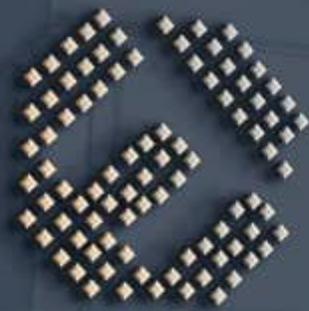
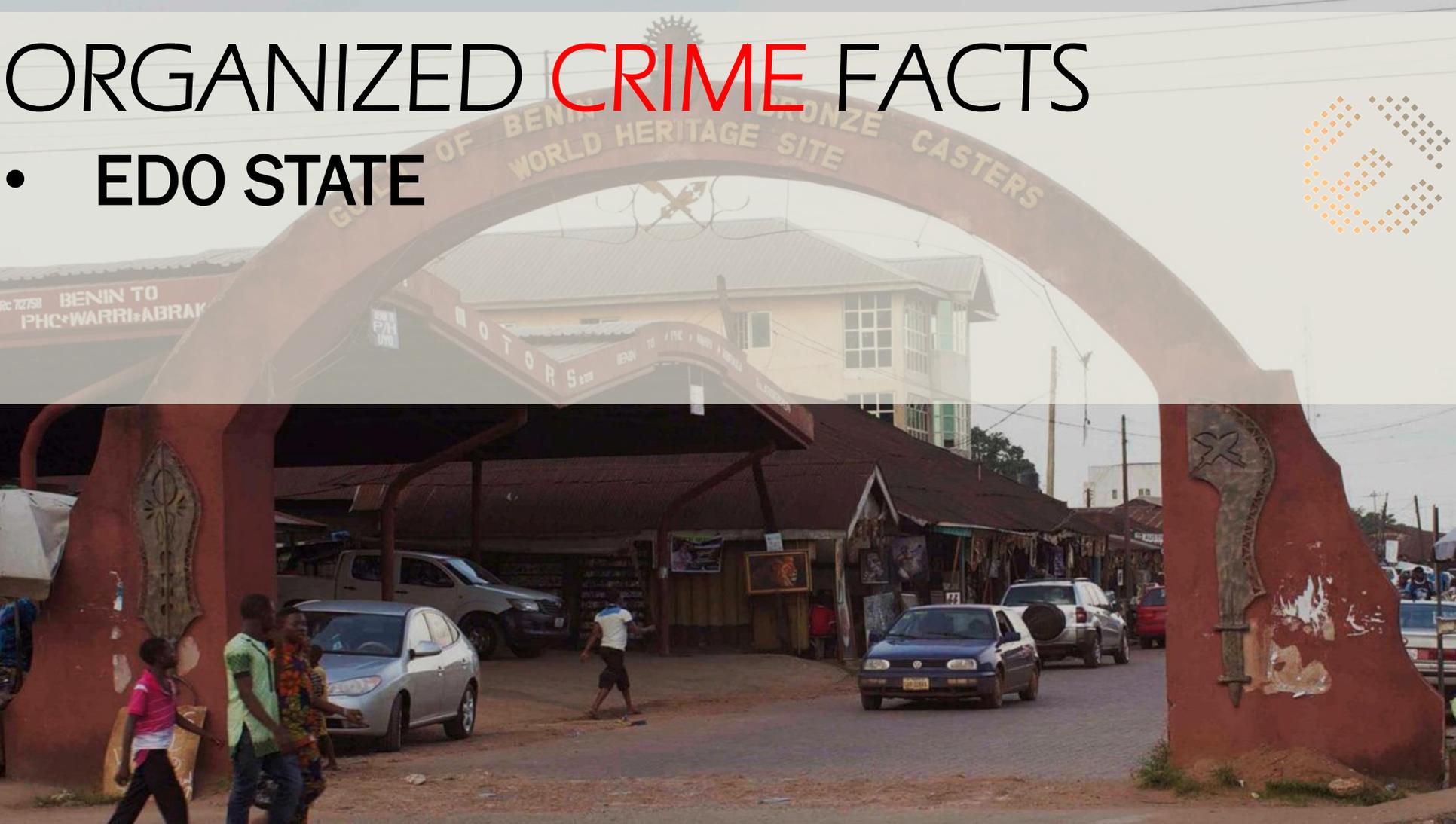


ORGANIZED CRIME FACTS

- EDO STATE



EONS INTELLIGENCE

— Timeless Insight —

- GEOPOLITICAL INTELLIGENCE
- MARITIME INTELLIGENCE
- BREAKING NEWS
- CRIME INTELLIGENCE
- SPECIAL INVESTIGATION
- INCIDENT ALERT SYSTEM

Being inundated with fears over the rising spate of insecurity in the nation, I always find solace in working from the comfort of my office's bounded walls. Therefore my dismay came to a crescendo when my organization nominated me as part of a high profiled delegation to investigate the accelerated spate of the insecurity situation in Edo State.

Benin City is the state capital and largest urban centre, tilting more than 1,800feet in the north while lying at elevations between 500 feet in the south. Edo state bounded by Kogi to the northeast and east, Anambra to the east, Delta to the southeast and south, and Ondo to the west and northwest; is famous for its unique bronze, brass and ivory works of arts which are found all over the world in museums.

Arriving the rich cultural heritage heartbeat of Nigeria, the orchestrated sing-song echoes of Kóyo (hello) and Ób'ókhían (welcome) enveloped the air from the five million inhabitants of the four major ethnic groups of Bini, Esan, Owan, and Etsako that came to bid us welcome.

My fears gave way to gaping bewilderment as we enjoyed a tour of the world's most fantastic tourism experience. We moved from the Somorika hills in Akoko Edo, whose expanse of hills crowned by massive boulders perched precariously on the summits of hills, through the Royal Palace of Benin, Benin Museum, Benin Moat (Iya), Emotan Statue to Udo Tourist Centre in Esan East local government area and Okomu Wildlife Sanctuary near Benin City.

Gifting the delegation as we sat to deliberate on the reason for our visit from their variety of natural resources, we could not help but blot out: what went wrong that the nation's heartbeat has transformed into the nightmare of travellers and residents alike?

Recall that #ENDSARS protest hijacked by hoodlums resulted in a prison break within the state. Anticipation became rife that hoodlums wreak of terror in Edo state would abate with time. However, the magnitude and intensity took a turn for the worse. The gravity has degenerated to an equilibrium where Edo state sends jitters.

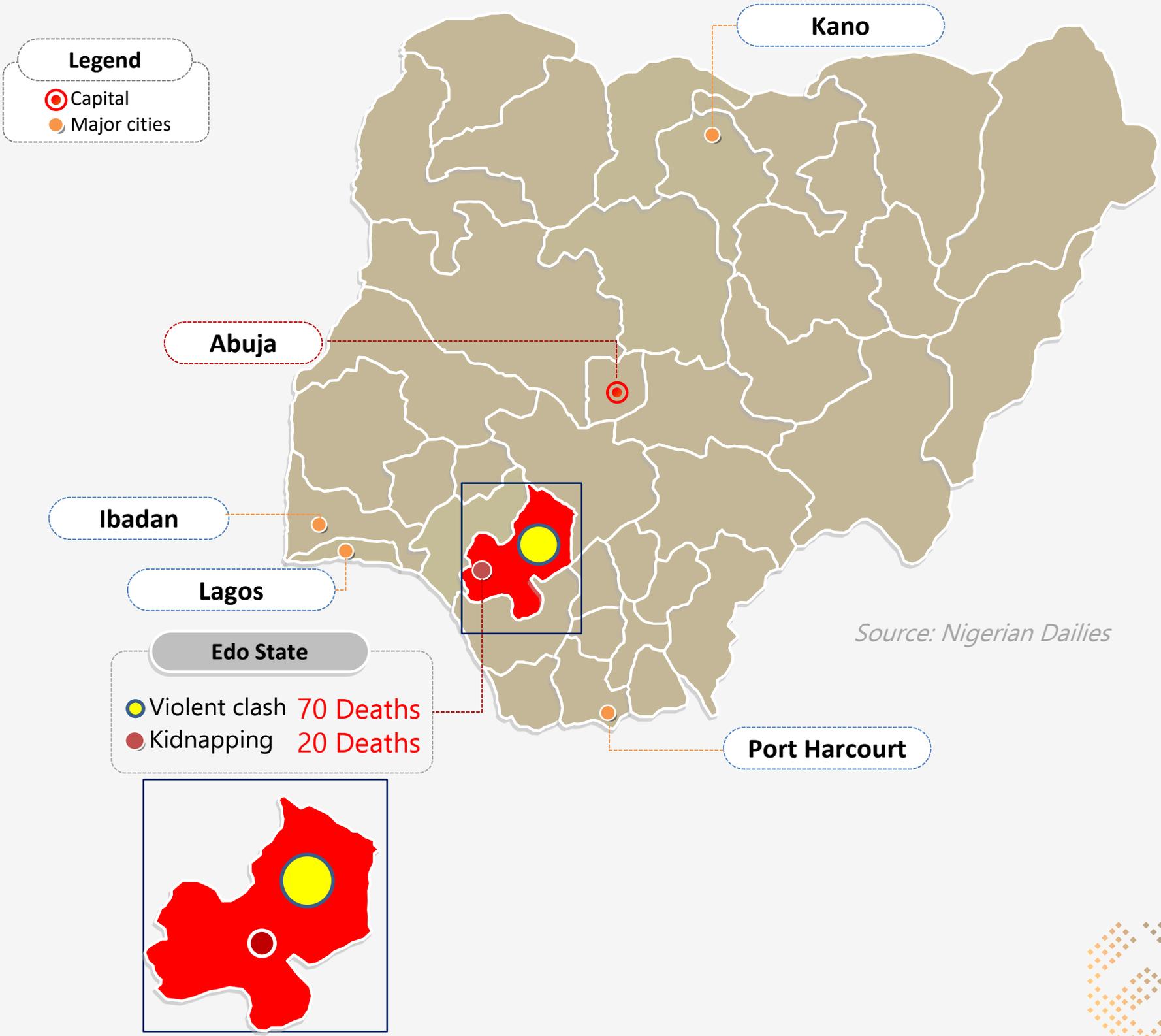
Kidnapping, armed robbery and cultism have recently reached its peak within and around the state's environs eroding the typical excitement exuded by travellers who travel to meet their loved ones during festivities or in the course of business trips. Many allege that the increased clashes among rival cults result from the prison break at Sapele road and Oko correctional centres, where hoodlums released an estimated 2,000 prisoners.

As the lamentations over violent attacks at Benin road increase, Godswill transport manager, while addressing journalists in November 2020, identified Benin bypass, Ogbemudia farm to Ore and Kogi axis as hotspots where most violent acts thrive. The recurrent frequency has led South-East transport operators in Anambra state to threaten a boycott should the incessant attacks persist.



Even a kidnapped musician who lived to narrate the experience alluded that his captors informed him that the classified him as rich because he has the Benin monarch and governor of Edo state among his circle of friends.

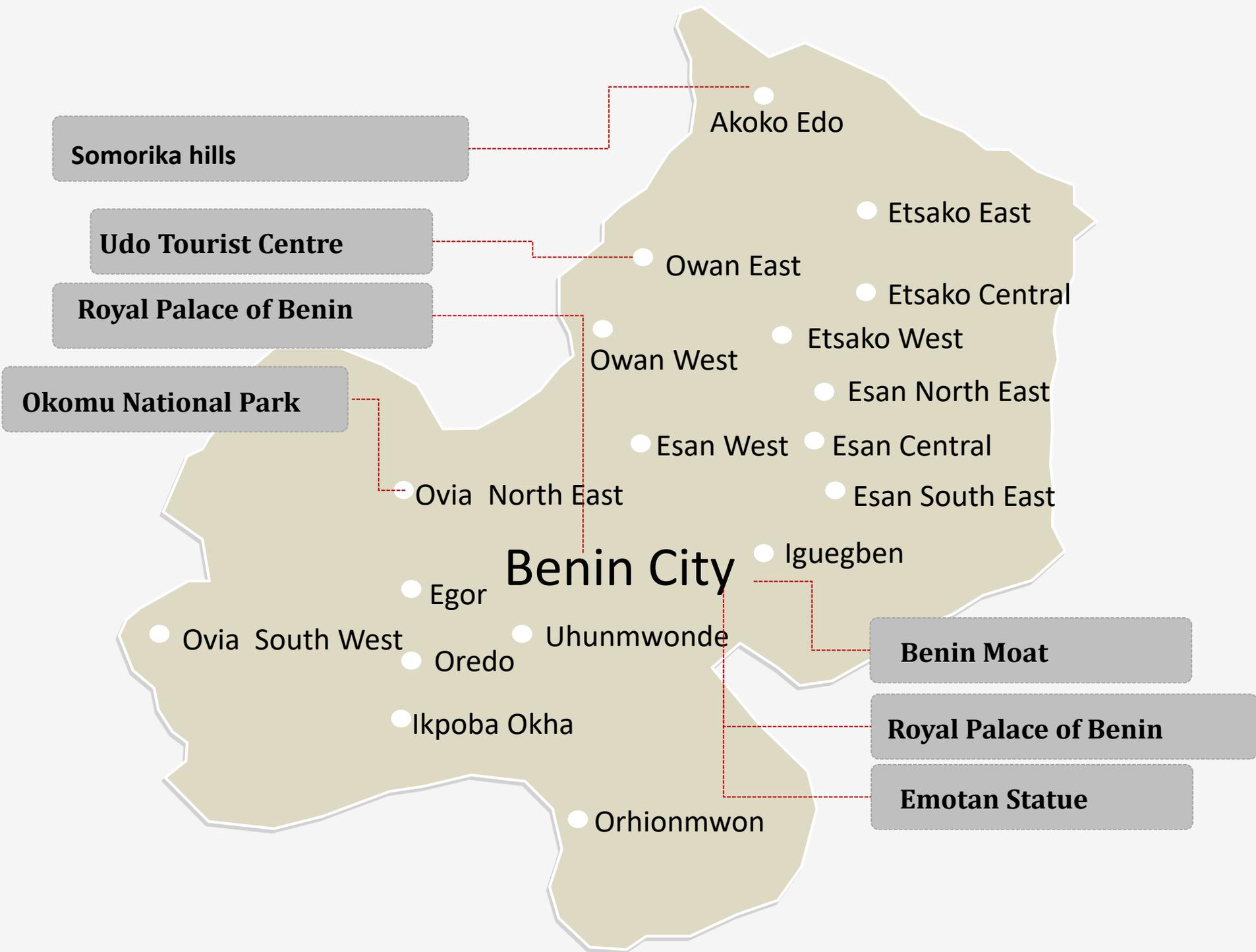
According to the dailies' statistics in the year 2020, Edo State witnessed at least 29 fatalities from kidnapping incidents and 70 deaths from other violent attacks. From the Federal Road Safety Corps analysis, Nigeria recorded an estimated 4,794 deaths in the year 2020 from road accidents; however, statistics indicate that accident was the least threatening component of deaths in Edo State.



Some violence hotspots in Edo State



Tourist Centres in Edo State



While investigating further into the source of ammunitions of these hooligans, the altercation between the All Progressive Congress in Edo state and People's Democratic Party as published in the dailies on September 2020 (before the #ENDSARS protest) reveal that arms and ammunition were allegedly imported into Edo State during the gubernatorial elections. Mr John Mayaki, the Chairman of the Edo State APC Media Campaign Council, made this statement while imploring the international community's intervention to prevail on the leaders of the PDP to retrieve all the illegal arms deposited with hoodlums.

Mr John Mayaki further said," they armed several thugs and engaged in many abductions during the period. Now the election is over, what has happened to the arms? Now we fear that kidnapping, robbery among others will increase. Meanwhile, we ask for the release the APC members kidnapped during the election. There is no gain in keeping them any longer, is there?"

In response to Mr Mayaki, Nehikhare said:" APC leaders should withdraw the guns and ammunition that they gave to their thugs, who are advised to make themselves available for training and empowerment programmes of Obaseki's administration, in order to become useful members of the society, rather than later going into criminal activities with the arms and ammunition in their possession.

Findings from the investigation therefore reveal that the escalated increase witnessed within the jurisdiction boils down to two basic issues: the intermingling of the freed prisoners freely with hoodlums in the community, who may have laid their hands to the arms and ammunition yet to be retrieved, imported into the state during the 2020 gubernatorial elections. Therefore, as long as these two primary issues remain unattended, the menace of increased kidnapping, armed robbery and cultism in Edo state is far from being over.



GUILD OF BENIN
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
BRONZE CASTERS

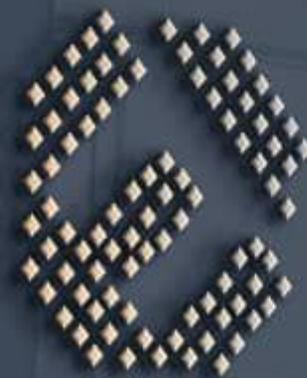
ABOUT US

Eons Intelligence is a strategic intelligence and advisory group which specializes in bespoke analysis of crime, political, economic risk and opportunities in Nigeria.

Location: Lagos, Nigeria

Email: enquires@eonsintelligence.com

Call: +234 908 358 8787



EONS INTELLIGENCE

— *Timeless Insight* —