

AVOID ATTACKS WHEN PARKED

No 15 in a Series of Security Tips

GRIFFITHSREID

PROVIDING INTELLIGENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS

STAY ALERT EVEN WHEN PARKED!

Many parents waiting outside schools for their children are in danger of being hijacked.

There were several hijackings of parents at schools in Gauteng in the past few months but hijackings had been reported even in small towns such as Port Edward in KwaZulu-Natal. In several attack parents in cars have been shot and at least two died when shot at close range by thieves.

A community leader said: "It's unthinkable that criminals would even think of hijacking someone outside a school in broad daylight. There are hordes of people and cars. But, the criminals think of it and do it. Statistics show that hijackers target women, but everyone must be careful when they're waiting outside a school."

You're an easy target when you're sitting in your car with the windows down, listening to the radio while you wait. Women also have a tendency to sit in their cars and make phone calls or scratch in their handbags after work or after a shopping trip. That raised important alerts as police and security experts warned that people relaxing in cars outside shops and in parking lots had been targeted repeatedly. To sit in a parked car and to be unaware of what's going on around you is very dangerous. That is when people are easy targets because they're not alert. To be wary and attentive is one's best protection against hijackings.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN BEING SORRY TOO LATE!

Another very effective method to prevent attacks involves having anti-smash & grab film and window tinting applied to vehicle windows. The investment has already seen incidents of window smashing and even hijackings dropping drastically. Criminals can't see inside to determine targets and cannot easily break through windows. Apart from that, the interior is protected from harmful ultra violet rays in sunlight and keeps the vehicle cool.

Tips to remember when you are waiting outside a school or shop or in a parking area:

- Park so that you can drive off easily if necessary;
- Be aware of people who walk around your car;
- Don't allow anything to distract you;
- Always keep your car's windows closed and doors locked;
- If you think you are in trouble, draw attention of motorists around you; Blow the hooter!
- Report suspicious vehicles or people to the police;
- If you think you are being followed, do not stop. Drive to the nearest police station; and,
- If you are hijacked, stay calm and do as the hijackers tell you.

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