



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

Objective – To appraise the effects of the crime of kidnapping

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 the public) were conveniently sampled. Key informants were drawn from the Judiciary, National Police Service, Office of Public Prosecution, Probation Services, Children Services Department, Civil Society organizations interacting with issues of kidnappings and in general the 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 by way of interpretation of responses obtained from key informants, victims, kidnappers and reporters from the institutions addressing kidnappings.

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

Findings: the study found out that the victims of kidnapping episodes encounter varied negative treatments and conditions such as physical abuse (55.4%), sexual abuse (29.0%), being killed (27.5%), mental/psychological abuse (25.5%), confinement and isolation (24.7%), poor feeding (22.4%) and being drugged (3.5%).

The study revealed the following as the effects of the crime of kidnapping: cause of fear among victims and other community members (75.5%), disruption of social peace (66.9%), post-traumatic stress and depression (63.6%), loss of funds through ransom payment (56.0%), reduction of economic investment (42.1%), closure of businesses (35.7%), reduction of business profits (35.4%), commission of other crimes (26.5%), disruption of educational programs (23.7%), unnecessary increased cost of providing security (22.2%),

threatens the stability of democratic process (13.2%), deaths (11.2%), unemployment (9.1%), disruption of community health programs (7.1%), unwanted pregnancies and STDs (3.2%) and forced relocation of families (2.4%).

Conclusions: The crime of kidnapping exposes victims to serious negative treatments such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, death, mental/psychological abuse, confinement and isolation, poor feeding and being drugged. Kidnapping causes fear among victims and community members, disrupts social peace, victims suffer post-traumatic stress and depression, kidnapping results into loss of funds through ransom payment, reduction of economic investment, closure of businesses, reduction of business profits, commission of other crimes, disruption of educational programs and unnecessary increased cost of providing security are the major negative effects of the crime of kidnapping.

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