



Car Hijacking in South Africa. Living in Perpetual Fear

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Abstract

South Africa is reportedly to be one of the most unequal countries in the world. Thirty-one years after the demise of brutal and repressive apartheid minority rule. The black majority South Africans undeniably continue to live in poverty, hunger and disease. With over 33% reported youth unemployment, housing crisis, political uncertainty due to the African National congress dwindling support. A group of determined criminal gangs have emerged causing mayhem and, in some instances, undocumented foreigners and South African commits violent crimes like Cash in Transit Heist, car hijacking, murder, house breaking, illegal mining, drug dealing, to mention but a few of these serious violent crimes. This research has three aims, first, to look at the South Africa social and economic contexts. Second, to look at the extent of car hijacking crime making South Africans to live in constant fear and anxiety, Third the impact of illegal migrants who enter South Africa and takes advantages of her porous borders making it impossible to fight serious crime. South Africa is the richest country and most developed country in the African continent. It belongs to G20, a founding member of Brics, member of SADC, AU and the UN. This gives South Africa a global leverage and recognition in terms of economic affairs. South Africa is endowed with rich natural resources, but the proceeds of her wealth is not even distributed amongst her citizens. It defies logic when the vast amount of South Africa's wealth is evaluated but majority of the citizens do not have access to it. If car hijackers are allowed to continue with violent crimes. South Africa will slide into economic disaster like most African countries where corruption and violent is institutionalized and have gone unabated over the years. The author calls for South Africa to shut its porous borders as most developed countries of the world (UK, USA, France, Canada, Australia, China are currently doing so providing a clear national immigration rule. Law enforcement agencies must be well resourced with the latest crime fighting equipment's to take on car hijackers head on. Car hijackers harm the economy. South Africa is a global tourist destination, nobody wants to travel to countries where their lives and property are not saved due to criminal elements terrorizing people and dispossessing them of their cars, property or valuable assets.

Keywords: *Car Hijackers; Police; Violent Crimes; Cars; Road; Victims; South Africa*

1. Introduction

Vehicle hijacking forms one of the sub-categories of armed robbery and does not constitute a different crime from armed robbery. Perpetrators would consequently be charged with “robbery with aggravating circumstances” in court, and not with “vehicle hijacking”. Robbery with aggravating circumstances can be defined as the unlawful, intentional and violent removal and appropriation of movable corporeal property belonging to another. The victim’s resistance must be overcome and the property obtained using violence against the victim’s person. If the victim is first injured by the perpetrator and then dispossessed of a property while being physically incapacitated, armed robbery is likewise committed. However, the victim is not necessarily physically incapacitated. In the absence of actual physical violence, a threat to commit violence against the victim is sufficient. The threat of violence may be of an express or implied nature. Vehicle hijacking neatly fits the above definition, with the property involved being specifically a motor vehicle of some kind [1].

- Demographics of South Africa (Population size, focusing on natural wealth, unemployment, government,
- Revenue from tourism

There is no gain saying that it is a fact that South African economy is partly determined by the income derived from tourism. The latest international arrivals from Statistics South Africa confirms that South Africa tourism sectors continue to grow at exponential resilience. With total arrivals of 8.92 million in 2024, marking an impressive 5.1% increase compared to 2023. Although the sector has yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels (2019), it now contributes to 8.8% to GDP and supports 1.68 million jobs, according to world Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimates. This positive momentum underscores the resilience of the sector, despite global economic pressures [2].

Problem Statement

Car hijackers do not just go out to commit crimes. The demand dictates the type of cars they are going to supply. Car hijackers do not operate in isolation but in syndicates. In some instances, a list of cars is given by their handlers. Buyers are readily available that have sustained car hijacking and making it very lucrative criminal business over the years. The latest SAPS crime stats for the first quarter of the 2024/2025 period revealed that 5,438 vehicles were hijacked in South Africa between April and June 2024, averaging out to 60 incidents every single day. In another report provided by the South African Police Services (SAPS) crime statistics for the fourth quarter of 2023/24 and the first quarter of 2024/25, approximately 65 vehicles are hijacked daily. Eastern Cape and Western Cape provinces have seen the most increase in hijacking, with sedans, hatchbacks and coupes being the most hijacked vehicles. From these two reports one can safely argue that car hijacking is very lucrative crime in South Africa.

Car hijackings remain a major problem and safety concern in South Africa. As new crime stats reveal that Ivory Park, a bustling suburb in Midrand, Gauteng, saw the highest number of hijackings in early 2025. According to the South African Police Service (SAPS) quarterly crime data for January to March 2025, Ivory Park recorded 67 carjackings, making it the top suburb for these crimes. That’s nearly one car stolen per day in this area alone. With a population of over 182,000, Ivory Park is part of the Johannesburg Metropolitan area and borders Tembisa. It’s no stranger to crime challenges, but these new figures place it at the heart of a growing carjacking crisis.

Other hard-hit areas include:

- **Mamelodi East** in Gauteng – 65 hijackings
- **Umlazi** in KwaZulu-Natal – 64 hijackings
- **Jabulani** in Johannesburg – a 119% surge from 26 to 57 hijackings year-on-year

The demographics of these arrears is that they are occupied predominately by members of poor black African communities. The author argues that this cannot be accident of history that same deprived African black communities during apartheid era are the same areas where the violent high crime rates of car hijackings are reported.

These suburbs show just how concentrated hijackings are in urban centers, especially in Gauteng, which accounted for more than half (2,488) of all carjackings nationwide in early 2025. The auto is of the opinion that carjackings still remained underreported. The official SAPS numbers only tell part of the story. Data from the Victims of Crime Survey (VoC) paints a broader picture, showing that many incidents go unreported. South Africa continues to face a rise in violent crimes, with carjackings and truck hijackings posing a significant threat to motorists. Between October and December 2024, 4,807 carjackings were reported, averaging over 53 incidents daily. Additionally, 413 truck hijackings occurred. These alarming statistics underscore the importance of taking proactive measures to reduce risk and enhance personal safety [3].

2. *Methodology*

This study is qualitative research. The author carried out an extensive literature review related to the topic of car hijacking. Themes and concepts related to the title were explored seeking out emergent themes following a thematic analysis approach. Case studies were introduced by the author to corroborate the harmful effects of car hijacking on citizens, in doing so substantiates the authors standpoint to the car hijacking problem confronting all citizens[13].

3. *Results and Discussions*

Car hijacking is driven by demand, but criminals target popular car brands and models that can be sold quickly, stripped for parts or smuggled into neighbouring countries. It's no surprise then that the most popular car models sold are also often the most hijacked cars. However, it must be noted that any car can become a target at any given point in time and criminal trends change as the market demand changes. The car brands and models highlighted below are known targets for hijackers and are commonly regarded to being at higher risk of theft. The author provided a list of the most hijacked cars in South Africa as follows:

A. Toyota

Toyota cars are a popular hijacking target because the Japanese firm is South Africa's best-selling car brand and criminals have a significant amount of "stock" to target, either for resale, parts or cross-border smuggling. Popular known cars targeted by hijackers include the Toyota Hilux, Toyota Fortuner, Toyota Corolla, Toyota Etios, Toyota Land Cruiser and Prado, Toyota RAV4 and more recently, the Toyota Corolla Cross.

B. Ford Ranger

The Ford Ranger is South Africa's best-selling double-cab bakkie and it's unsurprisingly a high-value target for hijackers and car thieves. Interestingly, many hijacked 4x4 vehicles are destined for neighbouring countries such as Eswatini and Mozambique where demand for these types of vehicles is high. In 2024, security company, Fidelity Services Group, confirmed that 30% of stolen and/or hijacked cars are smuggled into neighbouring countries

C. Volkswagen

Volkswagen is another popular car brand targeted by car thieves and the firm's locally-produced Polo hatchback ranks high on the hit list. Not only has the Polo enjoyed strong monthly sales in South Africa but demand for the model in the used car market is also strong, making it a viable hijacking target

D. Other cars

Perhaps more surprisingly, the now-discontinued Nissan NP200 bakkie and old Nissan Almera are also often targeted. The Hyundai i20 hatchback and the BMW 3 Series, although the latter is not as popular as it once was, is also targeted by thieves. In recent years, the staggering success of new Chinese car brands in South Africa has led to a growing demand for parts which has put popular models such as the Haval H6, Haval Jolion and Chery Tiggo 4, 7 and 8 becoming popular targets too [4].

Modus operandi of car hijackers

It's also important to note that hijackers operate in groups of two to five, where they sometimes impersonate police or traffic officers, and can often be seen driving big luxury vehicles. According to Auto Trader, the colour of your vehicle does not affect the likelihood of it being stolen. White cars are easy to be at the forefront of the statistics since they account for nearly half of all vehicles sold in South Africa. Silver is the second-most popular colour. Hijackers are also becoming increasingly desperate to fulfil their supply and demand obligations, so they are willing to take more significant risks to get the vehicles they want [5].

The analysis indicated that hijackings occur every day of the week, reaching a high on Fridays, due to motorists being more relaxed, a higher volume of vehicles on the road and traffic increasing earlier on a Friday. Weekends show a lower hijacking rate due to fewer vehicles on the road and motorists also travel at irregular times. In the majority of vehicle hijacking incidents reported, firearms were used to commit crime. Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces have reportedly seen as the highest incidence of vehicle hijacking. It is not clear as to whether the high number of car hijackings in these two provinces is due to the high population. The analysis indicates that the firearms most used during car hijacks are pistols and revolvers. A very small percentage of vehicle hijacks are committed using knives, hands, high calibre guns and shotguns. According to years of research conducted by arrive alive into the modus operandi of car hijackers in South Africa. They provided us with the following useful and informative insight as follows:

- Most hijackings take place in the driveways of residential areas. These hijackers prefer areas with accessible escape routes.
- Hijackings take place while stationed at any traffic sign or intersection.
- Hijackings take place while stationed next to the road, e.g. answering a cell phone.
- Hijackings also occur at parking areas, or you may be followed leaving the filling station with the objective to hijack your vehicle where it is quiet.
- The hijackers sometimes use a vehicle to force the victim off the road.
- Hijackings take place at schools when dropping off / picking up children.
- Hijackings take place while the vehicle is idling when off-loading / loading passengers.
- Hijackings take place when advertising your vehicle for sale (Test drive method).
- Bogus Police or Traffic Officers also conduct hijackings (Blue light scenario).

Hijackers tend to favour locations where vehicles are either moving slowly or are stopped altogether, often targeting residential driveways and busy intersections. Other typical hotspots include places where drivers pause to answer phone calls, filling stations, parking lots, and areas designated for passenger pick-up or drop-off

Car Hijacking hot spots

Key trouble spots across various provinces have been identified, with specific areas in Gauteng, the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Eastern Cape emerging as high-risk zones.

- **Gauteng hotspots:** Eldorado Park, Ivory Park, Loate, Moroka, and Orange Farms.
- **Western Cape hotspots:** Philippi East, Harare, Nyanga, Parow, and most parts of town.
- **KwaZulu-Natal hotspots:** Umlazi, Mariannhill, Ntuzuma, Inanda, Bhekithemba and Durban on Alpine Road, West Street as well as the corner of Warwick Avenue and Smith Street.
- **Eastern Cape target routes:** The N2 corridor toward Gqeberha.

Causes/motives of car hijackers

- a. The quest for monetary reward, power and status by members of the criminal world.

The author argued that we are living in fast changing world where most of us are judged by our economic status. A poor person is not respected by peers, relatives and community members. Yesufu, 2017 argued that there is no body odour like poverty and there is not fragrance like economic success and sustainability. What a person has money, he /she is deemed as having power, influence and status. They command respect as a result of it. The acquired wealth through criminality is highly respected and treated with some amount of reverence given to the beholder regardless of how that person became rich overnight. Car hijackers want to be seen as been successful and have figured out that the only viable choice to earn respect in most of our communities is to show off their money derived from crime publicly [6].

This flamboyant lifestyle of a career criminal is encapsulated by the amount of money reflected in his/her bank balances, the exotic and flashy cars driven, the mansions occupied and their resolve to any means necessary to becoming rich. The author argues that our human love for material wealth and possession does not make some of us question the sources of one's wealth. Criminals are being glamourized in some of our societies due to their public spending and display of illicit money associated with their physical presence at social gatherings. In some instances, criminals get married to most beautiful women. Women who still date poor men are caricatured, lampooned and ridiculed as the 'born to 'suffer' model in our society where 'blessers' are ubiquitous. The author argues that some notorious criminals can be held responsible for our moral and cultural values to be systematically eroded. As the saying goes, "Money is the root cause of all evil' and those who have money in most cases are always right.

- b. Determination to live a better life

A good number of car hijackers are members of marginalised and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Growing up, many were trapped in the vicious environment of poverty, hunger and disease. Some grew up in families where they could not afford toys as children, necessities of life, raised in families where there was little or nothing to eat, go to bed very hungry, and could not afford school fees. As the saying goes, a hungry man is an angry man'. The psychological scars endured have affected the psyche of car hijackers whilst raising children who had nothing. The fear of not allowing the history of family poverty made them go into violent crimes. The author argues that violently stealing from affluent and rich citizens becomes a retaliatory exercise for some of them. This is evidenced by the type of luxury car hijackers who are very interested in [7],[8], [9].

Why do criminals target specific vehicles?

Not all cars are equal in the eyes of hijackers. Criminal syndicates and opportunistic thieves tend to go after models that offer one or more of the following:

- **High resale value** or parts demand on the black market
- **Ease of access**, especially older models lacking modern security systems
- **Popularity on South African roads**, which makes resale or part-stripping easier
- **Reliability and low-profile** features that make them suitable for further criminal use

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation. Apartheid brutalized all – its victims, as well as its beneficiaries. Through the migrant labour system and homelands, apartheid sowed the seed for the breakdown of the institution of the family. The breakdown of both family and societal moral values manifests itself in many ways and in all sections of our society, the rich and poor, urban and rural, black and white, young and old. Bread winners were forced to work far from their homes. Disciplined was forgone for economic survival. Children and youths were left without role models, or rule enforcers, youths rebelling perception of what is lawful and unlawful became very skewed as a result of absent fathers. The devastating consequences of capitalism are noteworthy to mention here. The immorality of capitalism and the impact of it on families is also noted and cannot be trivialized.

The author explained the concept of the ‘Dark Side of the Family’ to mean all activities in the family are not always happy, blissful and rosy as expressed in works of some previous literature and as portrayed in the media. There are several forms of abuse emotionally, economically and physically going on with the family context that is kept secret from the outside world. Domestic violence verbal abuses, physical confrontations, divorces, rape, murder, suicide. Collectively, this related terminology resonates in all the abuses listed above into one heading ‘the dark side of the family’ The author surmises that it does not necessarily follow that children raised in violent family environment will turn us to become violent criminals involved in car hijacking. Some car hijackers were not born into violent homes. What the author is saying here is that a child who grows up in a violent home may be influenced by the level of violence they were socialized into [10].

The South African Police Service (SAPS) crime statistics report on Car hijacking.

It is widely reported in cases studies of car hijacking where vehicles were stolen and hijacked were intercepted in SA borders. In most cases, most the arrested suspects are foreigners from neighbouring countries who have illegally entered South Africa to scout for vehicles they can take back home. The intention of coming to South Africa to commit hijacking is both premeditated, organized and executed with element of precision.

The author recommends that an independent body be set up to record and provide crime statistics in South Africa. The current arrangement where South Africa Police Services is the sole provider of official crime rates should become a thing of the past. Better still the Statsa department should be given the task to do so. Crime statistics provided by the SAPS are prone to both conscious and unconscious bias. For these reasons, the author would prefer an independent body constituted to provide South Africa with reliable crime statistics. The SAPS over the years have not made citizens trust and have confidence. Institutionalised corruption is reported often not only of low-ranking officers but senior managers who are caught up in the shameful web of corruption and tender scandals. The author argues that SAPS needs to clean up its house first before we can rely on the crime statistics, they provide us. South Africans confidence is at all time low now due to corruption at the very top of the SAPS. In July 2025, during

public media briefing the SAPS Kwa Zulu Natal Police Commissioner General N Mkwana provided us with a damning insight into the dark and corruptive world of the police in South Africa.

Prompt Notification to the South African Police Service (SAPS)

It is a legal requirement to report a vehicle theft or hijacking promptly to the nearest South African Police Service (SAPS) police station. This action is crucial as it ensures the vehicle's details are immediately flagged onto the national stolen vehicle database. For crime emergencies, the number 10111 is available 24 hours a day. Anonymous crime reports can also be made by calling 08600 10111. If any injuries are sustained by the individual or passengers, the National Medical Emergency Number 10177 should be called for medical assistance. Other emergency numbers include 112 (for any network) or 147 (Vodacom only). If there is a suspicion of being followed, it is advisable to drive directly to the nearest police station or a busy public area instead of returning home. When reporting to the police, having specific vehicle details readily available is paramount. This includes the make, model, year, colour, registration number, and the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Noting, any unique identifiable features, such as specific dents or distinctive wheel rims, can also be helpful. The individual's ID or passport number will be required, and it is advisable to bring a photocopy of the ID to the police station for certification, as insurers will likely require this. A detailed description of the incident, including the time, location, and any observed details about the perpetrators (their clothing, accent, direction of flight), should be provided. Preparing these details in writing before arriving at the police station can significantly enhance accuracy and efficiency [11].

Legal definition of related concepts of Car hijacking

While South African law doesn't have a specific statute dedicated solely to "vehicle hijacking" or "carjacking," the act is typically prosecuted under a combination of existing laws, primarily robbery and potentially other offenses depending on the specific circumstances. Essentially, vehicle hijacking is considered a form of aggravated robbery where the object being robbed is a motor vehicle. The "aggravated" aspect comes from the threat or use of violence, intimidation, or the presence of dangerous weapons. The definition of robbery is defined as the unlawful and intentional appropriation of movable, corporeal property belonging to another, from the possession of another, by the use of violence or threats of violence. The legal basis of this definition is derived from common law principles as interpreted and applied by South African courts. While there's no single statutory definition, the elements are consistently recognized [12].

Aggravating factors relating to car hijacking present which are commonly present in hijackings, often lead to prosecution under more serious charges or heavier sentences. Some of these are:

- The use of a dangerous weapon (firearm, knife, etc.). This is perhaps the most common aggravating factor in hijackings.
- Infliction of grievous bodily harm: If the victim is injured during the hijacking, it will significantly increase severity.
- Threat of violence: Even if no physical harm is inflicted, the explicit threat of violence is an aggravating factor.
- Commission of the crime by a group: If the hijacking is carried out by multiple perpetrators, it escalates seriousness.

Relevant Legislation

The Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977: This act governs the procedures for arresting, prosecuting, and sentencing individuals accused of crimes, including robbery. It lays out the rules for evidence, trial procedures, and sentencing guidelines.

Minimum Sentences Act (Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997): This act prescribes minimum sentences for certain offenses, including robbery with aggravating circumstances. A first offender convicted of robbery with aggravating circumstances (like using a firearm during a hijacking) typically faces a minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment. The court can deviate from this minimum sentence if there are substantial and compelling circumstances justifying a lesser sentence.

Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000: If a firearm is used during the hijacking, the accused may also face charges under this act for unlawful possession of a firearm or ammunition, in addition to robbery charges.

- Zero tolerance for car hijackers

4. Methodology

Methodology is the systematic and theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study. In this study, the researcher reviewed existing literatures and critically evaluated the labelling theory of crime and deviance and relates it to the research topic of car hijacking. The critical theoretical analysis and process used in the body of a research method design informs the reader of the research problem under investigation. The researcher relied on existing literature, case reviews, and several secondary data. The researcher subjected some of the secondary data information due to his ontological interpretations and standpoint (Thorne, 1994). The researcher is also aware of the limitations associated with overreliance on secondary sources: But first explained the labelling theory informing this research.

Labelling theory

Labeling theory is an approach in the sociology of deviance that focuses on the ways in which the agents of social control attach stigmatizing stereotypes to particular groups, and the ways in which the stigmatized change their behavior once labeled. Labeling theory is associated with the work of Becker and is a reaction to sociological theories, which examine only the characteristics of the deviants rather than the agencies that controlled them. Howard Becker's (1963) idea is that deviance is a consequence of external judgments, or labels, that modify the individual's self-concept and change the way others respond to the labeled person [16], [17]

- The central feature of labeling theory is the self-fulfilling prophecy, in which the label corresponds to the label in terms of delinquent behavior.
- It has been criticized for ignoring the capacity of the individual to resist labeling and assuming that it is an automatic process.
- Labeling theory recognizes that labels will vary depending on the culture, time period, and situation. [18]. [19].

The author argues that car hijackers are deviants who do not conform to the norms or rules of society, and because they are labelled as such. Car hijackers behave according to the expectations of society. They are aware that deviant's labels have been attached to them and that such labeling justifies their nefarious and law breaking activities.

Crime prevention strategies

The author due to his several years of law enforcement experience in the United Kingdom and South Africa recommends the following safety measures to considered and taken seriously by all motorists. They are as follows:

- Have your key ready, but not visible.
- Inspect the outside and inside of the vehicle before unlocking it. Check underneath your vehicle for items placed under the wheels. Also, make sure nobody is hiding on the passenger side before you enter your vehicle.
- Security checks before you pull out of your drive check both sides and frequently use your rear-view mirrors to check you are not followed. If any car is following you suspiciously. You may consider taking the number plate registration or driving into any nearby place of safety (Police station).
- Know your destination and directions to it and be alert should you get lost.
- Always drive with your windows closed and doors locked.
- Make a mental note of any Police Stations in the vicinity.
- When stopping behind another vehicle, leave half a vehicle length in front of your vehicle to make an emergency escape if necessary.
- When dropping off a passenger, make sure they are safely in their own vehicle before departing.
- Avoid driving through high crime or unfamiliar areas.
- Avoid driving late at night / early hours of the morning when the roads are quiet.
- Drive in the centre lane away from pedestrians where possible.
- If possible, never drive alone.
- Change your daily driving in and out of your house or work road routine.
- NEVER, EVER pick up hitchhikers or strangers.
- Do not stop to give help to any distress man or woman screaming for help and involved in roadside fight day or night. Your life matters.
- Do not stop to remove debris or tyres from what you see on the road.
- Be very vigilant at traffic stops. Ensure that all your doors are locked at traffic stops.

Parking of vehicle

- When parking your vehicle in a parking area / at a shopping mall, make sure your valuables are already placed in the boot. This should not be performed in full view of the public.
- Lock your vehicle and make sure the doors have locked by listening/checking the door handle, as perpetrators could have jammed your remote signal. Their objective is to steal from the vehicle once you have walked away.
- Perpetrators may also jam your remote signal in this scenario, whereby they walk past your vehicle and open the boot to take your belongings. If your car is malfunctioning or refuses to lock your car, someone may be using a jamming device to prevent you from locking up your car. Call the police. Do not leave your car unlocked then go shopping.

Other scenarios

- If approached by a stranger while in your vehicle, drive off if possible or use your hooter to attract attention.
- Lock your doors, close your windows and do not have bags or briefcases visible in the vehicle. Use the boot for this. Cell phones should also not be visible.
- There are times and days that these items are visible in the vehicle. It is recommended to have smash & grab film fitted to your vehicle. If you have left your stopping distance you may be able to escape.
- Be constantly on the lookout for suspicious-looking characters or vehicles and do not hesitate to report them to SAPS.
- Always be on the alert for potential danger and be on the lookout for possible escape routes and safe refuge along the way.
- When approaching a red traffic light at night, slow down so that you only reach it when it turns green.

- Do not take anything from people standing at traffic lights or places where they gather (job seekers on gathering points). Perpetrators are usually standing among these people.
- Make sure you are not followed. If you suspect you are being followed, drive to the nearest Police Station or any busy public area.
- If possible, avoid driving in the dark. Hijackers may stage a minor accident, for e.g. If your vehicle is bumped from behind and you do not feel comfortable with the individual involved in the situation, indicate he/she must follow you and drive to the nearest Police Station or any busy public area for help.
- Never open your vehicle window or door for any stranger. If a suspicious person is near your unoccupied vehicle, do not approach the vehicle. Walk to the nearest public area and ask for assistance.
- If you encounter obstacles on the road, e.g. rocks, and tyres, do not get out of your vehicle to remove them. Reverse and drive away in the opposite direction.
- Do not stop eating or rest on deserted roads.
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended at a filling station.
- Cell phones should be carried on the body. Perpetrators will not allow you to remove your cell phone and valuables from the vehicle during an attack.

Dealing and managing threats and dangers

The author argues that all incidents are not always the same. Each incident should be dealt with according to prevailing circumstances. First, the driver of the vehicle or victim must assess the situation and assess the risk to their lives. Other safety concerns or strategies are as follows:

- Do not lose your temper, threaten or challenge the hijacker.
- DO EXACTLY AS TOLD BY THE HIJACKERS!
- Do not resist, especially if the hijacker has a weapon. Surrender your vehicle and move away. Try to put as much distance between yourself and the hijacker(s) as speedily as possible.
- Do not reach for your purse or valuables. Leave everything in the vehicle.
- Always try to remain calm and do not show signs of aggression.
- Be compliant with all demands set by the perpetrator.
- Do not make eye contact with the hijacker. He may perceive this behaviour as a threat and retaliate aggressively.
- Keep your hands still and visible to the hijacker, to give him assurance of your passive content.
- Do not speak too fast (if you are able to talk) and do not make sudden movements.
- Gather as much information as possible without posing a threat.
 - How many people?
 - How many firearms and descriptions are thereof?
 - What were the perpetrators wearing (clothing)?
 - To which direction did they drive off?
 - Take note of the language they use (the accent).
- First phone the SA Police Service on 10111. They will dispatch the medical services if needed. [14], [15].

Future Directions

The author recommends the following strategies to deal with car hijacking:

- Adopt Intelligence led policing as the foundational and rational basis for crime fighting.
- Collaboration with neighboring countries and extradition treaties
- Technology (Vehicle Plate recognition, tracking,

- Jail terms and harsher sentences
- Increased budget for law enforcement equipment and resources to fight car hijacking related crimes

Conclusion

At the end of the day staying alert is probably the most important tip. Too often we are distracted, which makes us vulnerable to criminal activity. If you find yourself in a hijacking situation, do not resist and don't attempt to fight back. Your life is worth more than any car! The quest for conquering the constant fear to drive our cars on the roads in South Africa is a legitimate one. It calls for concerted and collaborative efforts between citizens and law enforcement officers. Motorists must be more vigilant whilst driving on the road and take precautionary measures to safeguard themselves. A zero-tolerance approach to fighting the crime of car hijackers is needed in South Africa. It is difficult to find tourists that would like to travel to countries abroad that are insecure. We cannot afford to let our tourism industry be affected by car hijacking menace.

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Conflict of interest

The author has no conflict of interest in relation to this article.

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Dedication

I dedicate this article to my family: Mrs Melbourne Kweyama-Yesufu (wife), Earl Shaka Yesufu (son), Chelsy Fezile Yesufu (Daughter), Brooklyn Diana Yesufu (Daughter). I am for ever grateful to God for blessing me with such a wonderful and supportive family. The mission to make our society, country and the world a better place has no ending. Let our today always tell our tommorow story.

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