

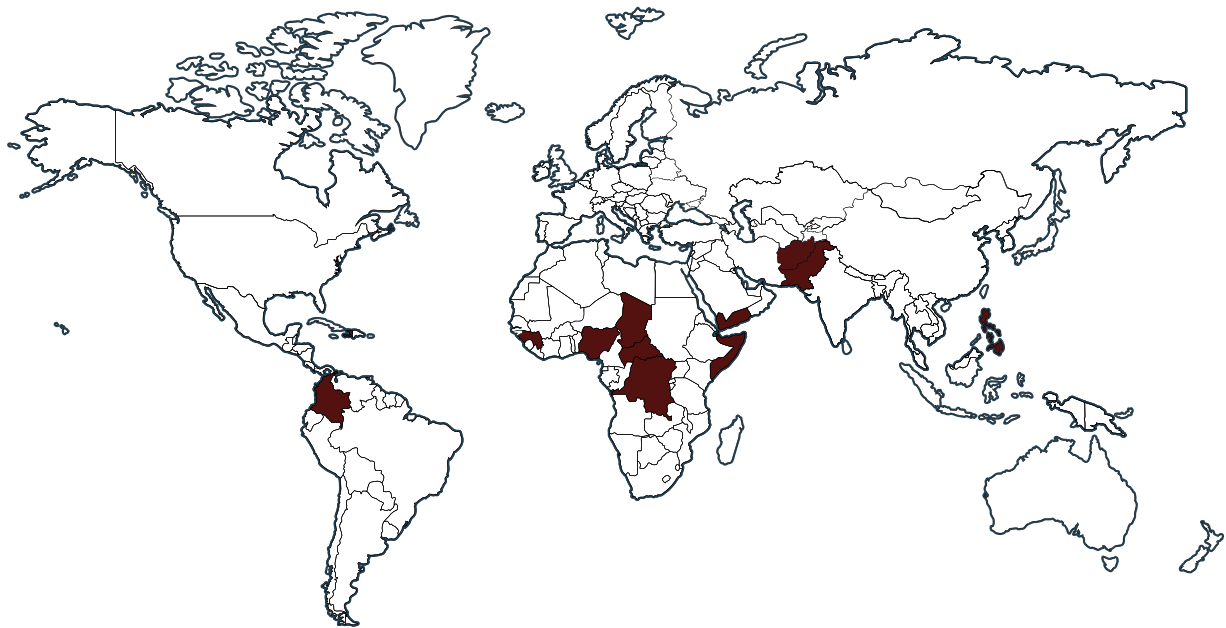


Q2 2010 Hotspots

Somali waters, Colombia, Nigeria, Gulf of Guinea, Sudan, Haiti, Yemen, Philippines, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Chad, CAR, DRC, Pakistan, Somalia

Q1 2010 Hotspots

Somali waters, Colombia, Nigeria, Gulf of Guinea, Sahel Region, Philippines, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Central Africa, Somalia, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen



Current figures for number of foreigners abducted in Q2

(01) Somali Waters: 106 / month	(06) Haiti: ~ 1- 2 / week
(02) Colombia: ~ 5 / month	(07) Afghanistan: 1 - 2 / month
(03) Nigeria: 3 - 4 / month	(08) Philippines: <1 / month
(04) Gulf of Guinea: 3 - 4 / month	(09) Chad, CAR, DRC: 0-1 / month
(05) Sudan: 2 / month	(10) Pakistan: 0-1 month



REGIONAL SUMMARIES

Africa

Kidnap and ransom figures in the Niger Delta region increased over the past quarter. Statistics compiled by AKE indicate that since the beginning of the year, 21 foreigners have been kidnapped in Nigeria. A similar trend can be seen in piracy activity in the Gulf of Guinea, with a total of 15 piracy attacks reported since January and potentially many more unreported. Former militants frustrated with the Nigerian government's amnesty programme are regrouping and leading a renewed wave of kidnappings, robberies and oil thefts. MEND blames the government for falling short of its amnesty commitments, including the payment of monthly stipends, the provision of education and job opportunities, and clemency for former fighters. Kidnapping will therefore continue to pose a considerable threat to foreigners in the medium term as it will prove extremely difficult for the new government under acting President Jonathan to restore confidence in the peace process. Kidnap-for-ransom figures increased considerably in Central Africa. The increase could be related to greater presence of foreign aid workers during the Sudan's presidential elections in April. The Sahel region (Mauritania, Mali and Niger) remains a kidnap hotspot as AQIM is continuing to spread its influence from Algeria to its neighbouring countries in the south. No new kidnap for ransom cases were reported in Somalia. This is likely to be connected to the low number of foreigners actually working in Somalia. The country remains one of the most dangerous operating environments in Sub-Sahara Africa and foreigners are facing a constant risk of kidnapping throughout the country, especially in Mogadishu.

Somali piracy

The frequency of hijackings will remain lower than usual over the coming quarter months as weather conditions will be poor in the Indian Ocean until September. However, attacks will continue in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, although the majority will not be successful.

Latin America

The most recent reporting period saw the continuation of a modest rise in high-profile kidnappings in Colombia, where presidential elections held in May and June raised the stakes for the incumbent government's security policy. There was also an apparent increase in northern Paraguay, where a relatively new guerrilla group, the Paraguayan People's Army (EPP), has been extending its influence and contributing to a rise in insecurity in the area. In response, the government passed a controversial law allowing authorities to freeze the assets of kidnap victims. Mexican state oil company Pemex also reported that five of its workers were kidnapped from a drilling site in Tamaulipas state in May, although it has not disclosed whether they've received a ransom demand.

South-East Asia

The Philippines remains the kidnap centre of South-East Asia, with a total of 21 people kidnapped during the reporting period. Although there are cases of

foreign nationals who were abducted by terrorist groups in the volatile south and coastal resort areas, kidnap-for-ransom groups generally target locals. That being said, there has been an increase in cases where expatriates who have become integrated into the local community were targeted. During the period, there was also an increase in kidnappings targeted at local politicians, as forecasted by AKE in the Q1 report. Basilan is a known stronghold of Abu Sayyaf militants, who have been increasingly active since the government offensive began. Moreover, Zamboanga has seen a rise in suspected MILF-orchestrated kidnappings. There has, however, been a drop in kidnappings reported in Metro Manila which is attributed to an aggressive pro-active measure by the city's anti-kidnapping unit. In Nepal, a worsening security situation and increased political tension resulted in an increase in kidnappings. A total of six people were kidnapped, three of which were politically motivated. In one attack, a gang of approximately 20 kidnapped Neali Congress (NC) mahasamiti member from his residence in Sothiyain VDC. In Malaysia, nine men were arrested for kidnapping a contractor for ransom and in Indonesia a local resident of Tangerang Banten was killed by his kidnapers for failing to pay the \$32,700* ransom.

Afghanistan Pakistan

The second quarter of 2010 witnessed an increase in the frequency of kidnaps in Afghanistan. This can be partly attributed to the worsening security situation. Journalists and politicians are often the most high-profile cases, but engineers, NGO and PSC workers have been targeted, for different reasons but usually to extract a ransom. At least three foreign reporters remain in captivity. No foreigners were abducted in Pakistan in the second quarter of 2010, while one was released from captivity. The mountainous areas either side of the Durand line continue to provide militants and criminal gangs with ample area to hide victims.

Middle East

Yemen remains the most likely location for foreigners to be abducted in the Middle East but the number of abductions will increase in Iraq if the delayed government-formation process stokes a rise in violence over the coming quarter. Otherwise, kidnap remains a concern in Algeria, while Israeli nationals were implicated in three different developments over the past reporting period.

Europe & FSU

One notable kidnap case occurred in Russia during the last reporting period, which may have been resolved without a ransom being paid. Kyrgyzstan has been a regional flashpoint for kidnap of locals following the rise in ethnic tensions in June. In Europe, one Bulgarian businessman remains unaccounted for after 15 months, an American-Turkish businessman was caught up in a bizarre kidnap/fraud scam in Italy, and in Germany a banker's wife was murdered in what is believed to be a tiger-kidnap gone wrong. Tiger-kidnap, the European form of express kidnapping, remains particularly prevalent in both Northern Ireland and Eire.

*All figures quoted in the Kidnap Report are in US\$ (unless otherwise stated)



Somali Waters - Statistics

Foreigners (NB only foreigners are taken)

Frequency of kidnap: 106 / month
Total number taken: 317
Average time in captivity: 40 days (range of 2 – 161 days)
Currently in captivity: 405
Average known settlement: \$15.5m (range of \$2.5m – \$20m)

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Somali Waters - Report

Poor weather conditions in the Indian Ocean have driven Somali pirates back to more coastal waters. AKE expects that attacks will continue in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden until then, but the overall number of hijackings is likely to remain low until the end of the Indian Ocean Monsoon in September. After this point there will likely be a flurry of hijackings off the Somali coast and further out to sea as has been the case over the past two years. Meanwhile two British nationals seized from their vessel the Lynn Rival on 23 October 2009 are still being held on the land. Demands of between \$7 - 2.5 million have been made for their release.

Colombia - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnaps: ~ 5 / month
Total number kidnapped: 1 reported case
Currently in captivity: 1 known
Average time in captivity: 2 - 3 years
Average known settlement: \$1 – 2 million

Nationals

Frequency of kidnaps: ~ 30 / month
Total number kidnapped: 11 reported cases
Currently in captivity: Unknown
Average time in captivity: 2 - 3 years
Average known settlement: N/A

Colombia - Report

Kidnappings increased in the run-up to and through both rounds of Colombia's presidential elections, held in May and June. This was likely an effort by the FARC and ELN guerrilla groups to assert their influence over the campaign, particularly as both groups have seen their ability to wage conventional military style attacks dissipated by the government's campaign against them. Suspected FARC rebels kidnapped six Colombian nationals at a roadblock in the south-western department of Narino. ELN was believed to be behind the kidnapping of three contractors working on a road project in the north-western department of Choco in early June; an executive from the victims' employer was himself kidnapped weeks prior. Meantime, police began an investigation into the suspected kidnapping of a Japanese national who went missing near Cali in late March.



Nigeria - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 3-4 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 14
Average known time in captivity: 120 to 180 days (shortest: 1 day, longest: 270 days)
Total number known to be currently held: 1
Average known settlement: \$204,000.

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: \$28,000

Nigeria - Report

Kidnap and ransom figures doubled over the last reporting period. Former militants frustrated with a Nigerian government amnesty programme are regrouping and are behind a renewed wave of kidnappings, robberies and oil thefts. MEND blames the government for falling short on its commitments as part of the amnesty, including the award of monthly stipends, the provision of education and job opportunities, and general clemency for former fighters. Kidnapping will therefore continue to pose a considerable threat to foreigners in the medium term as it will prove difficult for the new government under acting President Jonathan to restore confidence in the peace process. On 9 April armed men kidnapped three Syrians and a Lebanese working in the construction sector in the Niger Delta, near Port Harcourt. One policeman was killed in the attack. The hostages were released on 14 April. On 18 April gunmen kidnapped two German men in Abia State. They were released six days after their abduction. Four Lebanese workers were kidnapped for seven days on 22 May. Three male Chinese technicians working for a Nigerian steel company were kidnapped on 23 May and released on 28 May. There are no indications if ransom was paid in any of these cases.

Nigerian-borne piracy in Gulf of Guinea - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 3-4 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 15
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: \$10 000 – \$2 million

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: 11
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Nigerian-borne piracy in Gulf of Guinea - Report

A total of 6 pirate attacks have been reported in the Gulf of Guinea since the beginning of 2010. The number could be higher as incidents are heavily under-reported. Attacks in the Gulf of Guinea are often more violent and arguably pose a greater threat to vessels and their crew than in the Gulf of Aden. Usually men armed with guns and knives board the vessels, demanding cash and the crews' personal belongings. Crew members are often beaten, and sometimes shot dead during the attack. With limited to no naval and coastguard capabilities and geography comprised of broken-up waterways stretching from Guinea Bissau in the west to Angola in the south, pirates are able to steal cargo and take it to poorly secured port areas along the coast. There they sell it on the local and black markets. On 18 May two Russian sailors were abducted when gunmen raided their cargo ship in the Cameroonian port of Douala. The pirates also attacked a nearby Lithuanian vessel, the Argo, seizing the ship's captain and emptying the safe. The three hostages were released together in Nigeria on 4 July. It was earlier reported that Nigerian militants had demanded \$1.5 million ransom for the release. On 4 July gunmen attacked two cargo vessels their way to Onne port near Port Harcourt. One person was killed and 12 hostages were taken. The hostages were eventually released on 4 July near Bonny Island in the Southern Rivers state but it is not clear if a ransom was paid to enable this. Following the attack on two cargo ships there is a growing concern that rebels in the Gulf of Guinea are increasingly motivated by extracting ransom rather than a petty crime.



Sudan - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 2 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 7
Average known time in captivity: 100 days (longest: 147 days)
Total number known to be currently held: 3
Average known settlement: N/A

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: 2
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: N/A

Sudan - Report

Kidnappings have increased considerably since March 2009 after 13 foreign aid groups and three local organisations were expelled from Sudan. The Sudanese government had accused the groups of spying for the International Criminal Court – which has issued an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and genocide in Darfur. Hotspots are on or near NGO/UN compounds and office, especially in Darfur and along the border with Chad. Other hotspots include Kordofan in central Sudan, especially border towns with large petroleum extraction (such as Abyei) where Chinese oil-workers have frequently been targeted for ransom by groups who perceive foreign personnel as fuelling the northern Sudanese counter-insurgency in Darfur. Sudanese authorities say that most of the abductions have been carried out not by Darfuri separatists, but by bandits seeking ransom. Darfur rebels in turn accuse the government of masterminding the kidnappings as part of a wider campaign of harassment against foreign aid groups. Although there may be political motives behind some of the kidnappings, there is little doubt that ransom money is a powerful incentive for the perpetrators; and while it is unlikely that the authorities have actively colluded with the bandits, the president's suspicion of humanitarian organisations, and his drive to 'Sudanise' aid work in the country, could encourage the kidnappers to target foreign aid workers. The deterioration of the security environment in Darfur has led to many aid agencies shutting down their operations in the area altogether, or else withdrawing their personnel and contracting local organisations to carry out projects remotely.

Haiti - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: ~ 1-2 / week
Total number taken in reporting period: 3 reported
Average known time in captivity: 2-4 weeks
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: ~ 1-2 / day
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: Unknown
Average known time in captivity: 1-2 weeks
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Haiti - Report

Kidnappings were once rare in Haiti but began to increase after the Aristide government collapsed in 2004. Reports suggest there has been another uptick since the earthquake earlier this year, some of which has been attributed to criminals that escaped from prisons in Port-au-Prince in its aftermath. Although victims are most often Haitians (especially children), kidnappers are likely to be targeting aid workers and newcomers from overseas. There has been a spate of high-profile cases in the last few months, including the taking of two Medecins sans Frontieres workers, a Belgian businessman, and a UK reconstruction worker, who was seized in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Petionville and later freed.



Yemen - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 1-2 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 4
Average known time in captivity: 1-2 days
Total number known to be currently held: 4
Average known settlement: N/A

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: 2 / month
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: 6
Average known time in captivity: 1 day
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: N/A

Yemen - Report

AKE believes that foreigners are more likely to be abducted in Yemen than any other Middle Eastern country. Two US tourists were held for a day with their driver on 21 May as they travelled between San'a' and Hudaydah. The responsible tribe (the Sharda) were demanding the release of an imprisoned tribesman. Two Chinese engineers working for Zhongyuan Oil Field Company and two accompanying Yemeni soldiers were abducted in Shabwa on 16 May. They were released after two days. The abduction is believed to have been a protest against recent injuries inflicted on tribesmen during a security search at a police checkpoint. On 13 May three Yemeni policemen were abducted for a day amid a local land dispute and well-digging protest. Meanwhile, three Germans and a Briton are still believed to be in captivity in Sa'adah province after their abduction in June 2009. A demand of \$2 million and the release of a terror suspect from jail has reportedly been made by their captors. Three of their colleagues were found dead in June 2009 while two German children from the group were released in May 2010. Since 2004 at least 220 foreigners have been kidnapped in the country, the majority of whom are released unharmed, normally after a period of less than two weeks and with ransom payments and government promises of investment, job provision and prisoner releases.

Philippines - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 2
Average known time in captivity: 20 days
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: \$50,000 - \$450,000

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: 1 / week
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: 19
Average known time in captivity: 20 days
Total number known to be currently held: 1
Average known settlement: \$2,000 - \$50,000

Philippines - Report

Although there was a decrease in total foreigners kidnapped from five to two, there was an increase in the number of nationals taken in the reporting period, from eight to 19. Kidnaps of nationals increased sharply due to a spike in politically motivated attacks in the run-up to and following the national general elections. The conflict-ridden south of the country still stands as a kidnap hotspot. Whilst Abu Sayyaf (ASG) remains highly active, two of the quarter's high-profile kidnappings, that of Swiss-Filipino Charlie Rieth on 4 April and Vicente Barrios a businessman abducted 18 April, were perpetrated by an organised kidnap-for-ransom group with ties to 'rogue' members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). According to the military, the MO of the group differs from that of ASG, where, typically, immediate communication is initiated. Moreover, ASG primarily takes its captives to Basilan or Sulu and not Zamboanga Sibugay, where MILF rebels operate. Notable cases include the following: On 4 April gunmen donning police uniforms kidnapped Rieth from his home in Zamboanga City. He was later rescued by government forces on 16 June. On 11 April suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels kidnapped a mayoral candidate and a former village official in Davao Oriental, allegedly due to their refusal to pay extortion fees; both were released three days later on humanitarian grounds. In early May police rescued a Filipino-American kidnap victim from her abductors in Tagaytay City; reports indicate the \$1 million ransom was not paid. ASG militants kidnapped and later beheaded three loggers in retaliation for government offensives in the country's south on 12 June. Government troops have mounted an offensive in and around Sumisip in Basilan, amid intelligence reports that a number of militants allied with the South-East Asian militant network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) have taken refuge in ASG encampments.



Afghanistan - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 1-2 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 4
Average known time in captivity: 90 – 270 days
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: \$300,000 – \$750,000

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: 7+ / week
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: 10 – 30 days
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: \$50,000

Afghanistan - Report

The second quarter of 2010 witnessed an increase in the frequency of kidnaps in Afghanistan. Two Chinese engineers kidnapped in Faryab province were freed after more than three months of captivity on 30 April. It has now been a year since Private First Class Bowe Bergdahl, an US airborne infantryman, was captured by the Taliban and he remains their hostage. At least three journalists remain in Taliban captivity including two French reporters who have been missing since the beginning of this year. Taliban militants threatened to kill them along with their assistants in a video posted online on 12 April. A third Japanese reporter, Kosuke Tsuneoka, was abducted in during the end of March and was last heard from during an interview with Japan's Mainichi newspaper on 17 June. Initially reported as being incarcerated in a Baghlan jail, the Taliban has since demanded a ransom of several hundred thousand dollars for his release. A tribal elder identified as Haji Ahmad who attended the national peace Jirga from 2-4 June was also kidnapped in Kunduz province and the attempts of local elders to establish contact with the captors have not succeeded so far. Five Afghan UN workers were abducted in Baghlan on 16 April. They were freed a month later in a military operation by Afghan troops. It is noted that Northern Afghanistan, especially Kunduz Province, has been the sight of a dozen kidnappings in the last three months which AKE rates as only moderately dangerous when compared to Southern Afghanistan. The majority of kidnap victims remain Afghan nationals while the targeting of foreigners appears to be consistent. Among foreigners, journalists, engineers remain the target of choice for militants. Among locals, elder tribal leaders along with translators, drivers and others are likely to remain attractive targets for the Taliban in an attempt to discourage co-operation with the government and ISAF forces.

Chad - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 0-1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 1
Average known time in captivity: 100 days
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: N/A

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Chad - Report

The spate of kidnapping in Sudan has also spilled into neighbouring Chad, where aid workers have been seized by non-state armed groups. Areas of concern include the border region of Darfur, Ouaddai, Salamat and Biltine (in eastern and south-eastern Chad) and Vakaga (north-eastern CAR), where the three regional governments blame each other for supporting insurgencies across their borders. Armed men seized a Western aid worker with the British charity Oxfam in Abeche, eastern Chad, on 8 June. He was released a few days later about 70km east of Abeche. Aid workers have long complained of widespread insecurity and Oxfam said in 2009 there were 25 attacks on NGOs in the area every month. A group called African Free Eagles claimed most of the past kidnappings in Chad. The African Free Eagles said it was composed of young African men disgusted with French policy in the continent and wanted Paris to work in the interests of the African people.



Central Africa Republic - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 0-1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 4
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: N/A

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Central Africa Republic - Report

No new kidnappings were reported in CAR, however the border region between CAR, Chad and Sudan remains a very volatile operating environment with frequent attacks on aid workers. In the northern and north-western parts of CAR Zaraguinas (road bandits) frequently target civilians. In the south-east of CAR the notorious LRA is increasingly expanding its portfolio and engaging in widespread abductions, looting and killing.

DRC - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 0-1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 2
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: N/A

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: 7
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: 0
Average known settlement: N/A

DRC - Report

DRC remains one of the most dangerous operating environments for both national and international aid workers. Kidnapping has become increasingly common, with aid workers often considered to be wealthy, well-equipped and politically influential. On 4 April a Spanish doctor was captured and taken hostage by Envele rebels near Mbandaka in DRC. He is believed to have been liberated by the Congoloses army after nine days in captivity, but that has not yet been confirmed. On 13 April eight ICRC staff members, a Swiss citizen and seven Congolese, were kidnapped in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, near the remote area of Fizi, in South Kivu province. The eight have been held by Mai Mai armed militia. All of the hostages were released unharmed on 17 April. It remains uncertain if ransom was paid, but Amuri Yakutumbu, the head of the Mai Mai faction that seized the aid workers, said he would continue his struggle against the Kinshasa government despite the release of the hostages.



Pakistan - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 0-1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 1
Average known time in captivity: 120 (Longest is 500+ days)
Total number known to be currently held: 2
Average known settlement: \$250,000 – \$750,000

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: 5+ / week
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: 30 days
Total number known to be currently held: Unknown
Average known settlement: \$50,000 (up to \$2.5 million in 2008)

Pakistan - Report

No foreigners were abducted in the second quarter of 2010, while one was released from captivity. British journalist Asad Qureshi was released on 6 May after he was held by a militant group calling themselves the Asian Tigers for 40 days. The militants also released former Pakistani intelligence official “Colonel Imam” but his compatriot Khalid Khawaja was killed for alleged collusion with the CIA. His murder could herald the emergence of trend by an increasingly aggressive younger generation of militants who are no longer motivated only by money. The journalist Beverly Giesbrecht (also known as Khadija Abdul Qahaar), seized in November 2008 in Bannu, remains unaccounted for. A video showing Afghan Consul General Abdul Khaliq Farahi pleading for his life appeared on May 3. Kateeba Salahuddin Ayubi, a hitherto unheard of militant group, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and demanded the release of al-Qaeda militants held in Bagram airbase, Afghanistan. Most victims remain Pakistani nationals who are kidnapped mainly on sectarian or ethnic grounds or for ransom, although intimidation of security forces remains a factor. Traders, NGO workers, doctors, politicians and journalists remain attractive targets for kidnapers. Thirteen people, originally reported as 50, including three government officials, were seized by suspected militants dressed as policemen in Kurram on 15 May. The hostages were all released unconditionally within two days following negotiations between local tribal elders and the kidnapers. An attempt to kidnap interior minister Rehman Malik’s brother on 30 May was foiled. One of the four Pakistani members of Mercy Corps, a US-based NGO was killed following the refusal of Mercy Corp to pay a ransom of Rs 100 million while the three other employees remain in captivity. Finally, abductions of individuals from minority communities such as Sikhs and Hindus have increased.

Sahel Region (Mauritania, Mali, Niger) - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 0-1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 1
Average known time in captivity: 80 days (shortest: 1 day longest: 330 days)
Total number known to be currently held: 2
Average known settlement: N/A; prison exchange demands

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Sahel Region (Mauritania, Mali, Niger) - Report

No hostages were taken between March and July. Nevertheless the Sahel region remains a recurrent worry as it continues to present itself as a breeding ground for radical Islamist gatherings. Despite attempts at a co-ordinated regional response, AKE believes that the risk of kidnapping by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in the Sahel, particularly in north-eastern Mali and northern Niger, will remain significant for the foreseeable future. Relatively weak regional security forces (despite US-led initiatives at improving their capability) and wide availability of small arms all increase the risk of kidnap. It is also believed that local gangs are involved in kidnapping foreigners and then selling on the hostages to AQIM. On 18 April AQIM released an Italian couple taken hostage nearly four months ago. Sergio Cicala, 65, and his Burkina Faso-born wife Philomene Kabore, 39, were abducted in December 2009 in south-east Mauritania, then handed over to AQIM rebels in neighbouring Mali. It remains unclear if ransom was paid. It is believed that the couple was held by Abou Yaya Hamane, an associate of another Algerian, Abdelhamid Abou Zaid, who was responsible for the killing of a British tourist in June 2009. On 26 April 78-year old Frenchmen Michel Germaneau and his Algerian driver, Ouaghi Abidine, were kidnapped in Niger, near the borders with Algeria and Mali. The driver was later found in Mali. He was jailed on 16 May and has been accused of complicity in the kidnapping. AQIM has demanded that imprisoned members of the group be released in exchange for Germaneau. Two Spanish men, Albert Vilalta and Roque Pascual, who were kidnapped in the north of Mauritania at the end of November 2009 remain in captivity. The two members of non-profit organisation Barcelona Accio Solidaria are expected to be held by Algerian militant Moctar Ben Moctar.



Somalia - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: 0-1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 0
Average known time in captivity: 90 days (shortest: 1 day, longest: 550 days)
Total number known to be currently held: 1
Average known settlement: \$100,000 – \$1 million

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: N/A
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: N/A
Average known time in captivity: N/A
Total number known to be currently held: N/A
Average known settlement: N/A

Somalia - Report

No hostages were taken between March and July; however, kidnappings remain a serious threat to foreign personnel in Somalia and AKE believes the current figure is kept down by the low number of foreigners working in the country. The Islamist rebel groups al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam are almost exclusively responsible for the kidnappings. Financial gain is the main motive behind almost all cases. Hostages are usually released unharmed following receipt of a ransom payment; however, there have been isolated cases where beatings and torture have been reported. There is a growing concern that hostages may in future be sold on to hard-line extremists operating directly for al-Qaeda, who would then be ransomed for the release of al-Qaeda operatives imprisoned in the hostages' home country. Despite the fears, this has not yet happened. Although the country as a whole is dangerous, certain parts are more susceptible to abduction than others. The Puntland and Somaliland, two semi-autonomous regions in the north have a degree of political and social stability that does not exist in the south and central parts of Somalia. The latter areas are particularly dangerous for foreigners to travel in as for the most part they are controlled by Islamist groups who see foreigners as working with the transitional federal government. The whereabouts of one of the two French security advisors who were kidnapped by al-Shabaab on 14 July remains unknown. However, on 9 June a video appeared on a website often used by Islamist militant groups, which said the hostage, named as Denis Alex, had issued a "message to the French people". The video showed the captive in an orange outfit with armed men standing behind him.

Iraq - Statistics

Foreigners

Frequency of kidnap: <1 / month
Total number taken in reporting period: 0
Average known time in captivity: 508 days (range of 66 – 1041 days)
Total number known to be currently held: 1 (possibly dead)
Average known settlement: release of prisoners

Nationals

Frequency of nationals kidnapped: 1-2 / week
Total number of national kidnapped in reporting period: 21
Average known time in captivity: 2-3 days
Total number known to be currently held: 12
Average known settlement: \$50,000

Iraq - Report

AKE expects that kidnap for ransom incidents will become more common in Iraq over the coming quarter if the security environment worsens amid the delayed government-formation process. Abductions appear to have increased over the past month, although the police forces are becoming increasingly adept at locating and freeing hostages. The majority of victims are Iraqi nationals (especially academics, children, business-owners and members of the security forces) but the groups responsible will still regard foreigners as an attractive target. Radical Islamists may be using the tactic as a means of raising revenue (they have also been raiding banks and markets).



EU - Report

Bulgaria remains a regional hotspot in terms of kidnap for ransom in Europe, with two high-profile incidents occurring within the past 18 months; one victim was released after an unconfirmed payment of over €500,000 but the whereabouts of 64-year-old Vene Sotirov are still unknown. He was taken in April 2009 and there has been no ransom demand to date. The link between kidnap and organised crime is also highlighted by the recent kidnap of a businessman in Italy. On 14 May Turkish-American financier Adnan Sakli was abducted from his holiday apartment in Rimini by six men posing as police, who were later found to have Mafia connections. He was held for four days and although no direct ransom demand was made, the gang intended to extort \$28.5bn from Sakli by forcing him to sign over control of his shares and business interests. A police rescue mission resulted in Sakli being freed, but in a bizarre twist, one of the kidnapers has since claimed that Sakli was in on the plan and the whole kidnap could have been an elaborate fraud, which is plausible given Sakli's own dubious past. In Germany the body of banker's wife Maria Boegerl was discovered three weeks after she was abducted on 12 May. Her husband complied with the kidnapper's demand to leave \$555,000 in cash in a bin bag at a specified location on the A7 motorway but the ransom was not collected. It later transpired that the bag may have been cleared away as rubbish; after failing to collect the ransom no further contact was made and the body was discovered several weeks later.

FSU - Report

The on-going trend of relatives of wealthy individuals being targeted for kidnap continues in the FSU. On 8 June Anna Maria Mamurina, the granddaughter of a well-known businessman in Russia's Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk was abducted from her car, which was later found on fire. The kidnappers initially demanded \$16 million in ransom but her grandfather Igor Neklyudov offered a reward of \$320,000 for information about the gang and \$1.6 million for her release. She was released after five days and it is unclear whether a reward or ransom was paid. A regional flashpoint for kidnap is Kyrgyzstan – bride kidnapping is a common practice in this region, but following the recent ethnic violence between Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities the police and local gangs have been implicated in kidnapping young men for ransom.



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