

Implications of Child Kidnapping Crime for Community Security in Algeria

AMTTOUT kamel¹, SOUFI Mounira²

¹ University Tahri Mohamed of Bechar, amttout.kamel@gmail.com

² University Mohamed Khider of Biskra, soum69497@gmail.com

Received: 27/08/2023

Accepted: 11/12/2023

Published:15/04/2024

Abstract:

This research paper aims to illustrate the implications of the crime of kidnapping for the child, the family, and society in our present time. It is a new crime; rather it has existed in all societies since ancient times. However, its recent spread in Algerian society has made it the concern of most families. Given the accompanying attacks on victims, which amount to murder? Additionally, this crime threatens Algerian society's entity and stability and forces the public authorities to act to confront it, which calls for research and scrutiny in its various aspects.

In this context, our analytical study, in which we used the descriptive approach to attempt to characterize the crime of child kidnapping and identify the motives and consequences of its commission. Furthermore, we have concluded through our study that all individuals, families, civil society associations, official institutions, and all relevant bodies should be involved in any prevention strategy against the crime of child kidnapping to ensure social security in Algeria.

Keywords: Implications, crime, kidnapping of children, community security, Algeria

Corresponding author: AMTTOUT kamel, amttout.kamel@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The rights of the child are an important part of the general human rights, which have been agreed upon by international organizations and committees and have been enshrined in a series of international instruments. These instruments include a series of articles designed to safeguard the child's psychological, physical, and social well-being, in particular by guaranteeing him or her a balanced life and an integral development of all dimensions of his or her personality. This includes the right to education and health, the right to nationality, the right to protection from violence and all forms of fear, and hunger, especially in light of the spread of war and the consequent poor social and economic situation.

From this point of view, the main objective of children's rights organizations is to take care of children and protect them from any danger they may face in their cognitive, psychological, and social development from the moment of birth to the moment of adulthood. However, if we compare this legal endeavour with the daily human experience, we are faced with a great paradox. We have many problems and difficulties in achieving the provisions of the international instruments for the protection of children. This is mirrored in all images of terrible violations of children's rights throughout history and continuing to the present day.

Besides, the results of many psychosocial studies in this field have shown numerous repercussions that have had a negative impact on the child's life because of the violation of his or her rights. In the context of our study, the crime of kidnapping of children is a flagrant violation of the sanctity of this minor, affecting their human dignity and their most fundamental rights. Although this crime is very ancient, it has become more widespread in this age, and its methods have evolved, especially as scientific and technological progress has accelerated.

It should be noted that the crime of kidnapping began with the kidnapping of children, but it has begun to develop in terms of the methods or means used in its implementation or even its motives. In addition, crimes of kidnapping people appeared with the aim of extortion by kidnapping

tourists and foreigners, or for motives that may be material (ransom), political, sexual, and so on ⁽¹⁾. Accordingly, the consequences of this crime are experienced by the individual, the family as well as the society. Moreover, it threatens and destabilizes the society's existence, thus requires strategies to prevent the crime of kidnapping of children and to reduce its increase.

Algeria is like other countries in the world in which the crime of child kidnapping has become an obsession and a nightmare, and addressing the issue of child kidnapping in this country raises many political, legal and social problems, especially since Algerian society has recently shown great anger and fear because of repeated cases of kidnapping experienced by many families.

In short, we can say that caution and hesitation no longer stand a barrier to the crime of child kidnapping in our society, but diving into it has become more possible because the obstacles to research have lost their previous power inherited from community culture and that it has become more difficult to understand the problem. The fact that the concept of kidnapping of children is urgently present in scientific, political and social discourses is even more striking, prompting an understanding of its true nature without fear or suspicion. This insight only comes if the researchers sharpen their resolve and, therefore, complementary studies have been prepared in various human and social fields. Hence, there is an urgent need to think seriously about the repercussions of this crime on community security, based on the following main question: What are the repercussions of the crime of child kidnapping on community security in Algeria?

In order to shed more light on aspects of the central question, this study attempts to answer, across several axes, the following sub-questions:

- What is the status of the child in the light of the growing crime of kidnapping in Algerian society?
- What are the contributions of Anomie theory to the interpretation of the crime of child kidnapping in Algeria?
- What are the factors and consequences of the crime of child kidnapping?

1. Methodology

1.1 Research objectives and dimensions

The purpose of this study is to identify the following elements:

- Recognizing the most important social factors involved in the child kidnapping crime, which have exacerbated it, and attempting to comprehend the motives behind its commission in Algerian society.
- Being aware of the psychological and social consequences of kidnapping on children, family and society in Algeria.
- Activating the role of sociological research in order to participate in the development of a strategy formulated and implemented by governmental institutions with the help of civil society to prevent the crime of child kidnapping.

1.2 The importance of the study

Human society progresses only with science and its research in all disciplines, including research in the human sciences, especially sociology, which has a significant share in solving social problems with its findings and data from reality. The theoretical and practical significance of this study can be summed up as follows:

- Focusing on the issue of the crime of abduction of children, a new vision in the field of sociological studies, given the paucity of research on the subject.
- Contributing to the analysis of the factors causing the widespread crime of kidnapping children in Algeria.
- Outlining the main implications of the crime of abduction of children for the child, the family and society in Algeria.
- It is in keeping with the requirements and needs of Algerian families and society, especially in view of its recent visible spread

1.3 Study Methodology

Based on the nature of the study and the objectives it seeks to achieve, the analytical descriptive approach has been used because it is the most

suitable for this sort of study. Moreover, it is appropriate to understand the problem in all aspects of knowledge and science by searching for the theoretical, office or electronic heritage of the reality of the crime of child kidnapping and its social, psychological and economic effects on the child, family and society in Algeria.

1.4 Study Themes

For the purpose of comprehensive understanding of the topic and reaching relevant conclusions, the article is divided into the following Themes:

- The first Themes: The child's status and the crime of abduction in Algerian
- The second Themes: Anomie Theory's contributions to the analysis of child kidnapping crime in Algeria
- The third Themes: Factors and consequences of child kidnapping crime in Algeria

2. The child's status and the crime of kidnapping in Algerian society

2.1 The definition of child kidnapping crime

Although the act of kidnapping of persons is very ancient, its concept as a crime in doctrine and law is different, so there is difficulty in finding a clear, comprehensive, precise and specific concept that approaches the definition, both linguistically and in terms of terminology; as stated in "Dictionary of Criminology, Legal Sociology and Punishment" that "kidnapping..." The crime of illegal capture, in which force or deception was used to force a person against his or her will, originally referred to the capture of the kidnapped person and carrying him or her to another country as a form of punishment besides ⁽²⁾, criminologists consider that kidnapping:

"It is a criminal offence punishable by law due to the use of force in order to acquire or establish an illegal sexual relationship with a kidnapped child. Kidnapping also means illegal captivity, in which force or fraud is used to force a person against his will. The term originally refers to the capture and transfer of a kidnapped person to another place, but if the age of the kidnapped woman is less than (16) years, then many laws consider her a minor"⁽³⁾

When examining the crime of kidnapping in the law, most of the legislation does not clearly define it. It refers only to the penalty prescribed for the crime of kidnapping. This is what we find in Egyptian, Lebanese and Syrian law. However, certain Western legislation, especially French legislation, defines the act of kidnapping as:

”Any person who, by force or in any other way induces a person to leave a place, is said to have kidnapped that person, and some scholars have worked hard to develop definitions of kidnapping, such as being defined as soliciting the victim using one or more methods of violence. Then, keeping him/her somewhere under the control and protection of the abductees for their purpose”⁽⁴⁾

Since this study aims to investigate the crime of child kidnapping, the researcher has concluded that kidnapping is the deportation of a child under the age of 18 is either by transferring, detaining or taking him or her temporarily or permanently by using force, threat or deception to an unknown destination. This latter may be followed by physical or sexual abuse or traffic in organs that sometimes results in death and defilement of the body.

2.2 Stages of committing the crime of child kidnapping

Kidnapping of children is one of the most serious crimes that must be planned and managed before and after it is carried out. The process of achieving its success requires professionalism and the use of tricks to trap the child victim. The kidnapper also strives to eliminate any fingerprints and features that may subsequently lead to the identification of his or her identity. Accordingly, this crime is built on a sequence of stages taken by the perpetrator to trap the victim, beginning with reflection to the stage of preparation and subsequent initiation, which we are trying to address:

2.2.1 Thinking stage

It is the first stage from which the crime of kidnapping begins. It is not imagined that the offender will initiate his or her act without having desires that he or she wants to achieve, if the crime is actually committed, the perpetrator is punished, and if it remains in the circle of thoughts and

intentions, there is no way for criminal law to monitor it and then inflict punishment on it.

2.2.2 The preparation stage

This stage occurs after the kidnapper has gone beyond the stage of thinking about preparing to commit the kidnapping, and undoubtedly, the closer the perpetrator's actions are to the crime, the more dangerous they are, and the intent of the perpetrator becomes clear. However, preparation is not subject to punishment because it prepares or assists in the commission of a particular crime in the mind of the perpetrator.⁽⁵⁾

The perpetrator therefore prepares an integrated plan for the execution of his or her crime by being in the appropriate location and equipping himself with the instruments to assist in its commission. The perpetrator also solicits and deceives the victim.

It should also be noted that preparatory actions such as possession of a weapon without a licence, ropes, sticks, or cars may be independent crimes, but the law does not punish these acts.

2.2.3 The initiation and implementation stage

After we have touched on the stages of thinking and preparation, we turn to the stage of initiation, which is determined by the actual will of the perpetrator to carry out the crime. In this connection, Article 30 of the Algerian Penal Code stipulates that the stage of initiation has two pillars: the commencement of implementation and criminal intent, and if the offender begins to carry out any attempt at the crime of kidnapping, three conditions are required:⁽⁶⁾

- That the perpetrator commences the act of kidnapping in this crime
- The perpetrator intends to commit the entire crime of kidnapping and to begin carrying out and using all the means which has been prepared to achieve the purpose.
- The offender's inability to complete the kidnapping offence due to circumstances beyond his/her control.

2.3 Statistical reading of the crime of abduction of children in Algeria

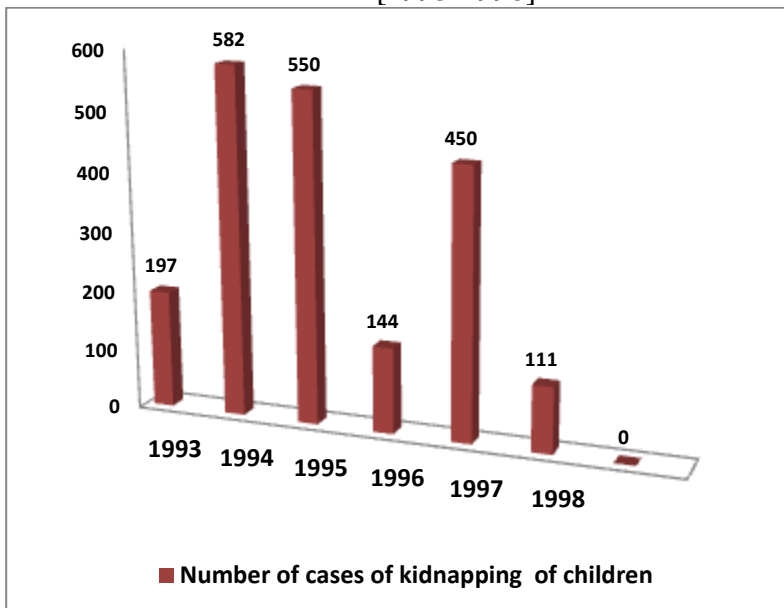
In the context of reference to the black decade and the attendant

conditions in terms of the low security and political situation, armed groups formed in the period between 1990 and 1995 in Algeria, "The kidnappings were not limited to persons but went beyond the incident of the hijacking of the aircraft in 1994 at Hoary International Airport, which had political motives."⁷

At the same time, many girls were kidnapped, raped and killed according to several terrorism survivors of terrorism. "Kill her, she is fit for nothing; bring another in her place," a phrase that was echoed by the Prince of the Blida Islamic Armed Group, Antar Zuabri. The victim being 16-year-old girls, who were kidnapped from their houses or given as gifts by their families to suck the group's anger, and thus a slave whose validity expired when she was pregnant or over 18 years old. This period on the nineties is defined as a stage of crazy violence.

Although accurate statistical data are not available at this period , which reflects the crime of kidnapping, some have been collected on the official website of the Directorate-General of National Security, as follows

Figure N°1: Some statistics on the crime of kidnapping of children between [1993-1998]

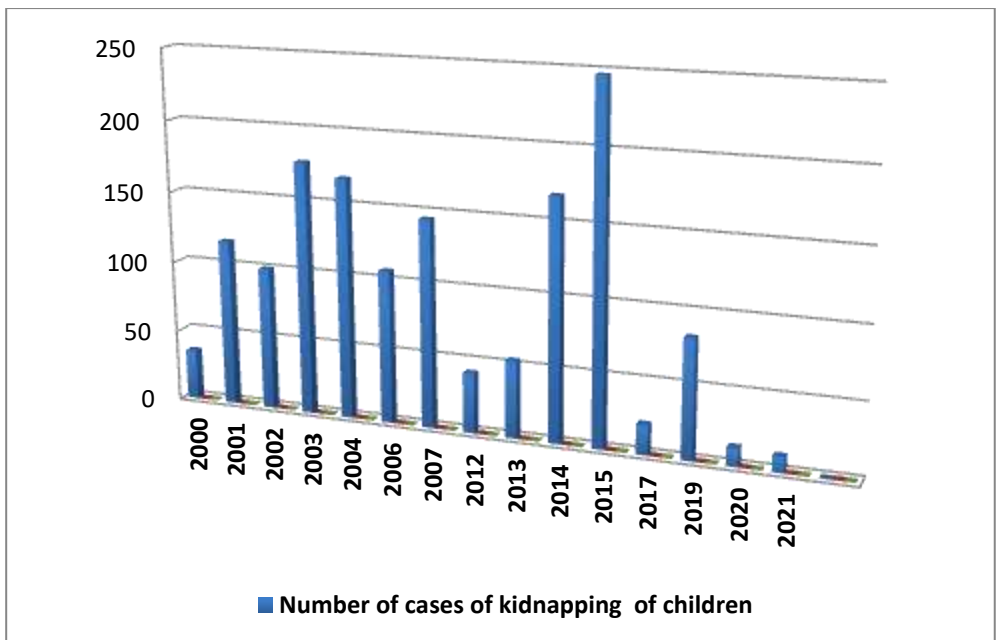


Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the official website of the Directorate-General National Security

The crime of child kidnapping has reappeared again and the disappearance of children has increased between 2008 and the present day. Its causes have been different, including those motivated by the demand for ransom or the use of magic and the trafficking of organs that have become a financial resource for kidnappers. This has attracted the attention of many researchers and specialists in psychology, law and sociology. Their analyses have been numerous in order to determine the causes and motives of the increase in this crime and its spread in different regions of Algeria.

In the absence of a comprehensive system of data collection with a view to obtaining all data on the situation of children, including victims of child kidnapping. Besides the lack of providing statistical figures by the competent authorities to avoid any ill-treatment that could be counterproductive, the researchers thus attempted to extract some statistics from the website of the Directorate - General of National Security, which he tried to present in the following terms:

Figure N°2: Some statistics on the crime of abduction of children between [2001-2021]



Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the official website of the Directorate-General National Security

3. Anomie Theory's contributions to the analysis of child kidnapping crime in Algeria

3.1 The starting points for Anomie Theory and the emergence of delinquency and crime

Anomie is a state of instability that leads to the collapse of values and standards or is the result of a lack of ideas. Emil Durkheim firstly discussed this anomaly in 1897 in his suicide-labelled book, where he chose to consider different suicide rates between Catholics and Protestants. He argued that the social control of the most powerful Catholics led to low suicide rates ⁽⁸⁾, In brief, it is the absence of rules, standards or law, and when the normative system breaks down and the power of control weakens, individuals break out of standards and deviate

Durkheim's views on delinquency and crime contributed to abandoning individual interpretations to explain social forces and influences. These views have helped Robert Merton, adopt the idea of Anomie and loss in addition to an influential theory of delinquency and crime, confirming that the origins and seeds of crime lie in the structure of society.

3.1 The Anomie Theory, from Western theorizing to the adaptation of an Algerian Arab reality

Although the black decade has passed and relative stability has returned, no one can deny the impact of Algeria's years of anarchy, which was caused by the normative and value vacuum that characterized that period. This has resulted in the formation of numerous kinds and varieties of intellectual and behavioural deviance in Algerians, which may be seen in the current society through a variety of apparent phenomena.

3.1.1 Goals and ambitions: The goals and ambitions of the Algerian individual have become inconsistent with the current political, social, cultural and economic potentials of the country, which has created a clear gap between this individual, who has been fed from globalization and was influenced by its revolutions and values, and Algeria's underdeveloped reality.

3.1.2 The Social norms: They were supposed to govern the march of individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations in accordance with their abilities and qualifications, have become almost absent in society, thus giving way to the logic of chaos resulting from the loss of confidence in the laws governing the conduct and institutions of society.

3.1.3 The Institutional Means: The current social system, in order to enable individuals to realize their ambitions, has generally become the biggest opponent of constructive energies and real competencies, as for decades these institutions have experienced bureaucratic problems first. Moreover, the state of incomprehensibility that Algerian society has experienced, which has created a distorted system, which based on uncomfortable values, usually allowing negative, opportunistic or inefficient elements to access these sites. This, in turn, leads to a kind of stressful or hostile environment towards positive elements, which have the capacity to make a difference in State and community building, which gives us one of the many explanations of the slow pace of the country's political, economic, scientific and cultural development. (As compared with Algeria's historical, natural and human components as a country), as well as the prevalence of poor institutional governance of society in almost all fields..

Noted in the prevalence of manifestations of delinquency, such as attacks, banditry, high suicide rates, the spread of mental and neurological diseases, illegal immigration, the crisis of congenital dissolution, and kidnapping offences. (...) are manifestations that cannot be explained solely by reference to social circumstances but by the extreme pressure and frustration faced by the Algerian individual by the crisis of Anomie, which has led him to abandon the set of ethical perceptions and norms to which his behaviour is subject within the framework of the general social structure. As a result, the researchers will not exaggerate when they say that we live in an anomic society par excellence nowadays. Because every Algerian individual, regardless of his status or level, is an anomic person in some way, and that the greatest challenge lies in the courage to recognize this reality and not to accept it as an inevitable destiny, every individual should work as much as possible to reform himself before reforming society and state institutions

3.2 Merton's Anomie and the Crime of Child Kidnapping: Towards a New Perspective

In contrast, Merton attempted to bypass Emil Durkheim in raising the idea of anomie. For him, it is the contradiction between the cultural goals that society proposes to its members, and the legitimate institutional means through which they must achieve them. The social structure is such that some individuals, who have no legitimate means of reaching this goal, will adopt deviant behaviour. It is the contradiction between reference values and the impossibility of satisfying them by legitimate means that characterizes it ⁽⁹⁾. Accordingly, it can be said that the Anomie of "Merton" in the functional language results from an imbalance between the cultural system and the social structure.

Merton has also identified five models of reactions to Anomie through his study ⁽¹⁰⁾, which are

- **The innovative deviation:** It reflects individuals' invention and creation of criminal techniques to achieve culturally compelling aims, such as professional thieves, exam cheats, and partaking in cultural goals (making money, obtaining certifications, etc.). They, however, reject socially accepted means.

- **Belonging deviation:** It refers to the individual's belonging to a deviant environment since his inception.

- **Withdrawal deviation:** This model relates to an individual's failure to accept reality, which leads to negative adaptation, like in drug and alcohol abusers.

- **Revolutionary deviation:** It leads to violent crimes, especially beatings, fracking and burning. It seeks to restructure society on new foundations and means to achieve those goals, examples of which are members of liberation and revolutionary movements.

- **Ritual deviation:** It is a case of non-defective deviation and represents an individual's excessive adherence to routine procedures to the point of delinquency. This individual is aware of the existing contradiction in society and the latter's means of oppression of his or her members and is

therefore forced to adapt compulsively, as it is the case with officials of public administrations.

There is a range of visions and theoretical interventions that have shaped the crime of child kidnapping, which in its sociological contents tends to open a number of intellectual runways that are based on anomie, due to the fragility and collapse of social relationships and interactions, "Since the idea of losing standards is the opposite of the idea of social cohesion, their loss results in the emergence of a state of confusion and insecurity, and social perceptions become deteriorating and disbanding."⁽¹¹⁾

The fact that the perpetrators resort to certain manifestations of rebellion reveals the failure of society and its institutions twice. The first is that they are not able to achieve their objectives in legitimate ways. The second is the failure of society and its institutions to accompany rehabilitate and reintegrate these perpetrators in a way that will alleviate social realities. Society and its various institutions, including families, in terms of community security, will pay for this double failure. The social exclusion of marginalized and rebellious individuals is the first nucleus of delinquency and crime, such as the crime of child kidnapping.

Thus, Merton's crystallization, within the framework of the Anomie approach, makes kidnapping a consequence of the scarcity of opportunities and legitimacy; the kidnapper uses illegal means by emphasizing his or her goal at the expense of social norms and legitimate means. This is why the Anomie starting points of Emil Durkheim emphasize the significance and conceptual dimension of the crime of kidnapping in this context. Moreover, he considers it as a result of a disorder and a functional imbalance in the order of values and social norms, which caused by contemporary changes, such as economic crises or the breakdown of family integration⁽¹²⁾, Despite the diversity of institutions to contain this crime, there has been a breakdown of social values and norms and the inability of its direct and indirect mechanisms to control it and direct the behaviour of its members in the right direction.

A full range of the socio-economic factors have shaped people's minds and perceptions and led them believe that there is a need to find other illegal ways, according to Robert Martin, to meet various needs because of

the lack of access to established goals such as employment to eliminate unemployment, marriage and housing (...) These opportunities are being transformed from legitimate methods to deviant ones over time.

Furthermore, we can mention that the daily lives of young Algerians, who often have a special element of leisure. This latter has led to the formation of reference groups, where they sit in cafes, on the outskirts of the streets or in front of the entrances to residential buildings. Furthermore, some of them are in a deviant group that engages in illegal acts, such as drug use, public drunkenness, and children may be kidnapped and turned into abandoned places (Housing in progressor the forest). In order to harass them and engage in indecent acts against them in order to satisfy their needs, however, the child victim often ends up either escaping from them under severe psychological influence or being subjected to coercion, and some perpetrators may incinerate the victim.

The fact that the perpetrator is not sexually satisfied by lawful means (marriage), has failed to have a marital relationship or has a sexual weakness has led to abnormal police repercussions in his life. For example, it is the kidnapper's first sexual experience with a child (male or female) or by tampering with his or her genitalia. Sometimes it is accompanied by a kind of sovereignty to beat or kill the child during or after the attack.⁽¹³⁾

In social reality, we find many examples of illegal and irrational occupation of sites, such as belonging to child kidnapping gangs, human trafficking, etc, which are punishable by law. These groups can sign up in these places as an expression of rejection of a socialistic reality, so we find the greatest rejection of this contemporary reality through [social disobedience...] and engaging in illegal activities.⁽¹⁴⁾

We do not forget to mention that non-compliance and bullying are the most prominent characteristics of criminals, and even if they are called upon to work or integrate into associations or clubs, they reject such offers. This obstinacy is their reaction to any attempt of society to accommodate them and thus demonstrates the manifestations of non-standardism, namely, indifference in violating the laws and regulations in force within society.

Based on the foregoing, we conclude that there is a direct relationship between the state of failure to achieve goals in a legitimate way, and rebellion against social values and standards among individuals in general. It can be said that the theory of Anomie, as one of the sociological approaches, has contributed to explaining the phenomena of delinquency and crime, and the crime of kidnapping children in particular. Also other approaches can be adopted, such as psychological and economic theories (psychoanalytic theory, broken windows theory...).

3. Factors and consequences of child kidnapping crime in Algeria

3.1 The role of sociological factors in the commission of the crime of child kidnapping

The crime of kidnapping in Algeria is one of the sociological issues that should be highlighted. This is because of the transformation of its rates and methods of commission, which has made this crime a threat to social security as well as an obstacle to the proper functioning of social institutions. This requires serious consideration of this organized criminal pattern

Social factors are the sum of circumstances that surround a person throughout of his or her life. They influence his or her behaviour by determining his or her relationship with others as well as their interaction pattern. Therefore, an individual may commit an offence because of the influence of these factors, such as kidnapping, which we are keen in this study to identify the social factors leading to its commission.

3.1.1 Child kidnapping crime and its relationship to disintegration and family

Civilizational progress and the accompanying social change have had some negative manifestations on the cohesion of the family. As a result, many families have become affected by the disintegration that has adversely affected their members, thereby diminishing the role of the family in socialization. With women going out to work, the role of the family has become only for the biological one, and they no longer carry out the duty of adequate education and protection. Besides, cases of violence against the

child, which has led to a lack of passion for love and a spirit of tolerance and compassion among family members.

It should also be noted that, in the crime of kidnapping, the commission of this crime may be the result of the wrong social upbringing of the offender's parents, his/ her way of life, the atmosphere in which he/she grew up, and the nature of the values he carried from the environment in which he/she lived, etc. Moreover, it is well known that the breakdown in the family reflects a lack of care, follow-up and supervision, not to mention the use of different methods of violence and bullying, which makes some individuals unable to adapt to the family and the community, thus showing their tendencies to commit this type of crime.

3.1.2 Violent manifestations as a motivation for the crime of child kidnapping

The widespread aspects of violence among individuals, which can be observed in different forms in our daily lives, make us wonder why this pattern of behaviour is adopted as a way of dealing with each other, especially in childhood, when the child is more dependent on his or her family and has the capacity to receive a social upbringing. Therefore, violence against children is one of the most serious forms of violence within and outside the home, which can lead to the reproduction of violence in the form of violent behaviour, including kidnapping.

It should be highlighted that the great majority of child kidnapping are classified as family kidnapping. According to research and studies:

”Domestic violence and child abuse occur in many homes, and one of the possible reasons why women kidnap their children is as an attempt to flee from violence and be beaten by their husbands, thus expressing their concern for the safety of their children. Women may not see any other option, so they resort to this act”⁽¹⁵⁾

On the other hand, violence is one of the contributing factors to kidnapping. It is an aberrational behaviour reflects the psychological and social imbalance of the perpetrator, especially in the case of young people,

through harmful pornography, prejudice and human dignity, through which the offender exploits the victim's body in a heinous manner, in order to satisfy his wishes and deep animal instincts.

Since a child is physically vulnerable and not allowed to defend himself or herself, it is easy to abuse him or her. Sexual violence by both homosexuals and ordinary people has become a justification and a reason for promoting the phenomenon of abduction. Out of the horror of child sexual abuse, it is not a requirement to be male with a young female, but it does not make a distinction between the two genders. The perpetrator exercises it on both males and females in the worst possible and unexpected ways.

3.1.1 Decreasing social solidarity within the urban fabric and its relationship to kidnapping

The rate of child kidnapping in Algeria is increasing year after year. This has prompted the various security agencies to allocate listening cells. These cells monitor the situation to study the nature of the emerging factors in the methods used by the kidnappers, in terms of the plot, the location and the timing of the kidnapping, especially those linked to social and family psychological reprisals. Besides, they identify the kidnappers in the criminal record. This makes us point from the outset to a striking decline in the latency of collective social solidarity, and academic studies have often found that today's urban social fabric creates for us an expatriate human model that lacks the ingredients of meeting affiliation. This is evidenced by the prevalence of the closed urban model and the primitive style of fear, isolation and weak fabric. This, on the other hand, implies a breakdown in the communicative pattern between the groups forming the social group.

In the same vein, the kidnapper does not need a major disguise to carry out his crime, but it is sufficient to take advantage of the breakdown that is affecting the pattern of community communication, so he contrives his project and carries out his crime by adapting to the nature of the breakdown

3.2 The effects of child kidnapping on the child , the family and society

In this regard, the sociologists of delinquency and crime strive to understand not only the causes and motives of the crime, but also to identify the negative effects it has on the individual and society as a whole. So that they can contribute to the formation of reasonable people, on whom society depends.

Kidnapping is also a serious social disease that has its roots in various aspects of society and has multiple effects on its members. It is one of the types of criminal behaviour whose worsening rates in Algerian society has had a harmful impact on many people, including children in particular, as well as on the growth and stability of society as a whole.

3.2.1 Effects of kidnapping on children

a. Trauma and its implications on the child's behaviour

The child's vulnerability to kidnapping has significant effects on his or her psyche and may remain a life-long nightmare. As a result, the child may develop a variety of chronic, difficult-to-treat mental illnesses as well as become withdrawn and socially isolated out of fear of the negative perceptions others may have of him or her in the community. Moreover, the victim's girl may also abort her foetus, which endangers her life, or she may commit suicide in some cases in order to rid herself of the shame that has been inflicted on her and her family, since she has the most precious chastity and purity in life, especially in conservative societies.

Among the psychological effects on the child victim are symptoms associated with functional reactions to stress, the most important of which include stupidity, sleep disorders, digestion, feelings of shame, guilt and self-pleasure. The young victim might think that he or she possesses a trait that caused the perpetrator to pick him or her, which would cause them to doubt themselves and experience constant stress and anxiety. This behaviour leads to rebellion, aggressiveness, inferiority complex, and frustration.

Furthermore ,Studies carried out on children rescued by the authorities have also shown that they suffer from severe physical and sexual trauma, harmful health effects, including mental illness and drug abuse, sexually

transmitted diseases such as HIV, pregnancy and abortion-related complications.⁽¹⁶⁾

Besides, victims who have been kidnapped for a relatively short period may experience psychological problems such as anxiety attacks or post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as physical, mental or a combination of both symptoms that contribute to psychological imbalance. However, a long-term kidnapping may lead to a change in the victim's personality to the extent that friends and families cannot identify him or her.

The psychological consequences of kidnapping on children are not limited to the psychological aspect, but rather to social influences that are less obvious than previous ones. They may include a child's failure to form healthy friendships or brotherly and lovely bonds with others, because of the deterioration of their trust in others, and the tendency to use violence and aggression to solve their problems.

b. Social stigma and its impact on children's communication

Social stigma has both internal and external impacts on the life of a child who is the victim of a kidnapping crime. The latter feels ashamed and blames himself for things he may not have committed and is overshadowed by a sense of despair, fear and loneliness. He may also be unable to make friends and remain in isolation.

For instance, the stigma of "this kidnapped child" reflects its effects on the child, which may prevent him from being creative and showing his skills, obliterate his personality, turn him a person who lacks self-confidence, and cause others to view him as inferior, causing him many life-long disorders. According to Leymann, the victim's social fate is already determined from the moment of the crime, and the focus begins to be on what may result in a violation of his rights or being subjected to contempt, stigmatization or excessive protection.

In addition, children face problems adapting to the outside environment. Emotional deprivation, neglect and rejection, such acts can contribute to weakening the process of social adjustment and failure to integrate and unite with the values, norms and attitudes recognized by society.

3.2.2 The reflection of the growing crime of child kidnapping on family environment

The effects of kidnapping are not limited to the kidnapped child and the social, psychological and economic conditions surrounding him or her and his or her family, but extend to many individual life activities

a. Psychological and social pressure on parents

In the past two decades, kidnapping has grown to be a widely discussed social issue. Media portrayals of actual kidnappings are scary to practically all parents because they are so prevalent. Often, this fear among parents is disproportionate to the actual danger. Most people believe that kidnapping children is one of the most serious forms of criminal abuse, but little is known about how the victim's parents cope with their grief after their child is kidnapped. According to research, psychological and emotional effects can cause severe criminal harm, particularly when the victim's personality is violated or their sense of control is taken away.

It is known that social interaction within society can be positive or negative. The positive side leads to a successful life, while the negative side can lead to a life of frustration, and tendency to kidnap. Additionally it can create a level of mistrust among people in the manner they interact with each other. According to studies, kidnappers usually approach friends, neighbours, co-workers, etc., to obtain relevant information that can be used to kidnap victims. In such a situation, some people may wish to stop interacting freely and openly with others inside and outside the family due to fear of being kidnapped; apart from that, the extension of traditional hospitality to strangers, etc.⁽¹⁷⁾

b. Financial costs in case of ransom demand

The authors of the study point out that ransom, as one of the contributing factors to the spread of kidnapping at the international and national levels, is the easiest, most profitable, safest and least dangerous way to earn money, unlike other crimes. By committing one kidnapping, the perpetrator can obtain a large sum of money, equivalent to committing a large number of thefts through which he receives a similar sum, thus encouraging criminals to commit multiple kidnapping offences.

In the same context, some families are experiencing psychological stress because of the kidnapping of one of their members, especially

children. The perpetrator attempts to impose a voluntary response on the family of the kidnapper. If the family does not respond to threats and pay the ransom, the kidnapper may kill or sexually abuse the victim. "One study indicates that "64% of the abduction victims are released with the ransom, 10% die, 06% are rescued and the remaining 20% escape from the kidnappers."⁽¹⁸⁾

3.2.3 kidnapping crime and threats to community security

a. Social solidarity with the families of victims of child kidnapping

Solidarity in society is an essential foundation for the cohesion and balance of the latter, in which the spirit of the community prevails and all things that call for controversy, segregation and violence are discarded. This is what Emile Durkheim referred to in his book *Division of Labour* (1893), in which he analyzed social solidarity in terms of its causes and effects. He divided solidarity into two parts, one mechanical and the other organic. He also considered the individual an integral part of society, thus being able to live only with others, and hence social solidarity is created.

Through a deep reading of the types and purposes of kidnapping, we can say that it is contrary to collective feeling, i.e., an expression of the lack of social solidarity of the individual. This has been explained by "Durkheim" as the individual's lack of values, standards, and social norms necessary for the formulation and protection of the group within their conduct and behaviour, which have a logic of action to which they are bound by special standards hidden within certain cultural contexts in the midst of social reality. It is emphasized that criminal acts such as the kidnapping of children in a society can only be eliminated if this necessary condition is met, and that the emotions they cause are sufficiently powerful in the sense of each member of society, so that they can curb the emotions that are countered.

b. Parental monitoring and its implications for the exercise of freedoms

The family is the building block of human society, in which the child exercises his or her first social relations. The family has responsibilities in the development of the child's different types of behaviour, especially in the formation of his or her personality at an important stage in their life, which

is the stage of childhood, which is the essence of building the child's personality and defining its features.

The family has an important role to play in the building and stability of society, since it has an impact on the upbringing, guidance, care and behaviour of children in the light of what is known as the social chain. In doing so, the family seeks to play its role and make it operational by addressing seriously and firmly the various problems that may affect its children.

There is no doubt that Algerian families, despite their children have not been kidnapped, live with constant concern when their children go to school and have been forced to accompany them for fear of any harm, such as kidnapping, which has been analyzed and discussed in the various media

4. Findings and recommendations

- The study's statistics show that the crime of child kidnapping has increased in scale and has expanded in places (East, West, North and Southern Algeria). Additionally, it is currently spreading to the point that the situation is of grave concern to children, their families and society as a whole

- The effects of kidnapping confirm all the meanings of criminality and delinquency in this crime because of the physical and psychological damage inflicted on the child victim, who may be prevented from living a normal life that could harm his or her future, as well as his or her sense of inferiority because of feelings of disability and fear.

- The great suffering of the families of the victims in Algeria, such as physical suffering in its various manifestations, psychological suffering in the shape of desire to revenge, the extreme hate of the kidnappers and the loss of confidence in the community. Besides, the continued existence of this circumstance has led to social and psychological problems that impede post-kidnapping social life.

- Appreciating the effectiveness of the security media to ensure vulnerable groups such as children from becoming victims of the kidnapping. In addition restoring the Children's Protection Act in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, which includes the establishment

of a national and local children's delegate who works to prevent and vigilance and defends children at the level of neighborhoods and residential communities.

- Attention to the psychological, social and economic aspects, the promotion of human rights and the establishment of freedoms of all kinds would advance the humankind's financial and civilized status. Additionally, it would solve many of the problems facing the State and society and protect the individual and the community from all the causes that encourage him or her to commit the crime or make him or her vulnerable to it.

Conclusion

Crime and delinquency are universal issues that affect every human community. The act of kidnapping children is one of many crimes and perversions that Algerian society, like all communities, is witness too. Particularly over the past few decades, it has witnessed a distinct shift in the hierarchy of values, norms, and society goals as well as a noticeable deterioration in the functions of both its official and unofficial regulatory institutions.

It can be said that the crime of child kidnapping is an act of an abnormal person and a complex act that overlaps factors and motives. Moreover, the history of the crime leads us believe in the multiple thrusts of factors and motives in its interpretation. It has no single factor or motivation inherent in its occurrence. It is established that there are combined motives that contribute to the demand for the commission of the crime, which has been achieved by the strong working connection between all the variables examined. It is also evident that the latter has implications for children, the family and society, which necessitates the development of preventive strategies to reduce them. Although it is difficult to study both in theory and in the field, in particular the process of moving the subject from a social to a sociological context. The cumulative scientific knowledge in this area, particularly those related to the sociological, psychological, legal and security aspects.

Bibliography List

- ¹ Nakib Huda Talib, "**Crimes of Abduction in Iraqi Law**". International Journal of Humanitarian and Social Sciences, No.21, (2021). p106..
- ² Abo Zaid, Mahmoud, "**Lexicon in criminology, legal sociology and punishment**". Cairo: Dar Gharib fir printing, puplishing and disttribution. 2003, p 574.
- ³ Hariz Abdelnasser, **Political Terrorism: An Analytical Study**. Madbouly Library.1996, p108
- ⁴ Bello Ibrahim & Mukhtar Jamilu Ibrahim. "**An Analysis of the Causes and Consequences of Kidnapping in Nigeria**". African Researchers and Reviewers , vol.11,No. 04, (2017). P136.
- ⁵ Nabih Nasrin Abd al-Hamid. "**Impossible Crime**", (ed,first edition.). Alexandria: Al-Wafa 'a House for Printing and Publishing. 2008.p21.
- ⁶ Ekek Antar. **Abduction**. Algeria: Al-Huda Printing, Publishing and Distribution House, 2013, pp187-188
- ⁷ Ibid, p 18.
- ⁸ Gupta Kshitiz & Sumeet, Gupta, "**Durkheim's Theory of Anomie and the American Election**", Journal of Global Economy, vol. 14, no. 01, (2018) , p 30.
- ⁹ Yan Rodié-Talbère, "**Dictionnaire de Sociologie**", (3^{ne} ed.). Paris: Hatier, 2008, p37.
- ¹⁰ Murphy. Daniel & Matthe. Robinson. "**The Maximizer: clarifying Merton's theories of anomie and strain** ". Theoretical Criminology,vol. 12, no.04 (2008). pp7-8.
- ¹¹ Talat Ibrahim Lotfi. "**Studies in Criminal Sociology**". Cairo: Gharib House for Printing, Publishing and Distribution, 2009, p57.
- ¹² Al-Samri Adly & all. "**Sociology of Crime and Deviance**", (éd. 1st Edition). Oman: Al-Masirah House for Publishing, Distribution, and Printing. 2010, p39.
- ¹³ Majdi Ahmed Mohammed, "**Youth Crisis and its Problems between Reality and Ambition Contemporary Psychological Vision**".

Alexandria: Dar al-Marefa University Publishing and Distribution. 2013, p202.

- ¹⁴ Qasimi Nasser & all. **Contemporary Social Issues**. (ed,first edition). Berlin: Arab Democratic Center for Strategic, Political and Economic Studies, Germany - Berlin. 2022, p11.
- ¹⁵ Blumenstein Lindsey. "**Intimate Partner Kidnapping: An Exploratory Analysis (Doctor)**". the Department of Sociology, Orlando, Florida: University of Central Florida. 2013.p17.
- ¹⁶ Alejandra Escandon Villalobos. "**Child victim of human trafficking: an ecological overview in Chile**". the Faculty of the Graduate School, Cornell University, 2014. p 08
- ¹⁷ Dare Omonijoet & all. "**Examining the Social Problem of Kidnapping as a Reaction Against Injustice in Nigeria**". Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, Vol. 08, No.02 (2019). p181.
- ¹⁸ Chuqiand, Cai. "**Kidnapping and Ransom Insurance Product Development. Mathematics**", the Faculty of the Worcester Polytechnic, Institute in partial fulfillment.2015, pp5-6.