

Media Framing Of Kidnapping Incidents And Public Trust In Security Agencies: Perception Of Residents Of Oyo State

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Abstract: *This study investigates media framing of kidnapping incidents and public trust in security agencies: perception of residents of Oyo State. The study seeks to examine the extent to which residents of Oyo State are exposed to media reports on kidnapping incidents, assess the level of public trust in security agencies among residents in relation to their handling of kidnapping incidents and the relationship between media framing of kidnapping incidents and public trust in security agencies in Oyo State. The population of the study population comprises of residents of Orire Local Government in Ogbomoso axis, Oyo State. The study adopted a survey research design, and a sample of 150 respondents was selected for the study using Taro Yamane, a sample-size determination method, while the Media Framing Theory was adopted. The study used a research questionnaire for data collection and a purposive sampling method was used as sampling method. The data collected were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0. Findings of the study revealed that media reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently available to residents of Oyo State, media outlets regularly provide updates on kidnapping incidents, media coverage of kidnapping incidents is available across different media platforms, and information about kidnapping incidents is regularly circulated through both traditional and digital media. The results also showed that residents lose confidence in the ability of security agencies to protect the public from kidnapping because of weak law enforcement and the level of trust and confidence in security agencies to handle investigations into kidnapping cases is waning due to recurrent and frequent kidnapping cases. The study recommended implementing public awareness programs that educate people on how to stay safe, build collaboration with law enforcement, and create trust between people and the police force.*

Keywords: Kidnapping, Media, Media framing, Public trust, Security

Introduction

Kidnapping for ransom has become a widespread and extremely troubling phenomenon in Nigeria, mirroring greater issues of insecurity and criminality in the country. Statistics show a disturbing increase in such events, with Nigeria standing notably among nations dealing with this type of crime. According to the Global Terrorism Index, Nigeria had the third-highest number of recorded kidnapping cases in 2020 (Global Terrorism Index, 2020). This highlights the critical necessity to understand the mechanics of this issue, especially how it is portrayed in the media. Given its potential to affect public perceptions, policy actions, and social attitudes toward crime and security, the assessment of press coverage of abduction for ransom in Nigeria is extremely important. According to Modasola, Adisa & Abdulbaqqi (2022), the media have a significant impact on how stories about criminal activity are framed and shaped since they are strong public discourse actors. Academic research offers important insights into the relationship between how crime is portrayed in the media and how society reacts to it. Chermak & McGarrell (2017), for example, emphasize how media framing shapes public views of crime and influences policy responses.

In a similar vein, Surette's (2015) study emphasizes how important media representations are in influencing the public's worry and anxiety over crime-related concerns. This study aims to offer insight into ongoing discussions on how crime and violence are portrayed in the media and place its findings within larger theoretical frameworks by referencing such scholarship. Knowledge of how kidnapping for ransom is depicted in the media is essential for guiding policy actions and public awareness efforts targeted at resolving this urgent issue in Nigeria's complicated security landscape (Chermak & McGarrell 2017). For many years now, kidnapping has been a problem for Nigerians. Every resident now anxiously awaits the announcement of the next victim or target of this horrible crime due to the enormous increase. National security as well as public and private safety have been seriously jeopardized by this threat. The increase in abduction incidents has been a challenge for Nigeria's security forces in recent years, both

at the local and federal levels. As a result, there is a tangible sense of anxiety and uncertainty throughout the nation (Ezegwu et al., 2021; Uche & Chukwuemeka, 2022).

Like many other countries throughout the world, Nigeria has seen an unparalleled rise in instability along with a notable increase in abduction. Recent years have also seen an increase in kidnapping and insecurity in nations like Mexico, India, and Venezuela (India Today, 2022). Insecurity and kidnapping are closely related since the existence of one leads to the development of the other and vice versa. Due to a number of causes, the threat of abduction has developed into a business that affects all levels of society, making it more difficult over time. The public's perspective, attitudes toward safety and security, and the dissemination of knowledge about these situations are all greatly influenced by the media.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The primary aim of this study is to examine how media framing of kidnapping incidents influences public trust in security agencies in Oyo State, Nigeria. The secondary objectives are to:

- i. examine the extent to which residents of Oyo State are exposed to media reports on kidnapping incidents.
- ii. assess the level of public trust in security agencies among residents of Oyo State in relation to their handling of kidnapping incidents
- iii. examine the relationship between media framing of kidnapping incidents and public trust in security agencies in Oyo State.

Research Questions

- i. To what extent are the residents of Oyo State exposed to media reports on kidnapping incidents?
- ii. What is the level of public trust in security agencies among residents of Oyo State in relation to their handling of kidnapping incidents?
- iii. What is the relationship between media framing of kidnapping incidents and public trust in security agencies in Oyo State?

Literature Review

Media Framing

Media framing involves the manner in which news outlets or various media forms organize and convey information to their viewers. It involves emphasizing specific facets of a problem or event while downplaying or overlooking others. The way a narrative is framed significantly affects the audience's perception of the subject or event being discussed. Media framing serves as a powerful tool for molding public perception, affecting policy choices, and aiding in the formation of social reality. As noted by Dwoskin, Merrill, and De Vynck (2022), social media has increased public involvement with news, encompassing information, misinformation, and misleading content. Consequently, studies have broadened the conventional media effects framework to include the generation and distribution of social media content, along with their effects on news reporting (Tong, 2017). Meraz and Papacharissi (2013) state that social media's function as an alternative source of information is growing more significant amid social conflicts and political unrest. Social media has served to distribute fragmented battle data, bolster internal determination, draw external backing, and shape historical accounts in conflicts and threats (Vidal Egea, 2022). In contrast, social media users work together to choose and design frames that differ from traditional media, highlighting the platform's unique role in influencing narratives during emergencies. Ndlela (2005) observed that in terms of global communication, the Western media usually reports on African countries minimally, except when a disaster occurs.

Kidnapping in Nigeria

According to studies (Yusuf & Abdullahi, 2020; Ezegwu et al., 2021; Uche & Chukwuemeka, 2022), public perception of crime and criminality, including kidnapping, is greatly influenced by media reporting and framing. The way the media reports on kidnapping cases frequently affects the audience's emotional, psychological, and socioeconomic views. It suggests that the public's uneasiness, fear, and trepidation may be fostered by media coverage. Kidnapping is a bad wind that does no good to anyone. Nigerians deal with this monster on a daily basis in practically every location. Certain areas used to be more vulnerable to attacks. Nevertheless, the narrative has shifted, as anyone can be kidnapped at any time and from any location. Even the most protected regions and areas, such as the nation's capital, FCT Abuja, and Lagos, have not been spared from this heinous act of kidnapping. Kidnapping is not limited to any age group; newborns, teenagers, and adults, including the elderly, have all fallen victim to the crime. Many people died in the kidnappers' den before rescue arrived. Some abductors killed them even after they paid the ransom. To the dismay of Nigerians, security forces, including local vigilantes, are fighting this monster with limited success on a daily basis. One can't help but wonder: is there a remedy in sight?

Will Nigerians be forced to endure this period of unrest indefinitely? How widespread is this illness? How is the unpleasant development being portrayed by the media? Some of the questions that beg for answers are these ones. Despite the rising number of kidnappings in the nation, little is known about how undergraduate students' opinions are impacted by how these occurrences are portrayed in the media. Nigeria's history of kidnapping is complicated and stems from political dynamics, economic desperation, and regional rivalries. Although the practice predates modern Nigeria, it first appeared in its current form in the early 2000s, and by the 2010s, it had become a major problem.

"Kidnapping in Nigeria has transformed from a politically driven strategy to a lucrative criminal business, mirroring the country's socio-economic and security challenges," according to Albert et al. (2020) (Albert et al., 2020, p. 211). There are historical examples of kidnapping in Nigeria from the colonial era, especially when it comes to kidnapping children for ritual or labour. The coordinated, ransom-driven character of contemporary kidnapping was absent from these early, localized events. Post-independence, kidnapping remained rare until the 1980s, when political abductions emerged during Nigeria's Second Republic (1979–1983). Political opponents were occasionally targeted to suppress dissent, though these cases were not widespread. The 1990s saw a shift with the rise of militancy in the Niger Delta, where oil-related grievances fueled abductions of expatriates and government officials. Albert et al. (2020) argue, "The Niger Delta kidnappings marked the beginning of ransom-driven abductions, setting a precedent for later criminal enterprises" (Albert et al., 2020, p. 215).

The early 2000s marked a turning point, with the Niger Delta becoming a kidnapping hotspot. Militant groups like the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) targeted oil workers to protest resource exploitation. A notable case was the 2006 abduction of 16 oil workers in Rivers State, which drew international attention. Kidnapping in the Niger Delta was initially a political tool, but criminal gangs soon adopted it for financial gain. The 2009 Amnesty Program reduced militancy-related abductions, but criminal kidnapping persisted, with groups exploiting the region's ungoverned waterways.

Media and Kidnapping

The media has a responsibility to maintain the truth in their reporting, keeping the public informed about what's happening in society, especially when it comes to security matters. The focus should be on information as events unfold, not on spreading myths or unverified stories (Othman & Yusoff 2020). One key role of the media is to monitor and connect information, helping citizens understand security issues. By sharing details, the media can shape public opinion and influence how people think. When the media sets an agenda that clearly shows the consequences of actions, it helps people see how misconduct can lead to insecurity in society (Alasoluyi & Yusuf, 2016). Kidnapping has emerged as a significant security challenge in Nigeria, with profound implications for public safety, governance, and societal stability. The phenomenon, characterized by abductions for ransom, political motives, or social unrest, has garnered extensive media attention and shaped the perceptions of public servants tasked with addressing it. The interplay between newspaper coverage and public servants' perceptions is critical, as media framing influences public discourse, while public servants' views reflect institutional responses and lived experiences. Through awareness campaigns, the media can educate Nigerians on measures to prevent kidnapping and the consequences of this dreadful crime. Also, investigative journalism can help law enforcement agents by revealing the true identities of kidnappers, how they operate, and their locations. To build trust in security groups, media projects that support anti-kidnapping efforts, like the Nigerian Police Force's "Operation Absolute Sanity," are adopted. Also, the media gives emotional support to the families of victims, making their voices heard while advocating for justice (Daily Trust Newspapers, February 9, 2022). The media makes the issue real by sharing stories of people who were abducted and survived, enhancing empathy and igniting public outrage.

Public Distrust in Security Agencies

Adeoye (2020) states that public distrust arises from past grievances, perceived corruption, and the ongoing inability of government agencies/institutions to provide justice and security. The historical grievances pertain to enduring problems that the community has encountered with law enforcement, including excessive force, unjustified detentions, and various types of misconduct that have not been sufficiently resolved. Perceived corruption refers to the public belief that law enforcement prioritizes personal profit over community service, a notion frequently bolstered by media coverage and individual encounters with bribery and extortion. The repeated inability to provide justice and security results in the perception that the police are ineffective in solving crimes and ensuring protection, causing a decline in trust. Adeoye (2020) further highlights that this skepticism greatly hinders the police's ability to control crime because it diminishes community collaboration and the sharing of information. When the community lacks trust in the police, they are less inclined to report crimes or share information that may assist investigations, complicating the police's ability to perform their duties effectively. Eze (2021) describes public distrust as the shared feeling of skepticism and doubt that the general public has towards governmental institutions due to ongoing occurrences of misconduct, incompetence, and power misuse. Eze (2021) further argues that within the Nigerian police framework, this distrust leads to a hesitation to report crimes or aid in investigations, which ultimately hampers crime prevention efforts.

Media Framing Theory

Media Framing Theory suggests that the media shape audience views by selectively emphasizing particular facets of issues or events. This theory posits that media not only convey facts but also influence perception through decisions on emphasis, wording, and context. Based on Goffman's (1974) notion of frames as interpretive structures and further expanded by Entman (1993), the theory demonstrates how framing can determine problem definitions, causal interpretations, moral judgments, and suggested solutions, ultimately influencing the connotations audiences associate with different issues. Gamson & Modigliani (1989) characterize framing as interpretive packages that influence the public presentation of issues, including concepts, symbols, and arguments. Different media outlets may cover the same event with distinct priorities, resulting in diverse interpretations by the audience. Media Framing Theory plays a crucial role in examining public confidence in security agencies, especially concerning kidnapping cases, where coverage may emphasize shortcomings in security measures, effective responses, or the narratives of victims and their relatives. These various methods can impact how the public views security organizations and their management of abduction cases. Ongoing reports highlighting inadequate security measures might foster the belief that security agencies cannot safeguard citizens, while reports focusing on successful operations may portray security agencies as effective in addressing security challenges. Nonetheless, the true impact of a media frame relies on the type of coverage and the way audiences perceive it.

Empirical Studies

An empirical study by Zabur, Adedayo & Taiwo (2025) identified the primary factors contributing to kidnapping in Oke-Ogun as weak law enforcement, insufficient security, unemployment, and poverty. The study explored the impact of community-focused security measures on reducing kidnapping incidents in Oke-Ogun, Oyo State, Nigeria, using a descriptive quantitative research design involving a sample of 126 participants chosen through stratified random sampling from various towns within Oke-Ogun. The study highlighted challenges such as inadequate funding, insufficient training, and poor collaboration with formal security entities. The results indicate that community-based security, when adequately supported and coordinated, has the capacity to significantly decrease the occurrence of kidnappings in Oke-Ogun and advocate for strengthening law enforcement presence, enhancing community engagement initiatives, addressing socioeconomic issues like unemployment and poverty, and increasing public awareness regarding security practices. Oloyede et al. (2024) investigated how kidnapping is portrayed by the media in Nigeria through the opinions of students from Kwara State Polytechnic. The main goals involved evaluating students' views on media coverage, favored media formats for information, and news outlets regarding kidnapping events. Employing Media Framing Theory and Social Responsibility Theory, results indicated that 55.4% of participants considered the media reporting to be very sufficient, 44.6% followed kidnapping news daily, and 53.2% favored social media as their main news source. Moreover, 92.5% preferred social media to traditional media for information. The study recommended improving the online visibility and engagement of traditional media to more effectively connect with undergraduates.

Adebayo (2022) discovered that repeated kidnappings dramatically reduce community trust, resulting in scepticism among neighbours and worries about police enforcement's safety commitment. The study discovered psychological effects such as anxiety and trauma, which further isolate individuals and undermine social relationships. It determined that kidnappings undermine both security and communal solidarity. Recommendations include increasing police transparency and accountability, as well as community activities for psychological recovery.

Research Methodology

The study used the survey research method. According to Samoilenko and Osei (2021), this research paradigm makes it easier to analyse numerical data in order to identify a variable or group of variables. This kind of research relies on gathering data using organised techniques, like questionnaires, surveys, or experiments, in order to examine the correlation between variables and identify trends and patterns. The population of the study comprises of residents of Orire Local Government in Ogbomosho axis, Oyo State. The 2006 census population of Orire is 150,628 and their main occupation is farming. The sample size was determined using Slovin's Formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + Ne^2)}$$

where:

n = number of samples

N = total population

e = error margin / margin of error

For the study, a sample of 150 respondents was chosen using purposive and systematic selection approaches. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique in which participants are selected because of the unique characteristics they possess that are related to the subject matter. The research instrument used was a structured questionnaire, and data analysis was carried out using SPSS version 23.0 software. On a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5, there were five possible answers for each question. "Strongly disagree" (lowest score 1) and "strongly agree" (highest score 4). The study made use of descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, percentages, mean, and standard deviation.

Data Analysis

Research Question One: To what extent are residents of Oyo State exposed to media reports on kidnapping incidents?

Table1: The extent to which residents of Oyo State are exposed to media reports on kidnapping incidents

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Stand Dev
1	Media reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently available to residents of Oyo State	68 (45.3%)	76 (50.7%)	6 (4.0%)	-	3.19	1.21
2	Media outlets regularly provide updates on kidnapping incidents	101 (67.3%)	39 (26.0%)	10 (6.7%)	-	3.27	1.13
3	Media coverage of kidnapping incidents is available across different media platforms	88 (58.6%)	56 (37.4%)	6 (4.0%)	-	3.08	1.42
4	Reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently discussed on current affairs and public affairs programmes	63 (42.0%)	85 (56.7%)	2 (1.3%)	-	3.43	1.03
5	Information about kidnapping incidents is regularly circulated through both traditional and digital media	59 (39.3%)	77 (51.4%)	14 (9.3%)	-	3.51	1.67

Table 1 shows that 76 (50.7%) of the respondents agree that media reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently available to residents of Oyo State, 68 (45.3%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement 6 (4.0%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Also, 101 (67.3%) of the respondents strongly agree that media outlets regularly provide updates on kidnapping incidents, 39 (26.0%) of the respondents agree with the statement, while 10 (6.7%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. In addition, 88 (58.6%) of the respondents strongly agree that media coverage of kidnapping incidents is available across different media platforms, 56 (37.4%) of the respondents agree with the statement, while 6 (4.0%) of the respondents disagree.

Similarly, 85 (56.7%) of the respondents agree that reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently discussed on current affairs and public affairs programmes; 63 (42.0%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 2 (1.3%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Furthermore, 77 (51.4%) of the respondents agree that information about kidnapping incidents is regularly circulated through both traditional and digital media; 59 (39.3%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 14 (9.3%) of the respondents disagree with the statement.

RQ 2: What is the level of public trust in security agencies among residents of Oyo State in relation to their handling of kidnapping incidents?**Table 2: The level of public trust in security agencies among residents of Oyo State in relation to their handling of kidnapping incidents**

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Stand Dev
1	Security agencies in Oyo State are perceived as dependable in responding to reported kidnapping cases	73 (48.7%)	72 (48.0%)	5 (3.3%)	-	3.52	1.11
2	Residents lose confidence in the ability of security agencies to protect the public from kidnapping because of weak law enforcement	61 (40.7%)	86 (57.3%)	3 (2.0%)	-	3.18	1.06
3	Security agencies are perceived as effective in rescuing victims of kidnapping	66 (44.0%)	79 (52.7%)	5 (3.3%)	-	3.09	1.27
4	The level of trust and confidence in security agencies to handle investigations into kidnapping cases is waning due to recurrent and frequent kidnapping cases	54 (36.0%)	76 (50.7%)	20 (13.3%)	-	3.72	1.12
5	Security agencies are perceived to be open and transparent in dealing with kidnapping cases	51 (34.0%)	93 (62.0%)	6 (4.0%)	-	3.37	1.31

Table 2 shows that 73 (48.7%) of the respondents strongly agree that security agencies in Oyo State are perceived as dependable in responding to reported kidnapping cases, 72 (48.0%) of the respondents agree with the statement, while 5 (3.3%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Also, 86 (57.3%) of the respondents agree that residents lose confidence in the ability of security agencies to protect the public from kidnapping because of weak law enforcement; 61 (40.7%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 3 (2.0%) disagree with the statement. In addition, 79 (52.7%) of the respondents agree that security agencies are perceived as effective in rescuing victims of kidnapping; 66 (44.0%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 5 (3.3%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Similarly, 76 (50.7%) of the respondents agree that the level of trust and confidence in security agencies to handle investigations into kidnapping cases is waning due to recurrent and frequent kidnapping cases; 54 (36.0%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 20 (13.3%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Furthermore, 93 (62.0%) of the respondents agree that security agencies are perceived to be open and transparent in dealing with kidnapping cases; 51 (34.0%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 6 (4.0%) of the respondents disagree with the statement.

RQ 3: What is the relationship between media framing of kidnapping incidents and public trust in security agencies in Oyo State?

Table 3: The relationship between media framing of kidnapping incidents and public trust in security agencies in Oyo State

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Stand Dev
1	Negative media coverage of security agencies' responses to kidnapping incidents can reduce public confidence in their ability to protect residents	88 (58.7%)	58 (38.7%)	4 (2.6%)	-	3.23	1.11
2	Media emphasis on successful rescue operations strengthens public trust in security agencies	65 (43.3%)	81 (54.0%)	4 (2.6%)	-	3.17	1.33
3	Frequent reports of security failures in dealing with kidnapping incidents affect public confidence in security agencies	69 (46.0%)	72 (48.0%)	9 (6.0%)	-	3.31	1.19
4	Media reports that highlight the efforts of security agencies in combating kidnapping can improve public confidence in their operations	57 (38.0%)	78 (52.0%)	15 (10.0%)	-	3.61	1.28
5	Media coverage that focuses on delayed responses to kidnapping incidents can influence residents' trust in security agencies	63 (42.0%)	80 (53.3%)	7 (4.7%)	-	3.37	1.41

Table 3 shows that 88 (58.7%) of the respondents strongly agree that negative media coverage of security agencies' responses to kidnapping incidents can reduce public confidence in their ability to protect residents, 58 (38.7%) agree, while 4 (2.6%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Also, 81 (54.0%) of the respondents agree that media emphasis on successful rescue operations strengthens public trust in security agencies; 65 (43.3%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 4 (2.6%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. In the same vein, 72 (48.0%) of the respondents agree that frequent reports of security failures in dealing with kidnapping incidents affect public confidence in security agencies; 69 (46.0%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 9 (6.0%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. In addition, 78 (52.0%) of the

respondents agree that media reports that highlight the efforts of security agencies in combating kidnapping can improve public confidence in their operations; 57 (38.0%) of the respondents agree with the statement, while 15 (10.0%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. Furthermore, 80 (53.3%) of the respondents agree that media coverage that focuses on delayed responses to kidnapping incidents can influence residents' trust in security agencies; 63 (42.0%) of the respondents strongly agree with the statement, while 7 (4.7%) of the respondents disagree with the statement.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study show that the majority of the respondents agree that media reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently available to residents of Oyo State, media outlets regularly provide updates on kidnapping incidents, media coverage of kidnapping incidents is available across different media platforms, and information about kidnapping incidents is regularly circulated through both traditional and digital media. Also, the majority of the respondents agree that security agencies in Oyo State are perceived as dependable in responding to reported kidnapping cases. Residents lose confidence in the ability of security agencies to protect the public from kidnapping because of weak law enforcement; the level of trust and confidence in security agencies to handle investigations into kidnapping cases is waning due to recurrent and frequent kidnapping cases. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents agree that negative media coverage of security agencies' responses to kidnapping incidents can reduce public confidence in their ability to protect residents; media emphasis on successful rescue operations strengthens public trust in security agencies; frequent reports of security failures in dealing with kidnapping incidents affect public confidence in security agencies; and media reports that highlight the efforts of security agencies in combating kidnapping can improve public confidence in their operations. These findings support the study of Adebayo (2022), who discovered that repeated kidnappings dramatically reduce community trust, resulting in scepticism among neighbours and worries about police enforcement's safety commitment.

Conclusion

The findings of this study showed that media reports on kidnapping incidents are frequently available to residents of Oyo State; media outlets regularly provide updates on kidnapping incidents; media coverage of kidnapping incidents is available across different media platforms; and information about kidnapping incidents is regularly circulated through both traditional and digital media. Also, residents lose confidence in the ability of security agencies to protect the public from kidnapping because of weak law enforcement; the level of trust and confidence in security agencies to handle investigations into kidnapping cases is waning due to recurrent and frequent kidnapping cases. Communities are increasingly at risk of kidnapping due to the decline in public confidence in the government and security services, corruption, and insufficient responses. Economic challenges like unemployment and poverty exacerbate criminal motivations, while inadequate government initiatives only offer short-term respite. Frequent kidnapping cases undermine public confidence in state security organisations, cause widespread fear among individuals, and disrupt business activities. These results highlight the wider effects of insecurity on the overall development of the impacted areas. The problem of kidnapping in Oyo State needs a comprehensive security strategy that brings together regulatory actions that are made by the government, enhanced with locally sourced information. In order to obtain effective results, there should be collaboration between the security groups and local people to create ways to protect informants and establish mechanisms of monitoring activities within local areas. It is important to develop guidelines at the policy level, enable information gathering and sharing, and strengthen trust and confidence between local people and security forces.

Recommendations

- i. Strengthening teamwork between the military, police officers, and local security teams is very important, and equipping them with sophisticated weapons as well as giving them adequate training for prompt response to kidnapping cases and rescue of victims.
- ii. Implement public awareness programs that educate people on how to stay safe, build collaboration with law enforcement, and create trust between people and the police force.

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