

As of March 2010, Altegrity Risk International (ARI) has responded to 492 kidnapping and extortion incidents. Three hundred seventy-eight (380) of these occurred internationally and one hundred twelve (112) took place in the United States.

Kidnap/Extortion/Detention Incidents around the World

Cameroon: The kidnapers of seven Chinese fishermen, a previously unknown and alleged Nigerian group called the Africa Marine Commando (AMC), released their hostages captured near the oil-rich Bakassi peninsula on March 17th. It remains unclear if any ransom was paid for the abductees' release, with the AMC reportedly having demanded up to US\$25,000.

Colombia: Police freed on February 23rd a U.S. national from a Cali apartment, where he was being held by at least 12 kidnapers. The victim was reportedly snatched outside a bank and family members had allegedly been contacted regarding a ransom payment.

India: Haryana state police rescued a South Korean national from kidnapers shortly after her abduction on February 25th, as she returned home from a school in a taxi. The kidnapers, allegedly armed with pistols, abandoned their victim after police launched a comprehensive investigation for the girl.

Kenya: Police rescued a kidnapped Canadian national on February 20th, only four days after he was abducted outside a school in Nairobi. Police reportedly arrested three suspected kidnapers as they arranged to exchange a US\$131,578 ransom demand for the victim.

Mexico: A 32-year-old Italian national abducted in January 2010 was released by kidnapers on February 8th in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo state.

Nigeria: Niger Delta gunmen released a South African journalist on March 9th, a week after he was taken captive in Owerri, Imo state, along with two Nigerian colleagues. One of his colleagues reportedly escaped from his captors while the other's fate remains unknown. Media reports indicate that a US\$100,000 ransom was paid to secure the release, although this could not be corroborated.

Pakistan: Jordan's ambassador to Pakistan was the target of a Taliban kidnap attempt in Islamabad, according to reports on March 23rd. Separately, a five-year-old British boy who was kidnapped during a family vacation in Jhelum was found alive and safe on March 16th. Authorities say the kidnapers snatched the victim from a family member's home on March 3rd.

Somalia: Pirates holding two British nationals hostage reduced their ransom demand on February 26th, asking for US\$2 million, down from an initial US\$7 million. Pirates say they need to recoup their expenses, which include paying 150 guards, renting vehicles, and paying for food. The British government has refused to pay a ransom.

Other Developments from around the World

Algeria: Armed insurgents kidnapped an Algerian engineer working for a Canadian construction firm on January 6th. The engineer was seized by a group of armed men in the Bouira region, a stronghold of Al-Qaida-linked militants about 150km (90 miles) southeast of the Algerian capital.

Azerbaijan: The leader of a Chinese organized criminal group was arrested on January 21st for allegedly kidnapping a Chinese national in Baku. The victim's husband said the kidnappers phoned him, saying that his wife had been abducted by Chinese citizens and demanded US\$3,000 for her release.

Bangladesh: Police rescued the 10-year-old son of a businessman from kidnappers who took the child from his Hossainpur school in Kishoreganj. Kidnappers reportedly demanded 150,000 taka (US\$2,130) in ransom.

Belgium: A Dutch cannabis-vending coffee shop owner who was kidnapped in December escaped from his captors on March 23rd. The owner was held in a building in Maasmechelen after being forced into a van by five armed men in early December.

Colombia: Colombian troops rescued five oil contractors on March 24th, four days after they were kidnapped by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels near the Venezuelan border. Authorities say the workers were abducted near an oilfield in Arauca state, when rebels intercepted their vehicle. Meanwhile, the National Liberation Army (ELN) kidnapped three Colombian politicians during two attacks in Saravena, Arauca department on March 11th; all were released on March 21st. In other news, police rescued a kidnapped Swiss national in Palomino, La Guajira department on January 23rd, nearly a month after she was kidnapped from her home.

France: Two managers of a German electrical and engineering group were released on March 2nd after being held in their offices overnight by employees. The company refused to comply with their demands for concessions over job cuts.

Guatemala: Six people, including two South Korean nationals, were arrested on February 11th for allegedly abducting and killing a South Korean businessman.

India: A breakaway Maoist faction reportedly kidnapped a private road construction firm engineer in Bihar state's Gaya district on March 15th. The members of the Revolutionary Communist Center (RCC) allegedly raided the company office, burnt a machine, and kidnapped an employee. The militants reportedly released their captive the next day. Investigators believe the militants sought to intimidate the firm.

Mali: A French hostage who was being held by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was freed on February 23rd after four militants were released from jail. The group had threatened to kill the French hostage, who was abducted from a hotel near the border with Niger in November 2009.

Nigeria: Three British nationals and a Colombian working for an Anglo-Dutch oil company near the Niger Delta city of Port Harcourt kidnapped by unidentified gunmen were released on January 19th.

Philippines: The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) handed to local officials a Pakistani national on March 17th, who reportedly escaped from kidnappers in Maguindanao province's Datu Odin Sinsuat and sought assistance from the former rebels. Unidentified gunmen reportedly sought some six million pesos (US\$131,000). Security forces rescued on March 11th an Indian national kidnapped a day earlier in Laguna province's San Pablo City for a 20 million pesos (US\$436,000) ransom. The police raid freed the hostage.

but the four suspected abductors managed to escape, although a subsequent manhunt yielded one suspect. Meanwhile, police reportedly rescued two Chinese nationals held hostage by suspected Muslim separatists in Basilan province for more than three months on February 26th. Gunmen released a Yemeni national after kidnapping him for 10 days in Lanao del Sur province on February 8th. The kidnappers allegedly sought a US\$1 million ransom.

Somalia: Somali pirates hijacked a Bermuda-flagged cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden and seized its 25 crewmembers on March 24th. Private security guards shot and killed a Somali pirate during an attack on a Panamanian-flagged cargo ship off the coast of Somalia on March 23rd. The pirates reportedly attacked the vessel twice, engaging in a gun battle with guards during the second attack. The same day, pirates hijacked a Turkish ship and its 21 crew some 400 miles outside the area where naval forces operate. The Malta-flagged ship was hijacked some 1,000 miles from Somalia and was reportedly closer to India than Africa. Somali pirates released a Singapore-operated chemical tanker on March 16th, following the payment of a US\$3.5 million ransom. Meanwhile, Somali pirates launched a rare land attack on February 16th, seizing food aid trucks and their drivers in Puntland. Pirates are demanding the release of their colleagues who were recently seized by Somaliland security forces.

Venezuela: Kidnappers released the vice president of the Banco Venezolano de Credito in Caracas' Plaza Venezuela on February 3rd, nearly a year after he was abducted by gunmen who intercepted his vehicle in the city.

Post-Earthquake Environment Elevates KRE Risk in Haiti

A powerful 7.0 magnitude on the Richter scale earthquake struck just outside Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince in mid-January 2010, destroying the city's critical infrastructure and further hampering the country's already weak law enforcement capabilities. While Port-au-Prince has traditionally reported high rates of kidnapping-for-ransom, authorities had reported a declining rate in recent years as law enforcement capabilities improved and made strides in improving security. The earthquake has already proved to be a major setback in these advances, with authorities warning foreign nationals of a high kidnapping threat. In March 2010, the U.S. State Department issued a warning to U.S. citizens that at least four U.S. nationals had been murdered in the country since the earthquake; at least one murder was the result of a kidnapping attempt. The same month, authorities reported that two European aide workers were kidnapped and released after a few days in Port-au-Prince. Separately, an official with a Catholic charity and a chemical engineer were kidnapped and released on February 23rd following the payment of a US\$25,000 ransom. The pair was abducted in Ouanaminthe, near the border with the Dominican Republic. Meanwhile, a Belgian journalist was reportedly intercepted by unidentified gunmen while driving through Port-au-Prince's Delmas suburb on March 25th and abducted; it remains unclear if a ransom demand was issued. The poor security environment and influx of foreign nationals to the country should be expected to contribute to soaring rates of kidnapping as well as other violent assaults in the near-term.

Further information on regional threats as well as tactics used by criminals and terrorists can be found on ARI's Worldwide Advisory and Information Service (WAIS) website at <http://wais.altegrity.com>. Sign up for a free trial to receive access to daily, monthly, and special reports on a variety of countries and relevant security topics.

Corporate Risk International Crisis Response Team

ARI has resources available to furnish emergency crisis management assistance and response anywhere in the world should the need arise. In addition to 145 response members in the United States, there are 162 overseas. Here is how ARI's international team is currently positioned:

Afghanistan – 1	Congo – 1	India – 3	New Zealand – 2	South Korea – 2
Argentina – 3	Costa Rica – 2	Indonesia – 5	Nigeria – 1	Spain – 3
Australia – 2	Czech Republic – 1	Iraq – 3	Norway – 1	Sri Lanka – 1
Austria – 1	Denmark – 2	Ireland – 2	Pakistan – 2	Sweden – 1
Bahrain – 1	Dom. Rep. – 1	Israel – 1	Panama – 1	Switzerland – 2
Bangladesh – 1	Ecuador – 1	Italy – 2	Peru – 2	Taiwan – 2
Barbados – 1	Egypt – 3	Ivory Coast – 1	Philippines – 3	Thailand – 1
Belgium – 2	El Salvador – 1	Jamaica – 1	Poland – 1	Trinidad/Tobago – 1
Bermuda – 1	Estonia – 1	Japan – 3	Puerto Rico – 3	Turkey – 4
Bolivia – 1	Finland – 2	Kenya – 1	Romania – 1	U.A.E. – 1
Brazil – 3	France – 1	Kuwait – 2	Russia – 4	Ukraine – 1
Bulgaria – 1	Germany – 2	Luxembourg – 1	Saudi Arabia – 2	United Kingdom – 3
Canada – 3	Greece – 2	Malaysia – 3	Singapore – 1	Uruguay – 1
Chile – 1	Guatemala – 2	Mexico – 6	Slovak Republic – 1	U.S.V.I. – 1
China – 6	Honduras – 2	Netherlands – 3	South Africa – 3	Venezuela – 2
Colombia – 4	Hungary – 1			

Commonly Asked Questions – Crisis Management Planning

Why is it important that the CMT meet regularly to discuss what their duties will be?

The most critical period of a crisis usually occurs during the first 48 hours of any incident. Therefore, it is very important that CMT members be fully aware of their responsibilities, vis-à-vis certain crisis situations, so that very little time is wasted during this critical timeframe. Most decisions that will directly impact the final result of the crisis (identifying the negotiator, notification to police/FBI, decision to pay ransom, delegation of responsibility within the company to assist the victim's family, release of press/employee information, etc.) are all usually made in the first or second day of a crisis. So, it is important that these decisions be made in an orderly fashion, and the best way to ensure that the decisions will be the correct ones for the crisis at hand is to prepare for the crisis well in advance by regularly holding CMT meetings.

ARI's recently updated publication, [Crisis Management Planning and Executive Protection](#) can be obtained by contacting PIA's Headquarters at (914) 241-8068, and asking for either Bert Van Wagenen, Buck Kidder, Ian Hughes, Anita Arnold, Gordon Cobleigh, or Veronica Ribeiro. This publication contains useful advice concerning international travel, executive protection, and vehicular, office, and home safety.

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