



Issue Brief on Emerging Crimes: The Case of Kidnappings in Kenya Report, 2017

Objective- To establish the modes used in executing Kidnappings

Methodology – The study adopted a descriptive research design. The study was carried out in twenty (20) counties which were randomly and purposively selected. 1326 (727 males and 599 females) sample respondents (members of public) were conveniently sampled. Key informants were drawn from Judiciary, National Police Service, Office of Public Prosecution, Probation Services, Children Services Department, Civil society organizations interacting with issues of kidnappings and in general Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to analyze the data. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques were used in this study. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences and the information was presented in frequencies, percentage tables and figures. Qualitative data was analyzed by way of interpretation of responses obtained from key informants, victims, kidnappers and reporters from the institutions addressing kidnappings. The data was presented thematically as per the objectives.

Counties of study: Nairobi, Nyeri, Muranga, Kirinyaga, Mandera, Wajir, Bungoma, Kisii, Siaya, Machakos, Embu, Meru, Nakuru, Migori, Laikipia, Baringo, West Pokot, Turkana, Kwale and Lamu.

Findings: Majority (95.0%) of the kidnappings were executed by groups of kidnappers compared to 44.2% single/individual kidnappers. Majority (90.6%) of the respondents indicating that there was use of illegal arms and weapons against victims by kidnappers to a large extent (63.5%). Most (43.7%) of the respondents reported that kidnappers used force to get their victims while enticing and luring method was also used to get the victims (26.8%). Victims were mostly kidnapped when going home (92.1%), others were kidnapped when on duty or in their business premises (24.7%) and when closing their businesses (5.9%). In terms of ways used in kidnapping victims, (43.7%) were kidnapped through use of force; through enticing and luring (26.8%); trailed and monitored (7.6%) through drugging of victims (6.2%); through carjacking (4.2%) through domestic workers (3.9%); self-kidnap (0.4%)

Conclusions: The findings of this study concluded that modes of executing kidnappings are varied and executed by groups of kidnappers mainly using illegal arms and weapons. Victims are mostly kidnapped when going home, when on duty or in their business premises or when closing business. The national government needs to ensure continuous training of all public security agents on crime intelligence and the modus operandi of modern organized criminal gangs. The proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons needs to be curtailed in addressing kidnappings and other serious crimes. Further, all security agencies should be equipped with modern equipment and technology. Agencies in the administration of criminal justice in partnership with non-state actors need to undertake serious community awareness creation and sensitization through public forums and media. Consequently, individual and institutional employers should subject their respective workers to compulsory vetting, verification of identification documents and clearance by the National Intelligence Service and National Police Service.

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