

KIDNAP BRIEFING

MONTHLY



ISSUE 97 | March 2014

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This is the ninety-seventh issue in a series of kidnap-focused reports prepared by **Control Risks** on behalf of Hiscox. The Monthly Kidnap Briefing is distributed to select clients in order to keep you informed of the trends in kidnapping worldwide and assess the risk of kidnapping to your business.

This issue includes an overview of kidnapping-for-ransom trends worldwide in January and February, a brief on the risks to mine employees in Peru and a focus on business travellers in Africa.

Prepared by **Control Risks**

for
HISCOX

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Latin America



In **Colombia**, Camilo José Molina, a 47-year-old rancher who was kidnapped on 5 December 2013 after leaving his house in Cali department to attend a meeting at his ranch in Ginebra (Valle del Cauca department), was freed by Guala forces, Colombia's anti-kidnapping police, in Jamundí (Valle del Cauca department). The kidnappers demanded a ransom payment of US\$20m in return for the victim's release: it was not clear to whom the demand was made or if a ransom was paid. The victim was found tied up in a cave. One man was arrested at the scene. The ransom demand was considerably higher than the average in Valle del Cauca. Over the past five years, the average ransom demand in the state has been US\$2.8m.

Two oil-sector workers who were kidnapped by armed men on 16 February 2013 in Arauca department were freed on 18 February. The victims were a female engineer at SICIM, a contractor for the company in charge of the Bicentenario pipeline, and her driver. The engineer said the kidnappers had asked her about the pipeline, but did not reveal whether they were part of either the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) or the National Liberation Army (ELN) leftist guerrilla groups operating in the region. Built by Colombia's Ecopetrol, the US\$4.2bn Bicentenario pipeline is due to start operations in late 2015. The ELN has been implicated in several other kidnaps and attacks on construction crews associated with the 143-mile (230km) first phase of the pipeline. Our kidnapping risk rating for Arauca department, where the kidnap occurred, is HIGH because of the strong presence of guerilla forces in the area.

In **Venezuela**, Joao Dos Santos, a 56-year-old businessman of Portuguese origin, was kidnapped in Barcelona (Anzoátegui state) on 5 February. Four armed men kidnapped the victim from his office and then contacted his family to demand a ransom of VEF 2m (US\$318,000). The victim was freed on 11 February. It was not known if a ransom was paid.

Mexico: Federal police in Nuevo Laredo (Tamaulipas state) on 15 February rescued a US national in his early 20s after he was kidnapped while driving his car in the town. Four suspects were arrested during the rescue operation. The victim was kidnapped on 12 February in a residential area of the city. After his car was intercepted at gunpoint by four assailants, he was taken to a nearby hotel, where he was held for the duration of his captivity. The kidnappers initially demanded a ransom of US\$100,000 in cash for his release. Negotiations with the victim's family concluded on 14 February with a ransom of US\$5,000 and the supply of a four-wheel-drive vehicle being agreed. Federal police agents were able to apprehend the suspects after a stakeout at the bank where the ransom was deposited; this led them to the hotel where the victim was being held.

Despite currently high levels of kidnapping throughout the region, foreign nationals are rarely targeted for kidnapping-for-ransom; local nationals account for the vast majority of victims. On the rare occasions that foreign nationals have been kidnapped in border towns such as Nuevo Laredo, victims have generally had family ties in the area.

The unreliability of official kidnapping statistics in Mexico remains a critical issue. According to two local NGOs, there were 61% more kidnaps than those reported in official government statistics during President Enrique Peña Nieto's first year in office. Isabel Miranda de Wallace of the Alto al Secuestro ('Stop Kidnapping') association, using figures from lawyers, courts, requests for information and victim testimonies, accused the authorities of 'massaging the figures'. Statistics published by the National Public Security System (SNSP) are widely viewed as unreliable and do not reflect the full extent of Mexico's kidnapping and extortion problems. The total number of kidnaps and extortions during Peña Nieto's first year in office

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is likely to be far higher than the SNSP figure, which does not include kidnaps reported to the Federal Police, the National Defense Secretariat (SEDENA) or the Mexican Marine Forces. On the one hand, there is widespread reluctance to report kidnaps and extortion to police because of a lack of trust in law-enforcement agencies. Current or former police officers are believed to be involved in around 70% of kidnaps in Mexico. On the other, the SNSP has an interest in downplaying security problems and making the government appear more efficient in tackling such issues. According to Control Risks' figures, Mexico was once again the number one-ranked country in the world in terms of kidnapping-for-ransom incidents in 2013.

Panama: Three Spanish tourists were the victims of an attempted kidnap on 3 February in the Villa Zaita area of the capital Panama City. According to local police, the kidnappers had hoped to demand a ransom of US\$100,000. The group broke into the tourists' rented apartment at around 20.00 and proceeded to tie them up. However, one of the hostages, identified as José María Carrasco Brind, was able to escape and alert the authorities. Although sporadic high-profile kidnaps-for-ransom are recorded in Panama, the country does not have a significant kidnapping problem; just eight cases have been recorded in the past two years. Nevertheless, foreign nationals are abducted more frequently than in many other Latin American countries. Victims in recent years have included Colombian, Israeli and Cuban nationals.

Middle East



Four foreign nationals were kidnapped in the **Yemeni** capital Sanaa between 1 and 22 February. A German student was kidnapped on 1 February; a British oil worker on 3 February; a British teacher on 12 February; and a Czech doctor on 22 February. Of the four victims, only the Czech doctor was subsequently released. She was held for a number of hours, and it is unclear whether a ransom was either demanded or paid. Meanwhile, an Iranian diplomat was shot dead in the capital in January during what is thought to have been an attempted kidnap. The incident occurred close to the Iranian ambassador's residence in the Hadda district of Sanaa. According to Control Risks' records, Sanaa accounted for 23% of the total number of kidnaps recorded in Yemen in 2013, and a foreign national was kidnapped on average every two months. Separately, extremist group al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula on 10 January released a South African woman who had been kidnapped with her husband from outside a hotel in Taiz (Taiz province) in May 2013. However, her husband remains in captivity and the group demanded US\$3m for his release, threatening to kill him if its demands were not met within eight days. The deadline passed, but the victim is still believed to be alive.

The security situation in **Syria** showed no signs of improving during the first two months of 2013. Five employees of NGO Médecins Sans Frontières were kidnapped from a house in northern Syria on 3 January. The victims were Belgian, Danish, Peruvian, Swedish and Swiss nationals. MSF said that the group had been taken away for 'questioning'. Their fate remains unknown.

On 7 February, five Iranian border guards were kidnapped from Sistan-e Baluchistan province in south-eastern **Iran** and taken across the border to Pakistan. Iranian group Jaish al-Adl claimed responsibility for the kidnap by posting a picture of the guards on its Twitter account. The incident caused political tensions between Pakistan and Iran. Their fate remains unknown.

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Asia



A Spanish cyclist was critically injured in **Pakistan** in January during a kidnap attempt. The incident occurred in Dalbandin (Baluchistan province) on 22 January while the cyclist was being escorted by the Levies Force. Six police officers were killed and at least nine others were injured in an ensuing fire-fight. Although it is customary for foreign nationals to have a police escort when travelling overland through Baluchistan, this does not preclude kidnapping attempts. Both criminal and militant groups view foreign nationals as high-value kidnapping-for-ransom targets in Baluchistan. Separately, a German national who was kidnapped in January 2012 in Multan (Punjab province) appeared in a video message on 13 February. He called on German Chancellor Angela Merkel to travel to Pakistan to protest against his captivity, and not to return without him. He also urged his wife to campaign publicly for his release and asked that the demands of his captors be met. The demands themselves were not specified. The victim appeared healthy but said he had been suffering from panic attacks, heart palpitations, sleeplessness and high blood pressure. He also said that he feared for his life. The video lasted for approximately three minutes and was reportedly recorded in May 2013. The German national had not been seen since the release of a previous video message in December 2012. An Italian aid worker kidnapped alongside him has not featured in any of the videos.

Two Algerian/Filipino sisters who were kidnapped while making a documentary in the southern **Philippines** in June 2013 escaped on 20 February. They were held in Sulu province by the extremist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which reportedly demanded a ransom of PHP 50m (US\$1.1m). The women were kept together in a hut on a meager diet for the duration of their captivity. They managed to escape when a marine patrol approached their hut, causing their guards to flee. Kidnaps also occurred outside the restive island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago: the kidnap of the six-year-old son of a prominent businessman in Santo Tomas (Batangas province) was one of many such incidents to occur in January and February. The victim was taken along with his driver on 9 January while they were travelling to the child's school. The kidnappers reportedly demanded PHP 20m (US\$400,000) from the boy's parents. The parents paid PHP 883,000 (US\$20,000), but only the driver was released. Police rescued the boy on 23 January.

The 79-year-old mother of the CEO of a local supermarket chain in **Singapore** was kidnapped while walking along Hougang Avenue 8 (North-East region) early on 8 January. The kidnappers demanded SGD20m (US\$16m) from the victim's son, an extraordinarily high sum. The victim was released on 9 January following the payment of SGD 2m (US\$1.6m). Police arrested two suspects shortly afterwards and recovered the ransom amount in full. The kidnapping risk rating for Singapore is INSIGNIFICANT, and Control Risks records few kidnaps on an annual basis. The punishment for kidnapping in Singapore can be the death penalty or life imprisonment. It is also illegal to pay a ransom under the Kidnapping Act, though it is unclear whether the victim's son was encouraged to pay the ransom by police as part of a sting operation.

A student from Bahrain in January became the first expatriate to be kidnapped in **Malaysia** in 2014. Ali al-Nashaba was kidnapped from the Linton University campus in the capital Kuala Lumpur (Federal Territory) on 28 January. The kidnappers reportedly demanded that MYR 20,000 (US\$6,000) be paid within 24 hours, but increased their demand to MYR 26,500 (US\$8,000) two days later. Nashaba's relatives reportedly deposited the higher amount into a bank account on 4 February. However, nobody had withdrawn the money six days later and the family had still not heard from the victim. The kidnappers were meant to withdraw the money using the automated teller (cash) machine (ATM) card that the victim had in his possession. Police rescued the victim on 15 February and two Bahraini nationals were arrested in connection with the incident. According to Control Risks' records, foreign nationals accounted for 40% of kidnapping victims in Malaysia in 2013. Nevertheless, the kidnapping-for-ransom problem is mostly confined to migrant worker communities, and victims are often targeted by compatriots.

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Africa



In **Mali**, the abduction of five local aid workers in early February reflected the persistent kidnapping threat posed by Islamist groups in the Sahel region. The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) seized five employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 9 February as they travelled from Kidal to Gao in northern Mali. MUJWA split from al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in late 2011. The first kidnap attributed to the group involved three Western aid workers, who were taken from a refugee camp in Algeria's Tindouf province. Since then, MUJWA has carried out at least two kidnaps-for-ransom in Mali. In August 2013, the group merged with the al-Mulathameen Brigade to form a separate faction known as al-Murabitun. However, links and power relations between Islamist groups are complex and fluid.

The primary aim of Operation Serval – the French military intervention in Mali that was launched in January 2013 – was to remove Islamist networks from the north of the country. However, patchy security provision and the ready availability of weapons mean that Islamist groups have retained the logistical capabilities to stage kidnaps in the area. Most recently, two French journalists – Claude Verlon and Ghislaine Dupont – were abducted in Kidal on 2 November 2013 near a military base housing members of the French army and MINUSMA, the UN peacekeeping force: they were executed shortly after their abduction. Militants affiliated with AQIM and MUJWA use kidnapping-for-ransom as a key revenue stream and also to raise the profile of their political agenda. Future abductions of foreign and local nationals in the Western Sahel are highly likely in the coming year.

In **Mozambique**, kidnaps continued following a brief lull in December 2013. Prominent local business owner Kishoor Chootalal was kidnapped on 10 January as he drove to his shop on Filipe Samuel Magaia Avenue in the centre of the capital Maputo. He was seized by a gang of eight armed men who intercepted his vehicle, shooting and injuring his bodyguard. Although a small number of kidnaps since July 2013 have involved Portuguese expatriates, the incident reinforces our assessment that local businessmen from the Asian community will remain the most likely targets for kidnapping gangs in the capital.

Libya also recorded a large number of kidnaps in the first two months of 2014, a number of which involved foreign nationals. Four gunmen on 19 January seized Han Seok-woo, the head of the Libya unit of the South Korean Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), from his vehicle as he travelled home from work in the capital Tripoli. In a separate incident on 17 January, gunmen kidnapped Italian construction workers Francesco Scalise and Luciano Gallo on the road between Derna and Tobruk (Butnan province). In both cases, the victims were released in unclear circumstances. Although local nationals remain the primary targets of kidnapping-for-ransom in Libya and foreign nationals are largely unaffected by the crime, these latest abductions point to the evolving nature of targeting patterns and place upward pressure on Libya's MEDIUM kidnapping risk rating. The abduction of foreign nationals is currently not an entrenched trend, but the weak political and security environments are conducive to growth in the number of incidents.

Europe & CIS



In **Spain**, members of the Spanish Civil Guard on 24 January rescued a small business owner in the north-western Galicia region. The victim had been kidnapped in Betanzos (A Coruña province) on 18 January. The victim was discovered hooded and bound by the hands and feet in an out-building of a house near Lalín (Pontevedra province), and was reportedly suffering the effects of prolonged exposure to low temperatures. Police arrested the owners of the property, along with five other men. Prosecutors stated the kidnap had been

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planned for more than three months. The victim, a wood trader, had been reported missing after failing to return from a supposed meeting with a potential supplier in a forested area near Betanzos, around five miles (8km) from his home. The kidnapers demanded a ransom payment of €70,000 (US\$95,000) from the victim's family against a threat to injure or kill the victim. The incident underlines the threat of kidnapping-for-ransom in Spain, where there are more reported cases than in any other European country. However, the threat is relatively low by global standards and our kidnapping risk rating remains LOW.

News of kidnaps rarely reaches the media in **Tajikistan** but Control Risks is aware of a small number of incidents, particularly in the provinces of Dushanbe and Khatlon. Dependants appear to be most frequently targeted, as was the case in January. A 12-year-old boy and his nine-year-old sister were kidnapped from the Firdavsi area of Dushanbe (Dushanbe province) on 9 January. The kidnapers demanded US\$200,000 from their parents, but the children were found and returned to their parents the same day. The suspected kidnapers were arrested three days later. One of the suspects was a colleague of the children's father.

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BRIEF ON LATIN AMERICA



RISKS TO MINING COMPANIES IN PERU

Kidnapping-for-ransom is not as common in Peru as it is in many neighbouring Latin American countries, and Control Risks assesses the kidnapping risk in the country as MEDIUM. However, two recent kidnaps by anti-mining protest groups have highlighted that President Ollanta Humala's administration has failed to adequately reconcile investor-friendly mining policies with the demands of his largely rural support base. Although kidnapping remains uncommon, mining and energy companies investing in Peru should be aware of the risks to which they may be exposed.

KIDNAPS BY PROTEST GROUPS THREATEN GROWING MINING SECTOR

Mining is the backbone of Peru's fast-growing economy. Humala stated in his 2013 'end of year interview' that investment in new mining projects in the country is expected to reach US\$14bn in 2014, an annual record. However, many mines are located near the villages of indigenous communities, rather than in remote, unpopulated areas. As a result, mining companies in Peru have been the subject of sustained protests over their environmental impact, including kidnaps of mine employees. This has provided Humala – who was elected in 2011 on a social justice platform – with a predicament as he attempts to reconcile investor-friendly mining policies with the demands of his largely rural, indigenous supporters.

These difficulties came into focus in February after engineer Jaime Estanislao Núñez Fernández was held for seven days by the Awajún indigenous community of Supayacu in San Ignacio (Cajamarca province). The victim worked at the Águila Dorada mine, which has been the subject of sustained protests by the Awajún community. The community claims that the mine is negatively affecting the local environment. In return for the victim's release, the community demanded that the mine cease operations on its land and pay PEN 1.5m (US\$532,000) in compensation for alleged environmental damage. The victim's release was negotiated during talks between the community and representatives of Peru's Office of Dialogue and Sustainability (ONDS), as well as representatives from the ministries of energy and mining, culture and the environment. The exact terms of the release were unclear. This incident followed another in January 2014 when around 750 protesters entered land owned by mining company Minera Yanacocha in Cajamarca province, destroying a telephone tower and kidnapping a contract security guard. The victim was released the following day. It is not known if a ransom was demanded.

Rather than traditional kidnaps-for-ransom motivated purely by financial gains, kidnaps by anti-mining groups in Peru appear to be motivated by a desire for retribution, as well as compensation for perceived environmental damage and any resulting losses to local communities. Mining companies that fail to make efforts to gain the support of local communities and address concerns over the possible environmental impacts of mines before embarking on projects may find their employees targeted for kidnapping.

The power and influence of protest groups should not be underestimated. In 2011, Newmont Mining Corp, a partner of Minera Yanacocha, halted construction at its Conga mine in Cajamarca following intense local protests against the project. Local protesters cited growing concerns over the mine's environmental impact, such as depletion of the local water supply and the presence of contaminants in ground water. Newmont said that it would focus on winning the support of local communities before resuming construction, and did not rule out the possibility of taking its capital elsewhere for investment.

SHINING PATH REMAINS A CONCERN

Although the Shining Path (SL) rebel group has been considerably weakened, it has displayed a willingness and capability to carry out financially motivated kidnaps-for-ransom of mine workers. The group is not involved in the kinds of community based protests outlined above.

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In April 2012, the group kidnapped 36 workers from the Camisea natural gas project in the jungle town of Kepashiato, in Cusco region, and demanded US\$10m, a yearly payment of US\$1.2m and dynamite supplies in exchange for their release. The rebels also reportedly demanded the release of a captured SL leader. The government sent 1,500 troops to the area and announced the safe release of all the victims after five days in captivity. Four members of the police and the army were killed during the operation. No ransom payment was made, according to the government. Although the SL is not known to have targeted mine workers for kidnapping since this incident, the possibility of a well-planned, one-off kidnap cannot be discounted.

MORE CONFLICTS POSSIBLE

In an effort to assuage the concerns of local residents who may be affected by mining projects, the government is attempting to resolve disputes by involving regional authorities directly in conflict management and resolution processes, as well as in negotiations for projects. It has also established a prior consultation law that requires consultation with local communities before mining projects are approved. However, with investment in Peru's growing mining sector projected to reach a record US\$14bn in 2014, more projects are likely to bring more conflicts.

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BUSINESS TRAVELLERS IN AFRICAN CITIES

The IMF predicts that more than half of the 20 fastest-growing economies in the world will be in Africa by 2017. Fuelling this rapid growth are Africa's urban centres, which attract foreign business travellers in ever-increasing numbers. According to the UN World Tourism Organisation, international arrivals to Africa are expected to surge from 50m in 2011 to more than 130m in 2030. Nevertheless, the palpable sense of optimism and ambition in many African cities all too often belies weak infrastructure, high rates of criminality and persistent insecurity. This report specifically examines kidnapping-for-ransom – one of the most relevant threats to business travellers – in selected locations across the continent. It provides analysis of the typical modus operandi of kidnapping groups in each area, as well as a prognosis for how the situation is likely to develop in the coming year.



Nigeria

Lagos, the commercial hub of sub-Saharan Africa's most populous nation, suffers from some of the highest rates of kidnapping-for-ransom in Nigeria. Although local nationals still account for the majority of victims (70% since 2012), criminal gangs have a proven capacity to target foreigners, and Control Risks has recorded kidnaps involving British, Chinese, Swiss, Lebanese, Dutch and Indian nationals since the start of 2013. Incidents have taken place throughout the city, including in upscale districts such as Ikoyi and Victoria Island, as well as in the vicinity of Murtala Mohammed International Airport. The abduction of British businessman Lee Dixon in July 2013 while he was being driven from the airport into central Lagos underscores the necessity of stringent security procedures from the moment of arrival in country.

A significant increase in the number of kidnaps, including of foreign visitors, was recorded in Lagos between March and July 2013 (a 214% increase on the same period a year earlier). Although the surge has not been sustained following the dismantling of two kidnapping gangs in Lekki and Agbara, further spikes are assessed as likely in 2014 because anti-kidnapping initiatives such as erecting checkpoints in upmarket areas are often superficial and short-lived.

Abuja is a comparatively low-risk destination for business travellers. The robust police presence in Federal Capital Territory significantly limits the ability of criminal groups to stage brazen attacks on vehicles in transit during daylight hours. Nevertheless, kidnaps of foreign nationals are not unheard of, and Control Risks has recorded a handful of incidents over

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the past four years. Foreign visitors to Abuja should observe basic security precautions and avoid slum areas such as Gwagwa, Karmo, Idu and Jabi on the city's outskirts.

Mozambique

Mozambique's burgeoning extractives sector will continue to attract large numbers of business travellers to **Maputo** in the coming year, but security concerns have dominated the headlines in recent months. The capital experienced a dramatic increase in kidnapping in the second half of 2013 that peaked in October and November, when incidents were reported daily. Local members of the Asian community, who have long been the favoured target group of kidnapping gangs, accounted for the majority of victims, though at least three foreign nationals have been kidnapped since July 2013.

To our knowledge, kidnapped foreign nationals have almost all been long-term residents of Mozambique. Opportunistic kidnaps of the sort that would involve short-term business travellers are rarely recorded because kidnappers typically require a significant amount of time to research their target and plan their attack. As a result, the overall threat of kidnapping for tourists and other short-term visitors to Mozambique is likely to remain low over the coming year. However, sporadic and isolated incidents are credible, particularly if the country's current political instability persists.

South Africa

According to Control Risks' records, foreign nationals accounted for approximately 30% of all kidnapping victims in South Africa between January 2007 and February 2014. During this period, Control Risks recorded victims from 22 countries, including the US, the UK, Brazil, South Korea, Denmark, Sweden and Japan. Foreign business visitors to **Johannesburg**, the national kidnapping hotspot, should avoid travelling by road at night and through low-income areas, where stark socio-economic disparities provide incentives for opportunistic criminal groups to target wealthy foreigners.

As well as falling victim to traditional kidnaps-for-ransom, business travellers are occasionally specifically targeted by kidnapping gangs using '419-style' scams. In a high-profile case in July 2011, Dutch businessman Edo de Ronde was kidnapped in the Olivedale suburb of Johannesburg. He had been sent to discuss a business deal which had initially been advertised in a newspaper, and was met at OR Tambo International Airport by a smartly dressed man holding a sign with his name on it. He was then driven to a guesthouse, where he was held captive by a six-man gang. He was ordered to call his company and request a US\$50,000 'advance cash deposit' on the fictitious deal. The company agreed to pay US\$15,000 and the victim was released after less than 48 hours.

Libya

The popularity of kidnapping-for-ransom as a criminal tactic has increased significantly over the past year in urban areas, but particularly in the capital **Tripoli**, **Benghazi** and **Derna**. Although militant groups with political agendas remain responsible for the majority of kidnaps in Libya, criminal kidnapping for financial gain is an emerging trend in urban areas. Weak security provision and ready access to weapons have created a permissive environment for criminality, and are putting sustained upwards pressure on Libya's MEDIUM kidnapping risk rating.

While foreign nationals were rarely targeted for kidnapping-for-ransom in 2013, Egyptian, South Korean and Italian nationals have been seized in separate incidents in Tripoli and Derna over the past two months. On 19 January, four gunmen seized Han Seok-woo, the head of the Libya unit of the South Korean Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), from his vehicle as he travelled home from work in the capital Tripoli. In a separate incident on 17 January, gunmen kidnapped Italian construction workers Francesco Scalise and Luciano Gallo on the road between Derna and Tobruk. Foreign nationals are attractive targets for criminal and militant kidnapping groups, both for the publicity that such abductions generate and also the high ransoms that are typically paid for their release. As a result, sporadic kidnaps of expatriates and business travellers are likely to continue in the short-to-medium term.

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If you would like to provide us with feedback on the Monthly Kidnap Briefing or inform us of your interest in a specific country or theme that you would like us to cover in a subsequent issue, then please write to kr.guernsey@hiscox.com

ABOUT US



Control Risks' services are exclusively retained by Hiscox. In the event of a kidnap, detention or extortion incident covered by Hiscox, clients will benefit from Control Risks' services as part of their insurance policy.

CONTROL RISKS

Control Risks is a leading international business risk consultancy. It offers a range of integrated political risk, investigative, security and crisis management services to corporate, government and private clients worldwide.

Since its foundation in 1975, Control Risks has advised clients on the resolution of 2,507 kidnap and extortion cases in 127 different countries, with 46,308 person-days aggregate duration. Cases have ranged from traditional kidnaps-for-ransom, express kidnaps, hostage takings, ship and aircraft hijacks to political detentions, product extortion and contamination and other threat extortions. Control Risks has a full-time team of Response Consultants, available for immediate deployment in response to a crisis anywhere in the world. Response Consultants will advise on negotiation strategies and on how to manage the various interests of the victim, family, employers, the media, the government and local law enforcement agencies.

The Response Division has its own dedicated team of research analysts. As well as supporting consultants deployed on cases, they maintain the International Kidnap Online Service (IKOS) which follows the trends in kidnapping worldwide and allows clients to assess the risk to their business. In addition to IKOS, Response Research produces commissioned kidnap and extortion analysis of any country or sector. If you are interested in any of these services, please write to response_research@controlrisks.com

For more information about Control Risks, please visit our website at www.controlrisks.com

HISCOX

Hiscox is the world's largest provider of specialist kidnap, detention and extortion insurance, with a market share of 60-70% by premium income. We cover companies and individuals against all forms of extortion and can protect your assets from illegal demands and the consequential associated expenses.

Our clients include multinational companies operating in high risk regions of the world, key executives working in commercially sensitive positions and individuals whose wealth or fame may attract the attention of criminals.

Hiscox kidnap and ransom underwriters are the most experienced in the field. Our knowledge of the sector enables us to make quick decisions on cover, no matter how unusual the request. We are highly skilled in handling what may be a very difficult and sensitive emergency. Our specialist policies can be tailored to suit individual needs and circumstances.

We have underwriting teams based in Guernsey, Paris, Cologne, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and at Lloyd's of London.

For further information, please contact us at kr.guernsey@hiscox.com