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# A Critical Examination of the Prevalence and Impact of Abduction in Ibarapaland, Oyo State, Nigeria

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## Abstract
Abduction has emerged as a significant social concern in Nigeria, particularly in regions such as Ibarapaland, Oyo State, Nigeria. This phenomenon has not only challenged traditional notions of security and societal cohesion but has also raised questions regarding the socio-economic and political implications of such criminal activities. This paper examined the critical issue of abduction in Ibarapaland which led to Inter-tribal conflicts among Fulanis ethnic group and inhabitants of Ibarapa people, highlighting its far-reaching implications for societal structure and community safety. The study aims to examine the complex nature of these alarming practices within the broader cultural and socio-economic context of the region by employing qualitative research approach through both primary and secondary data. This work engaged 20 people aged 20 to 65 using a purposive sampling technique. This age bracket was considered because youths are the most affected demographic in the region; sampling was conducted from the seven major towns in Ibarapaland, among the two prevalent religions (Christianity and Islam). Secondary data sources include research journals, newspapers, magazines, and other online publications related to Ibarapaland. Using Routine Activities Theory as a framework, community responses to the abduction crises are examined, revealing significant gaps in law enforcement and local governance that exacerbate the situation. Initial findings indicate that forms of abduction in Ibarapaland have led to life-threatening situations, ransom payments, rape, and killings. Additionally, the prevalence of these crimes results from unemployment, poverty, political instability, and tribalism. The ordeal has increased fear among residents of Ibarapaland, hindering their daily lives and economic activities, causing displacement, food scarcity, insecurity, destruction, loss of life, trauma, a decrease in population, and deterring investors. Mixed reactions were observed regarding governmental and traditional rulers' responses; the majority of respondents believed that the government deployed forces like the Amotekun outfit, while community leaders recruited vigilante groups and raised awareness on how to remain vigilant. The paper concluded by emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive policy responses and increased community engagement to tackle this pressing issue effectively. Recommendations include strengthening legal frameworks to ensure justice for victims, implementing economic empowerment initiatives to alleviate poverty, raising awareness within local communities about the realities and dangers of abduction practices, and urging government agencies to fulfill their responsibilities in the region. These measures aim to facilitate informed, collective, and effective responses to the challenges posed by abduction, ultimately fostering a safer environment for all residents and contributing to the overall stability of Ibarapaland as a community.

**Keywords**: Abduction, Kidnapping, Community Safety, Ibarapaland, Socio-Economic Factors

## Introduction
The practice of abduction and kidnapping are synonymous. Abduction has recently become one of the regular signatures that characterize security challenges in Nigeria, thus generating a worrisome and disturbing trend in the country (Osisanwo, 2024). Abduction is one of the oldest crimes in human history (Okeke, 2023). It is a violent crime (Bello, 2017). It was one of the ways used in the past to get slaves during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade era (Clarke, 2023). The most common form of kidnapping is the economic/ransom kidnapping. Payment of ransom is not often an easy thing to do. Some people were forced to sell their valuable

possessions to raise money for the negotiated ransom. This often leaves the victims and their relations terribly traumatized. There were instances when the kidnapped persons were killed even when they have paid the agreed ransom. The inability of the security agencies to stop the crime in most cases is another source of concern (Okeke, 2023).

Abduction has emerged as a critical issue in Nigeria, particularly within Ibarapaland, where the increase in incidents especially kidnapping for ransom and ritualistic abduction has raised significant alarms regarding community safety and social stability (Kayode, 2025). Traditionally a region known for its agrarian economy and cultural heritage, Ibarapaland is now marked by challenges stemming from broader national complications such as poverty, unemployment, and political instability. With its complex socio-economic dynamics, Ibarapaland provides a unique case study for understanding how abduction practices have evolved amidst these pressures.

This paper examined the critical issue of abduction in Ibarapaland which led to Inter-tribal conflicts among Fulanis ethnic group and inhabitants of Ibarapa people, highlighting its far-reaching implications for societal structure and community safety. It is to dissect the details of abduction in Ibarapaland by examining its various forms, causes, and consequent impacts on the local community while also analyzing the socio-cultural factors that have perpetuated these practices. The central problem addressed herein is the rising prevalence of abduction in Ibarapaland, which poses considerable challenges to community safety and societal stability. These problems have amplified existing issues such as economic hardship and social unrest. Furthermore, the paper assessed the response of local communities and authorities to these alarming trends, assessing the effectiveness of current measures and their ultimate impact on families and the community as a whole.

Ultimately, this study underscored the urgent need for comprehensive policy responses, increased community engagement, and targeted interventions to confront the growing concern of abduction in Ibarapaland, thereby fostering a safer and more stable societal environment. The primary aim of this study was to examine the socio-economic implications of abduction in Ibarapaland while evaluating community responses. The objectives include: examining the forms of abduction prevalent in Ibarapaland, identifying the socio-economic and cultural factors motivating these practices, examining the societal impacts of abduction on local communities, and examining community and governmental responses to abduction incidents.

## Theoretical Framework: Routine Activities Theory

The Routine Activities Theory, developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979, provides a valuable lens through which to examine the prevalence and impact of abduction in Ibarapaland, Oyo State, Nigeria (Cohen & Felson, 1979). This theory posits that crime occurs at the intersection of three critical elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and a lack of capable guardianship. By applying this framework, this study seeks to understand the socio-economic and environmental factors contributing to abduction in Ibarapaland and to identify potential strategies for mitigation.

In the context of Ibarapaland, socio-economic factors such as unemployment, poverty, and lack of opportunities may significantly contribute to the emergence of motivated offenders (Lawrence, 2020). Economic hardship can push individuals towards criminal activities as a survival mechanism. For instance, disenfranchised youth might engage in abduction and other violent crimes due to feelings of hopelessness and marginalization. Addressing these underlying socio-economic issues is crucial for reducing the pool of motivated offenders. Suitable Targets: Vulnerability Factors- the characteristics of potential victims in Ibarapaland can make them more susceptible to abduction. Vulnerable populations, including children, women, and individuals living in isolated areas or lacking personal security measures, may be perceived as easy targets (Lawrence, 2020). Increased mobility and lack of awareness about personal safety can further expose these individuals to danger. Understanding the specific vulnerabilities of potential victims can inform targeted prevention strategies. Lack of Capable

Guardianship: Law Enforcement and Community Vigilance- the effectiveness of law enforcement and community vigilance plays a pivotal role in preventing abduction. In Ibarapaland, inadequate law enforcement resources, lack of training, or disengagement from the community can diminish the level of guardianship, creating an environment conducive to criminal activities (Lawrence, 2020). Weak community cohesion and reluctance to report suspicious activities or intervene in potential crimes can exacerbate the problem. Enhancing law enforcement capabilities and fostering community engagement are essential for improving guardianship and deterring abduction.

By critically examining the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets, and lack of capable guardianship in Ibarapaland through the Routine Activities Theory, this study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to abduction. The insights gained from this analysis can inform policy recommendations focused on holistic community development, enhanced policing strategies, and awareness campaigns to mitigate abduction and related crimes (Lawrence, 2020). Addressing the root causes of motivated offending, reducing vulnerability among potential targets, and strengthening guardianship mechanisms are key to creating a safer environment in Ibarapaland.

## An Overview of Ibarapaland

The origin of the Ibarapa people can be traced back to migrations from the Old Oyo Empire. The collapse of the empire, spurred by internal conflicts and external threats such as the Fulani invasion, led many Yoruba subgroups to seek refuge in other regions. The Ibarapa settlers chose the fertile lands of present-day in Oyo State, establishing communities that have since flourished. Ibarapaland is characterized by a rich historical and cultural tapestry interwoven with agricultural practices as its economic backbone (Rex, 2025).

The Ibarapa people are a fascinating subgroup of the Yoruba ethnic group, residing primarily in the southwestern region of Oyo State, Nigeria. Known for their rich history, distinct dialect, and vibrant traditions, the Ibarapa people have contributed significantly to the cultural wealth of the Yoruba nation. Ibarapa, is derived from the local melon variety (*Ẹ̀gúsí Ìbàrà*), a crop synonymous with their agricultural heritage. Traditionally, the region has been shaped by the livelihoods of its inhabitants, relying heavily on farming, trading, and small-scale business ventures. However, economic challenges and infrastructural deficiencies have perpetuated cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement (Rex, 2025).

## Geographical and Demographic Overview of Ibarapaland

Ibarapaland consists of three local government areas: Ibarapa East, Ibarapa North, and Ibarapa Central. The region is predominantly inhabited by the Yoruba people, known for their rich cultural heritage, traditions, and societal structures. The population, while primarily agrarian, also includes traders, artisans, and professionals who contribute to the local economy. However, demographic shifts due to urbanization and migration have begun to affect traditional lifestyles, creating new socio-economic challenges. The Ibarapa land comprises seven major towns collectively called 'Ibarapa Meje.' These towns are Lanlate, Eruwa, Igbo-Ora, Idere, Aiyete, Tapa, and Igangan. Each town has unique cultural practices, yet they share a deep-rooted connection through history and traditions. Despite being relatively smaller in population than other Yoruba subgroups, the Ibarapa people are renowned for their peaceful coexistence and strong communal ties (Rex, 2025).

## Economic Activities of Ibarapa People

Agriculture continues to be the backbone of the economy (Deepika, 2024). Similarly, Ibarapaland is a region rich in agricultural tradition and cultural heritage. The cultivation of key crops such as cassava, maize, yam, and cocoa plays a significant role in sustaining local livelihoods and fueling the economy. The fertile land in this area, characterized by its nutrient-rich soil and favorable climatic conditions, supports a myriad of agricultural practices, from traditional farming methods to more modern techniques that seek to maximize yield and

sustainability. Despite the inherent advantages of the region's agricultural potential, the escalating security concerns have drastically affected agricultural productivity. Farmers, once accustomed to working their fields with confidence and pride, are now filled with anxiety as the threat of abduction and violence looms large. Reports of violent incidents have instilled a pervasive fear that has changed the dynamics of agricultural work. The apprehension surrounding safety and security has compelled many farmers to reconsider their farming schedules and practices, with some opting to abandon their fields altogether due to concerns about personal safety and the protection of their families (William, 2024).

The impact of this growing fear extends far beyond individual livelihoods. As farmers become increasingly reluctant to tend to their crops or travel to rural areas, the overall productivity of the agricultural sector suffers significantly. Harvests that would typically sustain families and generate revenue for local economies are now diminished, resulting in food insecurity, an alarming issue that threatens the wellbeing of the entire community. Families that once enjoyed a stable supply of homegrown produce are now forced to rely on expensive and often less nutritious food sources from external markets, exacerbating both economic instability and nutritional deficits (Adeleke, 2023).

In addition to reducing food availability, the decline in agricultural productivity has broader economic implications. With fewer crops being cultivated and harvested, various ancillary industries that depend on agriculture such as transportation, processing, and retail are also adversely affected. The ripple effect leads to increased unemployment, decreased income for local businesses, and a decline in the overall economic vitality of the region. As the agricultural sector falters, so too does the region's ability to sustain its population and foster economic resilience. Furthermore, the challenges faced by farmers in Ibarapaland highlight the pressing need for increased investment in security measures and support systems. Initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety of farmers and their properties are essential to restoring confidence in agricultural practices. By implementing community safety programs, increasing patrols in vulnerable areas, and providing resources to farmers for securing their lands, stakeholders can help mitigate the threats that currently hinder agricultural production.

Overall, while agriculture remains a critical component of Ibarapaland' economy, the adverse effects of insecurity on productivity serve as a clarion call for urgent attention and action. To revitalize the agricultural sector and secure a prosperous future for the region, it is vital to address the underlying issues of safety and trust within the community. Strengthening agricultural productivity not only safeguards the livelihood of farmers but also ensures food security and economic stability for a region poised to thrive in cooperation and resilience. (Adeleke, 2023)

Agricultural activities, a vital pillar of Ibarapaland's economy, have been severely hampered by the fear instilled by abductions. Farmers, once able to work their fields with relative peace of mind, now approach their daily tasks with anxiety and trepidation. Many are reluctant to travel to remote areas for fear of being targeted, leading to a reduction in agricultural productivity. This decline not only threatens the livelihoods of farmers but also contributes to broader food insecurity within the region. As local food supplies dwindle, prices for basic necessities soar, placing additional stress on households and exacerbating the cycle of poverty (William, 2024).

Moreover, as the agricultural sector suffers, related industries also experience a downturn. Businesses that rely on agriculture, such as local markets, food processing plants, and transport services, face decreased demand and operational challenges, further destabilizing the region's economy. The resultant economic decline can lead to increased unemployment rates and further exacerbate social unrest, creating a vicious cycle that continually undermines the community's resilience. Overall, the socio-economic implications of abduction practices in Ibarapaland are extensive and multifaceted. The assaults on personal safety are not merely isolated incidents; they have far-reaching consequences that affect the economic viability of the region, the stability of families, and the overall well-being of the community. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts from law enforcement, community leaders, and

government agencies to restore security and build a robust economic framework that prioritizes safety and resilience for all (William, 2024).

## Conceptualizing of Abduction

Through primary and secondary sources, abduction is viewed from different perspectives. Abduction is defined as the forcible seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will (Bello, 2017). It is a common law offence and the key part is that it is an unwanted act on the part of the victim. Another definition is forceful or fraudulent taking away of an individual or a group of individuals for reasons ranging from economic, political, and religious to struggle for self-determination. It means an individual is forcefully or fraudulently abducted and carried off as hostages for ransom purposes (Kayode, 2025). Abduction fundamentally reflects broader societal issues, linking crime to social disorganization, poverty, and cultural practices. According to prior studies, the escalation of kidnapping incidents in Nigeria correlates significantly with economic downturns and unrest. Factors such as a weakened law enforcement presence, social disillusionment, and inadequate access to education further complicate these dynamics. Abduction itself is the criminal act of carrying or moving away someone or group forcefully. In the context of Ibarapa land, abduction there is targeting personality either to warn such or being stingy so as to correct such. It is a serious menace and threat to the peace of the Ibarapa inhabitants. Additionally, deeply entrenched traditional beliefs and practices have become interwoven with modern criminal behaviors, creating a complex narrative that warrants comprehensive exploration. Despite the extensive documentation of abduction and kidnapping incidents nationally, localized studies focusing on specific regions, such as Ibarapaland, remain scarce. People viewed the act of Abduction in different ways as this: it is perceived as an illegal act. It's awful. It is nothing than evil act. it is purely evil. Forcefully taking someone away requesting friends or relatives to pay a certain amount for such person's freedom. Act of wickedness against humanity. It is not good at all because it will reinforce or encourage the abductors to continue. It is unlawful practice. While two of the respondents said Abduction in Ibarapaland was successfully practiced because some indigenous people collaborated with the abductors.

## Emergence of Abduction in Ibarapaland

Historically, sporadic incidents of abduction have occurred in Ibarapaland, often driven by tensions over land use and economic disparities. As people from various parts of Nigeria settled in this region, interactions between locals and migrants including those involved in cattle rearing became increasingly fraught. Initially, relationships between local farmers and herdsmen were somewhat cooperative; however, the conflict often breaks out as a result of damaging of farm crops by cattle. The Fulani in the Ibarapa communities of Oyo State, southwestern Nigeria, are mostly migrants from the northern part of the country. A small number come from neighbouring Chad, Niger, Benin Republic and Cameroon (Adisa *& et al,* 2024). These settlers mostly live in settlements, far away from the host communities. Although Fulani settlers have been in Ibarapa for decades, their migrant status and strained relationships between them and their host communities have contributed to their disadvantaged access to infrastructural facilities in the study location. This also has its place in understanding the latest face-off between communities in southwestern Nigeria and Fulani settlers. This the same Fulanis have also been accused of rape, kidnapping, armed robbery and murder in the area. In support of the robbery accusation, some were arrested for criminal activities by the police. Some of these perpetrators are Bororo Fulani. The Bororo Fulani are regarded as violent, harsh and often the perpetrators of the various violent acts attributed to the Fulani. They usually do not stay in one place and thus cannot be held accountable (Ogundairo & Ijimakinwa, 2021).

Recent developments have exacerbated these tensions, particularly the emergence of notorious figures such as Iskilu Wakili, a herdsman linked to armed conflict. Over the past few years, rising incidents of kidnapping, murder, and plundering by armed gangs have

transformed the landscape of Ibarapaland. An evident loss of trust between communities has manifested as violence against farmers, leading to increased incidents of abduction as criminal gangs exploit existing societal vulnerabilities (Rotimi, 2021).

## Type of Abductions in Ibarapaland

Two of the respondents (Busola and Timothy) said the practice of abduction comes in various ways such as a High way abduction (travelers and trades), abduction of farmers (on the farm), home abduction etc for killing and raping if they refuse to pay ransom.

## Factors Contributing to the Rise of Abduction

Several factors have contributed to the rising trend of abduction in Ibarapaland:

1. ***Bad Economy, Economic Hardship and Gain:*** The economic conditions in Nigeria have deteriorated, leading many individuals to resort to crime as a means of survival. High unemployment rates and poverty have created a fertile ground for criminal activities (Owolabi, 2020). Kidnapping is usually motivated by financial gain or political demand (Babarinde). Thus, opportunist or traditional criminals as well as political dissidents can resort to kidnapping in order to illegally obtain economic gains or have their demands granted (Bello, 2017).
2. ***Unemployment:*** One of the major factors referred to as the catalyst to Abduction in Ibarapaland is Unemployment by Busola, James, Teslim, Timothy and others. Moyofola in his response said 'get rich quick syndrome, inordinate ambition to have wealth without sweat, wickedness and unemployment' are the factors that led to practice abduction. Aladetoyinbo said they considered the act of Abduction as a means of livelihood. Egbebi also buttressed this by saying that Abduction for ransom is thriving in the country and has become an industry due to the desire to survive by unemployed and disgruntled Nigerian youths (Egbebi, 2019).
3. ***Weak Law Enforcement:*** Inadequate resources, lack of training, and corruption within law enforcement agencies have hindered effective policing. This has created an environment where criminals operate with impunity (Olabamiji and Omoyeni, 2025). The state of Nigerian economy is very worrisome. There is social infrastructural decay and inability of governments to provide the needed dividends of democracy. State funds and resources are embezzled by individuals in highly placed positions of political authority. Funds meant for state projects are often misappropriated. This often has a far-reaching effect on the citizens (Egbebi, 2019).
4. ***Cultural Practices:*** Certain cultural beliefs and practices have also played a role in the emergence of abduction. Ritualistic abductions, often motivated by superstitions and traditional beliefs, complicate the narrative surrounding these crimes (Adeyemi, 2019).
5. ***Migration and Urbanization:*** The influx of migrants, particularly herdsmen from northern Nigeria, has led to increased competition for resources and land, exacerbating tensions and conflicts between communities.
6. The poverty situation in Nigerian is another reason that triggered people to partake in the kidnapping. They view it as a means of exit from the track of poverty for riches (Ibrahim, 2020). In the same vein, Egbebi said that Poverty in Nigeria is generally believed to be the prime cause of kidnapping and abduction in the country as perpetrators demand ransoms before the release of their victims (Egbebi, 2019).
7. Quest for dominance of a tribe over others has led to illegal practice of abduction.

## Prevalence and Trends of Abduction

Abduction and Kidnapping have become a pervasive security challenge in Nigeria, as incidents are increasing across various regions. Between July 2023 and June 2024, at least 7,568 individuals were abducted in 1,130 incidents nationwide. Kidnappers demanded nearly ₦11 billion in ransom but received only about ₦1.05 billion. The frequency of abduction incidents in Ibarapaland has reached alarming levels (Kayode, 2025). Reports from local sources

indicate that numerous individuals have fallen victim to herdsmen and criminal gangs. For example, a report by a Nigerian newspaper highlighted that no fewer than ten individuals had been killed and twenty-five others abducted by suspected herdsmen within a span of two years. (Olaniyi, 2021). This situation leaves local residents feeling helpless, restless, and increasingly despondent. Community leaders have reported that some abduction cases are motivated by monetary gains through ransom payments. Estimates suggest that community leaders in Igangan have paid upwards of N50 million as ransoms for these kidnappings, highlighting the economic burden that abduction inflicts on families and communities. During town hall meetings convened to address community safety, residents expressed frustration over the absence of effective punitive measures against perpetrators and called for stronger collaboration between local authorities and law enforcement agencies (Olaniyi and Oyewale, 2021).

However, it is crucial to recognize that not all abductions in Ibarapaland are purely motivated by financial gain. Some incidents are tied to ritualistic practices, ransom payment, raping, killing, rooted in traditional beliefs and cultural practices that exploit societal fears and superstitions. This duality complicates the narrative surrounding abduction and necessitates a nuanced understanding of local customs, beliefs, and the socio-economic context (Olaniyi and Oyewale, 2021).

After several abductions, Guardian Newspaper reported that 'tens of millions in ransom were paid, and savage killings, culminating in the murder in cold blood of Dr Fatai Aborode on his farm, the people of Ibarapaland said, 'Enough is enough.' The killing of the benevolent doctor, who left the comfort of Europe to come back home to help his people, became one death too many. The people of Ibarapaland were not going to take it anymore. They got tired of offering the other cheek. So, they cried out to Sunday Igboho begging him to come and save them (Ojumo, 2021).

## Effect and Consequences of Abduction

Irrespective of the type of Abduction and the motive for its perpetration, the psychological and financial impact of the problem can be quite devastating and traumatized. It may lead to physical assault and Rape if the victims are female. Physical brutalization can occur for both male and female victims. Victims of kidnapping differ in age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, level of education, and country of origin. Although anyone can become a victim of Abduction, certain populations are especially vulnerable to this form of victimization which is more common and a deep-rooted crime worldwide. One common effect of the abduction trauma for those concerned victims in the society (Olabamiji and Omoyeni, 2025). The impact on individual families can be devastating, as many find themselves financially crippled by the need to pay exorbitant ransoms. In these harrowing situations, families are often forced to make agonizing choices between securing the release of their loved ones and preserving their financial stability. The emotional toll is compounded by the associated stigma and trauma that abduction brings, often resulting in lasting psychological impacts on both the victims and their families (Olabamiji and Omoyeni, 2025). Thus, in interacting with Adefabi, he said abduction is not something that should be overlooked, it is something that should be looked into because its effect has led to food scarcity, displacement, bad economy trauma, inter-ethnic conflicts, unemployment, insecurity, destruction, loss of lives and properties, trauma, a decrease in population, and deterring investors.

## Community Response to Practices of Abduction

### *1. Grassroots Mobilization in Ibarapaland*

In light of the escalating threat of abduction, communities in Ibarapaland have taken significant steps to mobilize and respond to this urgent issue. The rise in kidnapping incidents has prompted residents to come together and develop a range of initiatives aimed at enhancing their safety and security. One of the primary responses has been the formation of local vigilante groups says some respondents like Ajibola Ifeoluwa. These groups are composed of

community members who possess a deep understanding of the local dynamics, including the geography, social relationships, and potential vulnerabilities of their neighborhoods. By leveraging this knowledge, these vigilante groups aim to deter kidnapping attempts and create a stronger sense of security among residents. Their presence not only acts as a deterrent to potential abductors but also fosters a sense of community solidarity and resilience (Folarin, 2023).

Despite their good intentions, these grassroots initiatives face several challenges. One of the most significant obstacles is the lack of formal training for members of the vigilante groups. Without proper training in conflict resolution, self-defense, and engagement with law enforcement, these groups may inadvertently escalate tensions or mismanage situations, potentially putting themselves and others at risk (Adeleke, 2023).

### *2. Collaboration with Law Enforcement*

Oyo state assented to a new kidnapping (prohibition) bill 2016, which prescribes death sentence or life imprisonment for any person who engages in kidnapping. According to the law, any kidnapper whose victim or victims die while in captivity will be liable to capital punishment while a convicted offender whose victim is released or rescued unhurt upon the payment of a ransom, will be liable to life imprisonment and be compelled to pay back the ransom. The law further prescribes various punishment for any person threatens to kill, maim or cause bodily harm in order to compel another person, corporate body or organization to do or obtain from doing any act as a condition for the release of the victim similarly anyone who makes an attempt to kidnap, aids or abets kidnapping will be sentenced to not less than 15 years imprisonment (Egbegi, 2019).There are mixed reactions on the efforts of Government on curbbing the perpetrators in Ibarapaland. Some people saw no government input. All they saw is non-challant attitudes from government over Abduction, that the efforts of Government are not encouraging. Others said the Government is taking action, Government through the cooperation of the dwellers has curbed the act. Government is using their security agents and also providing job opportunities to reduce unemployment rate. A respondent said Police and other security officers were deployed. For this reason, community leaders in Ibarapaland have increasingly recognized the critical role of collaboration with law enforcement in the fight against abduction. This partnership is vital for creating a comprehensive strategy to enhance public safety and restore a sense of security among residents. To facilitate this collaboration, town hall meetings have emerged as essential forums where community members can engage directly with law enforcement officials. During these meetings, residents have the opportunity to voice their concerns, share personal experiences related to abduction, and collectively brainstorm preventive measures. This open dialogue fosters trust between the community and law enforcement, ensuring that the police are more attuned to the specific needs and fears of the residents they serve. Additionally, these gatherings help to demystify the role of law enforcement, making it easier for community members to understand the processes involved in crime prevention and reporting (NHRC, 2022).

### *3. Role of Media and Technology*

The advent of digital media and technology has transformed the landscape of communication and information dissemination in contemporary society, particularly in regions grappling with security challenges like abductions. In this context, the role of social media and local radio stations has proven to be invaluable in mobilizing residents and empowering them to take proactive measures against these alarming incidents. By acting as conduits for vital information, these platforms have emerged as essential tools for fostering community vigilance, responsiveness, and resilience (Obileje and George, 2021).

Social media, in particular, has revolutionized the way information is shared and consumed in real time. Local residents can swiftly disseminate news about recent incidents of abduction, creating a network of alertness that extends beyond traditional boundaries. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp enable community members to share personal experiences

and warnings, allowing for a rapid exchange of critical information. This digital interconnectedness facilitates a more informed populace that is better equipped to recognize and respond to potential threats (UNODC, 2022).

Furthermore, safety tips and best practices shared on these social media platforms play a pivotal role in educating community members about how to protect themselves and their families. Posts detailing precautionary measures such as avoiding certain routes, staying in groups, and establishing emergency contacts serve as practical guidelines that residents can easily adopt. These campaigns not only raise awareness about the risks associated with abduction but also empower individuals with the knowledge to take actionable steps toward safeguarding their own safety and the safety of those around them. Local radio stations have also emerged as critical players in this information ecosystem. With their ability to reach residents, particularly in areas where internet access may be limited, radio broadcasts provide timely updates on security incidents, community engagement opportunities, and safety protocols. These stations often serve as trusted sources of information, fostering a sense of community and encouraging listeners to engage in collective action. Special programs focused on safety, featuring expert interviews, survivor stories, and discussions with law enforcement, emphasize the importance of solidarity and proactive participation in addressing security concerns (UNODC (2022). Additionally, the integration of technology in these media efforts extends to the use of mobile applications and online platforms dedicated to reporting incidents of abduction. These digital tools encourage residents to report suspicious activities or share information discreetly, further enhancing community vigilance while ensuring that law enforcement agencies are informed and can respond swiftly. The role of media and technology, especially social media and local radio has become increasingly significant in the fight against abduction in communities facing these threats. By facilitating information dissemination, raising awareness about risks, and promoting actionable safety measures, these platforms contribute to a culture of vigilance and proactive engagement. As residents mobilize shared concerns for their safety, the collaborative power of media and technology can inspire collective action, foster a more resilient community, and create an environment where individuals feel empowered to protect themselves and one another against the dangers of abduction (Akale, 2025).

### *4. Initiatives for Youth Engagement*

Recognizing that many motivated offenders are young individuals, various programs have been initiated to engage youth in positive activities. Vocational training, sports, and cultural programs aim to provide alternative avenues for self-expression and economic empowerment. These initiatives not only help to reduce the likelihood of youth engaging in criminal behavior but also foster a sense of community ownership and responsibility. The implications of abduction practices in Ibarapaland extend far beyond the immediate fears associated with personal safety and security. These troubling phenomena have profound socio-economic ramifications that ripple through the community and affect various aspects of daily life (Andy Ross & et al, 2010).

### *5. Impact on Local Businesses*

Local businesses have also suffered due to the pervasive fear of abduction. Entrepreneurs are often hesitant to invest in their ventures, fearing that their assets may be targeted. This has resulted in a slowdown of economic activities in the region, further entrenching poverty and unemployment.

### *6. Social Disintegration*

Socially, the climate of fear and mistrust has fostered the disintegration of community ties, which traditionally emphasized interdependence. The rise in abductions has changed the dynamics of familial relationships, as many families now prioritize security measures over gatherings and community engagements. Children, particularly, are affected by this new

norm, as fear of abduction has led parents to restrict their movements, ultimately impeding social interaction and community cohesion (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

### *7. Psychological Effects*

The psychological impact of abduction extends beyond direct victims to the entire community. Individuals living in constant fear of abduction may experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. The pervasive insecurity can also lead to a breakdown of trust in institutions, further complicating efforts to address the issue (Olabamiji and Omoyeni, 2025).

## Conclusion

The issue of abduction in Ibarapaland is indicative of deeper socio-economic challenges pervasive within the region and, by extension, Nigeria. The interplay between poverty, tribalism, unemployment, and weak law enforcement has created an environment conducive to crime, including abduction, killing, rape and threat to life. This has led people to be traumatized, displaced, jobless and scarcity of food. Therefore, addressing this crisis will require more than reactive measures from Government, communities and other organizations. It necessitates comprehensive policy responses aimed at economic empowerment, social development, and structural changes within local governance systems.

## Recommendations

To effectively combat abduction, the following recommendations are posited:

1. ***Strengthening Law Enforcement:*** Enhancing the presence and effectiveness of police forces and community policing efforts to ensure prompt responses to abduction cases.
2. ***Economic Empowerment Initiatives:*** Implementing programs focused on job creation, vocational training, and agricultural support to alleviate the economic conditions that contribute to abduction practices.
3. ***Community Engagement Strategies:*** Facilitating continuous dialogue between community members and local authorities, establishing trust and collaboration to ensure collective safety efforts. Ajayi also said all hands must be on desk to mitigate against this evil act which against humanity. Traditional rulers also should continuously educate their people to be security conscious while government should gear up in ensuring prompt and immediate response to issue of abduction and kidnapping.
4. ***Awareness and Education Campaigns:*** Promoting understanding of abduction as not merely an individual or familial issue, but as a community concern requiring collective action and informed responses.
5. ***Policy Reform:*** Advocating for the development of stronger legal frameworks designed to address abduction comprehensively, including harsher penalties for offenders.
6. ***Mental Health Support:*** Providing mental health resources for victims of abduction and their families to address the psychological impact of these crimes.
7. ***Youth Empowerment Programs:*** Developing initiatives aimed at engaging youth in positive activities, thus reducing the likelihood of their involvement in criminal behavior. Ultimately, addressing abductions in Ibarapaland requires a multifaceted approach that targets socio-economic issues while fostering community resilience and engagement. Without such efforts, the cycle of abduction and its associated repercussions will likely perpetuate, undermining the very fabric of Ibarapaland society.
8. ***Future Research Directions:*** Future research should focus on examining the long-term impacts of abduction on community dynamics and economic development. Investigating the effectiveness of various community-led initiatives in combating abduction can provide valuable insights for policymakers. Additionally, exploring the role of traditional leaders and community influencers in addressing the issue may offer new strategies for engagement and intervention.

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