.

In a comparative analysis, nations such as United States and United Kingdom would maintain registration of every building structure, and use internal revenue services (IRS) to

police, track down individual incomes and investments to ensure accountability. If a poor college dropout buys an expensive vehicle in cash of \$10,000 and above in United States, such an individual would be interrogated by the internal revenue services to account for such cash payment. In fact, the inconsistency between economic transparency and accountability in normal government affairs and the desire to amass wealth among the general public contribute to the leverage among the kidnapers (Inyang, 2009). Therefore, lack of effective systematic model of checks and balances is a major impediment to the control of kidnapping behavior in the country.

### **Effects of Kidnapping Activities**

Kidnapping human beings at random produce significant psychological, sociological and financial impacts on the lives of the victims, victims' relatives, and the nation at large.

**Traumatic Effect** - Kidnapping a person or holding an individual hostage is very traumatic. The kidnapers traumatize their victims by blindfolding their eyes and sometimes hide the victims in the trunk of their vehicles and transport them to unknown locations. The kidnapers sometimes use inhalant tranquilizers to make their victims become tranquil so that they would remain asleep until they get to their hidden destinations. When the victims realize their predicament, their psychological trauma ranges from depression, emotional attack, anger to fear of unknown.

**Victims' Families Emotional Effect** - The victims' families are normally emotionally traumatized. The emotional impacts get the families deeply involved as financial negotiating partners with the kidnapers in order to secure their release from their captors. Kidnapers place heavy financial burden on victims' families. In an effort to secure the release of the victims, the families may go on solicitations for fund from friends, relatives, and well-wishers. Sir Mike Okipo disclosed that 15 billion was paid as ransom to kidnapers between 2006 and 2009 (Kyrian, 2009). In December 4, 2009, the Bank Manager of the United Bank of Africa (UBA) was kidnapped in front of his house and an undisclosed amount of money was paid as ransom for his release after days of negotiations (Akpan, 2009). Because the society is willing to engage in ransom negotiation, it becomes very difficult to halt the booming illegal enterprise.

**Nation's Negative Effect** - The kidnapping activities create negative headline news on the World News Report. This type of report depicts the country as one of the most dangerous places to travel in the world. As a result, many tourists, manufacturing companies, investors, and business communities boycott the country and the economic effect are disastrous. In 2009, a Labanese worker with STEMCO and Hon. Nse Ntuen were kidnapped (David, 2009). In fact, within this period, Rev. Akan Weeks of Reigners Bible Church was kidnapped in Ukanafun Local Government Area enroute to Port Harcourt, and a ransom of five million naira was paid for his release. Rev. Weeks explained an expositional display of large quantity of ammunition by his kidnapers and their degree of organizational styles (Inyang, 2009). A very young child by name Favor Felix Effiong was kidnapped in September 23, 2009 at around 10pm on his way from church service with his mother. This was assumed to be the kidnapping activity of the rituals. On the same September 23, 2009, Nteje Woje Yayok was kidnapped; Joseph Dimobi was kidnapped; Dr. Francis Edemobi was also kidnapped. Mr. Solomon Odiase and the parents of

the chairman of the Ovia North Local Government Area of Edo State were kidnapped in September 2009 (Ojukwu, 2011). The Deaconess Ema Eshiet, the mother of Mrs. Iniobong Eshiet, a former member of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly was kidnapped in her house in Etinan Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State on November 4, 2009. According to Shield Newspaper of December 9, 2009, one million naira was demanded for her freedom. The national and international outlook on the nation was terrifying and depicts the country as unsafe place for both tourists and international trade. The frequency of these criminal models have created popularity for the criminals and exposed the nation as the most dangerous part of the world to dwell.

**Fear and Insecurity** - Kidnapping creates fear among the indigenes and foreign nationals. People live in fear of being kidnapped. Some foreign multinational oil companies, construction companies, production sectors, and foreign investors closed down offices due to fear of being abducted. In some states, especially in Uyo capital city, an expatriate oil worker with Exxon Mobil was kidnapped in December 2008 at the church premises very close to his residence at the Mobil quarters in Eket. He was released later after an undisclosed ransom was paid. In this regard, some oil workers moved locations to other parts of the country while some moved out of Nigeria entirely due to kidnapping threats and insecurity.

Tracing the activities of the contemporary kidnapping events in the country, we noticed the following occurrences: On July 10, 2003, Dr. Chris Ngige (ex-governor of Anambra State and Chief Pete Edochie) were kidnapped. A student by name, Mr. Samuel Ita Inickong of the University of Uyo was kidnapped on November 25, 2005 by unidentified persons. Mrs Comfort Etok (the wife of the Senator representing Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District) and the wife of ANPP Gubernatorial candidate were kidnapped (Akasike, 2008).

Since 2003, kidnapping escalated in the country (as both security challenge and a social mala ise), which has underscored some efforts made by the Federal Government to combat this security challenge (Adebayo et al., 2009). Some people have limited freedom to walk around their vicinities due to fear of being abducted. Insecurity is a serious factor impacting business operations and freedom of movement (David, 2009).

### **The Kidnapping Operations, National Economy and General Insecurity**

Generally, the activities of the militants in the Niger Delta oil areas, the kidnapping of the construction workers and other expatriates have serious economic effects, especially in the revenue of the Federal Government. The nation lost a lot of revenue when expatriates working in the multinational oil companies were kidnapped. In 2009, an expatriate worker with Gitto Construction Company was kidnapped by suspected Niger Delta Militants. A Lebanese construction worker, identified as Mosuf was kidnapped at the construction site at the Akwa Ibom International Airport at Okobo Local Government Area (Kazeem, 2009). The militants interruption of the productivity of the oil products resulted to the lost of \$6million a day, due to the closure of the Shell Exploration Production Company (Snepco) facility (Emmanuel, 2006). Dode (2007) notes that, in 2006 when kidnappers abducted six foreign expatriates from Shell Oil Company premises, the company was forced to close down, and this contributed to the loss of

millions of standard cubic feet per day of gas production in the country. With fear, people stayed away from production and this affected the national economy.

Kidnapping operations have created a state of insecurity in the nation, which has by extension affected Nigeria's economic growth (Nwogwugwu et al, 2012). The activities of kidnapping, its planning strategies and execution, and the government actions in handling the resources of the nation, have consequential effects on the national economy. Lack of equity in revenue sharing from the oil has resulted to agitation by the youth for fair share; this has culminated into internal aggression against the oil workers and destruction of the oil installations in the region (Jamiu, 2009).

The Federal Government budget for police formation and command in 2009 was 195 billion naira, and the Lagos State Government was reported to have spent three billion naira in two years on security alone (Soyombo, 2009). The expenditures on security matters and law enforcement challenges have increased tremendously (Ezeibe & Eze, 2012). The politicians increased their physical expenditures on the use of private security personnel, off-duty police officers, strong metallic bullet proof doors, bullet proof vehicles, and sophisticated security gadgets in efforts to evade abduction. The security cost for protection of government and private facilities in the country has escalated.

The social life of many people have changed due to human insecurity (Tzanelli, 2006), and some people are subjected to self-imprisonment in their homes and (locked) offices (David, 2009). Some people build nice houses and fail to finish the exterior walls, presenting themselves with the look of poverty in an effort to prevent popularity. Some people are afraid of buying new vehicles, and even some rich people resort to using commercial motorcycles called 'Okada' to market, school and social outings, as a means to elude hostage takers (Soyombo, 2009). Kidnapping has contributed tremendously to high level of mistrust among people; the traditional African hospitality to strangers is tarnished due to fear, and some people hardly return normal courteous greetings from strangers. Traveling to unknown destination requires GPS directive equipment, otherwise, people in 'distress' and 'stranded' on the road would hardly find anyone willing to give directions, due to mistrust and fear of being whisked away by strangers on the road.

### **Civil and State Responses to Kidnapping**

The frightening state of kidnapping in Nigeria has attracted civilized and uncivilized treatments of crime in an effort to quell its dominion in the nation. The private citizens have been provoked to adopt the primitive style of 'hue and cry' for protection. "This concept required every able-bodied man to help in the chase and apprehension of lawbreakers" (Waldron et al. 1980, p. 83). In some States such as Rivers, Abia and Imo, kidnappers were pursued by private citizens on foot and vehicles, and publicly set them on fire upon apprehension. The kidnappers' dead bodies were desecrated by the public on the major streets of the city roads. Many known kidnappers were hijacked by the citizens, beaten and set on fire. As a result, many kidnappers fled the regions where citizens' responses was aggressive to less aggressive regions.

Some States proposed and enacted stiffer laws against kidnapping and abducting human beings against their will. Penalties ranged from life imprisonment in Edo State, Imo State and Rivers State to death penalty in Anambra and Akwa Ibom States (Babington-Ashaye, 2009;

Olisha, 2009). The presence of law enforcement authorities was increased in some sensitive regions with incidences of kidnapping activities. Anyanwu (2009) pointed out that there was increased police commands, improved police-logistics in equipment adaptation, and police refined operational behavior. These innovations were necessary in order to successfully battle with the sophisticated weaponry of the kidnapers. The law enforcement commands “established anti-terrorist squads, task forces, joint patrol teams, vigilante services and had even extended invitation to the Nigerian Army to complement the efforts of the police, State Security Services (SSS) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)” (Osumah & Aghedo, 2011, p.283).

### **Recommendations**

**1. Job Creation and Employment** - A nation with a great number of unemployed youths is a home full of hungry-mad leopards. Osumah and Aghedo (2011) stated “a massive job creation policy is imperative in order to engage Nigeria’s army of unemployed youths productively” (p. 284). Sometimes, it is easy to create policies without focusing on implementations. Implementing policies help solve knotty problems such as criminal activities. Crime prevention cuts across the framework of ideology and rudiments of social-economy that is capable of advancing life in the society.

Policy creation should focus on attracting industries and investors. If we fail to loosen stringent measures for the establishment of factories and industries, the job opportunities for the nation’s youths would remain strangulated. If adequate measures are not adopted and implemented by the national government for dealing with youths’ unemployment, the youth violent crime of kidnapping behaviors may scare off foreign traders, expatriates, and further tarnish the nation’s image in the international market.

**2. Dearth Alleviation** - Dearth is the state of being ‘poor’ and ‘needy’ due to scarcity of the basic necessities of life. Most of the demands of the Niger Delta Militias that attacked and kidnapped the expatriates and other oil workers are the issues of the basic necessities to humanity. The youths’ contentions are materialistic in nature. The demands for equity in revenue sharing, provisions of good roads, modern schools, restructured commercial market centers, good hospitals and maternity homes are within the reach of the Federal Government and oil companies. The obvious problem is that the culture of ‘corruptions and dishonesty’ in the management of the revenue generated from the crude oil have resulted to unresponsiveness, prolonged noncompliance, and abuse of power by the national government and oil companies. The revenue from the natural resources is sufficient to meet the demands of the youths, thereby quell some of the negative effects. In order to control this criminal behavior, attention should be given to the demands of the disgruntled youths.

**3. Vocational Training Center**– The new criminal culture of ‘get rich-quick syndrome’ with less hard-work is presenting a new challenge for the criminal justice system, especially in the rural communities where the high school dropouts are in abundance. It is incumbent for the national government to establish alternative vocational training centers as another opportunity

measures where youths would be admitted to learn trades. The admission into such trade school should be simplified to favor the disadvantaged youths.

### **Conclusion**

In our discussions of kidnapping, we have established that it is a crime of unlawful seizure and taking a person away by force or detaining a person against his or her will with the intent of carrying that person away at a later period. Kidnapping is not only a crime, it violates the victim's human right to freedom and create both social and psychological impacts in the lives of the victim and relatives.

However, the crime of kidnapping has not been controlled due to some impediments which the Federal government and the general public have not surrendered for resolutions. The obstacles are concentrated in the areas of massive unemployment, worsening political instability, internal grievances, and get rich-quick syndrome. The government giving deaf ears to those problems have resulted to an escalated criminal enterprise among the miscreants and outcast of the society. As long as those social conditions exists, they will remain serious impediments to the solutions of kidnapping in the society.

We have presented our recommendations that new jobs should be created, new policies that are youth friendly should be implemented, and opportunities for vocational training should be provided. Provisions of basic amenities such as: good roads, hospitals, good schools, modern commercial trading centers and good drinking water system are essential in the governance of the society.

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