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INTERNATIONAL SOS

Nigeria: Abduction of foreign nationals in Osun state highlights need for stringent precautions


OVERVIEW

 **Level:**


Notice

 **Location:**

Nigeria

 **Category:**

Kidnap

 **Active:**

05 Feb 2021 - 10 Feb 2021

Last Updated: 06 Feb 2021 15:37 (GMT)

The table below shows the number of impacted and potentially impacted individuals and assets at the date/time the alert was issued. The counts include individuals within the impact radius of the alert and may not reflect the total number of people in each area listed.

Please log into [Tracker](#) for the latest information or [click here](#) for an up-to-date list of affected individuals and assets in the impacted area.

EXPOSURE IN IMPACTED AREA ONLY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
Nigeria (High Risk)	15	18	19	18
TOTAL	15	18	19	18

Local media on 4 February reported that three Chinese nationals on 1 February were abducted by unidentified gunmen at a mining site in [Atakumosa West](#) local government area (LGA, Osun state), south of the state capital Osogbo. The abductees' police escort was reportedly killed by the assailants. The incident reflects the HIGH travel security risks in Osun, as well as the need for robust security planning.

MORE DETAIL

While the motive for the abduction has not yet been confirmed, kidnaps for ransom are common in Nigeria. However, abductions involving foreigners are less common in Osun than in other Nigerian states. Previously, three Chinese nationals in November 2019 were seized by unknown gunmen and another was injured at a mining site in Atakumosa West LGA. The captives were released a few days later.

Most victims of violent crime are local nationals. However, foreign workers can also be targeted on the basis of their perceived wealth and, in the case of kidnap, the belief that their employers will pay a ransom for their release. The majority of victims are released unharmed after being held for a relatively short period.

WHAT WE ADVISED YOUR PEOPLE

Employees currently in Osun should comply with all official directives and restrictions on movement, which include a nightly curfew from **22.00 to 05.00** (local time).


Travel within Osun should be undertaken with stringent security planning and management. To mitigate the risk of kidnap, restrict non-essential movement outside secure locations. Road movements should be confined to daylight hours and with security support including vehicle mobile police (MOPOL) escorts. Consider using vehicles that do not bear company logos.

Ensure you are fully briefed on the prevailing security threats in your operating environment and that you know what to do in the event of a medical emergency or serious security incident, including kidnap. Arrange accommodation in secure compounds, with adequate, assessed security arrangements. Undertake site security reviews and vulnerability assessments to enhance or strengthen your office or site's physical security measures and liaise with your local security provider for support with necessary mitigating arrangements.

Be discreet regarding your travel plans, vary routines and remain alert for signs of being watched or observed. This includes static surveillance of work sites, offices and other vulnerable points, such as parking areas. If you notice something unusual, move immediately to a secure site and report it.

Register with your embassy and all relevant warden networks, and liaise with local law enforcement agencies and subject-matter experts for advice on kidnap response. Consult our Standing Travel Advice for Nigeria for more information and monitor our Nigeria alerts for notable updates.

ASSISTANCE



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