

### Key Facts

- More than 40 foreigners kidnapped this year.
- Deliberate targeting of oil industry.
- **So far, all foreigners have been released unharmed.**
- **Considered only a matter of time before a victim is killed.**
- Significant incidents this year include:
  - **February** – Nine foreigners taken hostage from an oil barge in the Delta.
  - **May** – Two Italians abducted from a bus in Port Harcourt.
  - **June** – Eight foreign oil workers abducted from an offshore oil rig.
  - **August** – Six foreigners taken hostage when gunmen raided a Port Harcourt nightclub.
  - **October** – Seven foreign workers abducted during a raid against a protected housing compound near Port Harcourt.
  - **November** – A US and UK citizen abducted from a survey vessel off the Niger Delta.

Since February 2006, there have been more than 40 foreigners kidnapped in Nigeria. These kidnappings have centred on the Niger Delta region, deliberately targeting the oil industry.

The Niger Delta region is one of the largest oil producers in the world (provides some 20% of US needs, making it of strategic importance as an alternative to the Middle East). The industry provides some 65% of the Federal Government revenues. However, little of the wealth generated by the industry reaches the local communities which are characterised by high levels of corruption, poverty and poor social services.



This has led to deep seated resentment with tribal/clan based gangs resorting to kidnap for financial gain, or some other form of benefit to the communities they represent. They have been joined by politically motivated groups (although the distinction between the two is often blurred), using the kidnapping of oil workers to exert pressure on the Federal Government.

The gangs make full use of the labyrinth of mangrove-lined creeks to avoid detection. In addition they have shown a willingness to conduct tactically complex abductions; including - raiding guarded facilities; entering nightclubs frequented by expatriates; and taking hostages from offshore facilities (including one incident that was some 40 kilometres offshore).

In addition, the level of violence used has shown steady escalation. The security situation is likely to deteriorate further as the March 2007 presidential elections approach.

**To date all foreign victims have been released. Most have been reasonably well treated, but some have been victims of physical and mental abuse. It is considered only a matter of time before a victim is seriously harmed or even killed.**

***Clayton has been involved in the safe resolution of three multi-victim kidnap cases in Nigeria in 2006.***

## Clayton – Covering the World



### Clayton Training for Clients

- **Pre-Incident Training** – Individual and collective training for those travelling to kidnap hotspots in order to reduce the risk of becoming a victim.
- **Corporate Training** – Simulations are the best medium for training Crisis Management Teams in the realistic handling of Kidnappings.

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