

CHALLENGES OF HOSTAGE-TAKING AND KIDNAPPING IN THE SOUTH EASTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Before now, hostage-taking and kidnapping have existed in varied forms and for varied reasons in Nigeria. But they were not known to be among the business ventures Nigerians are known for. However today, they have become a big industry and a steady source of income for many, particularly in the South-East. The duo crimes thrive almost in the entire neighbourhood in this region and the adjoining states. Many residents know the traders, where they operate, but watch helplessly as the culture of the area seems to consider any criminal venture that yields wealth to their citizens as “business,” especially if the criminal operates in areas far from home. What are the reasons behind this illicit business? Why and how are they flourishing in this region? Who are the perpetrators of the crime? What are their effects in the country? What is the Nigeria Police Force doing about it? These and many more form the fulcrum of this discussion.

KEYWORDS: Peculiar Crime, Kidnapping, National Agencies