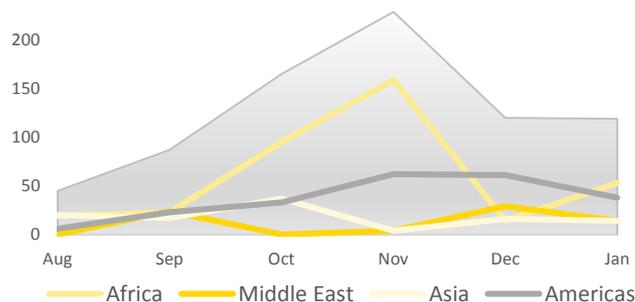


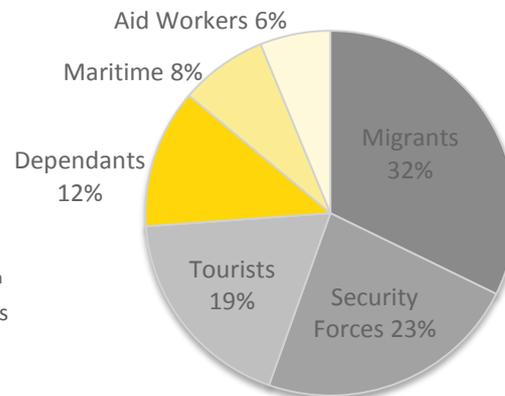
Monthly Kidnap Digest – January 2016

Foreigners Kidnapped

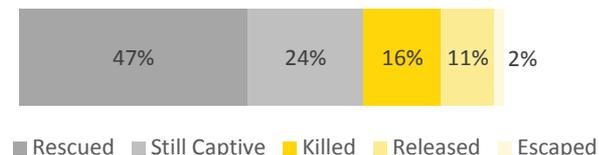


*Overall number of foreigners kidnapped and regional break-down

Most Targeted



Outcome



- 18** Foreigners killed in militant attack in Burkina Faso
- 17** Remain held by various militant groups in Africa
- 10** Tourists kidnapped and rescued in Egypt & Mexico

Significant Events

- > **BURKINA FASO:** Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) affiliate Al Murabitoun killed scores of foreigners, including a U.S missionary, in a 12-hour hotel siege frequented by westerners in Ouagadougou. This follows a similar attack by the group in Mali last November where 12 foreigners died. AQIM also kidnapped two Australian doctors from their homes near the Malian border. So far no ransom demand has been made.
- > **MALI:** AQIM kidnapped a Swiss missionary in Timbuktu, demanding the release of imprisoned militants, one of whom is held at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.
- > **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:** Policemen tried to extort \$53,000 USD from a Chinese businessman after invading his home. Authorities arrested them.
- > **AFGHANISTAN:** The Taliban released a Canadian tourist after five years. No ransom payment was reported. Qatar negotiated his release.
- > **MEXICO:** Criminals in Jalisco killed a student after a day in captivity having demanded a ransom of \$173,400 USD.
- > **IRAQ:** Three U.S. military trainers were kidnapped by suspected militias in Baghdad and remain in captivity, with no ransom demands reported.
- > **IRAN:** Days before sanctions relief on Iran, four Iranian-U.S. prisoners were released in Tehran in exchange for Washington granting clemency to several Iranians detained in the U.S.

Unity's Watchlist

- > **IRAN:** The Guardian Council disqualified numerous reformist candidates for the Assembly of Experts and parliamentary elections on 26 February. Although a breakout of violence akin to the 2009 presidential election is unlikely, a strengthening of the conservative factions may cause small-scale protests as it would imperil Iran's political and economic opening after the sanctions relief.
- > **TANZANIA:** The political opposition announced the boycott of a re-run of Zanzibar's presidential elections set for 20 March. This may cause large-scale demonstrations, with security forces likely using violence to disperse crowds.