



red24 Special Risks Kidnap for Ransom and Extortion

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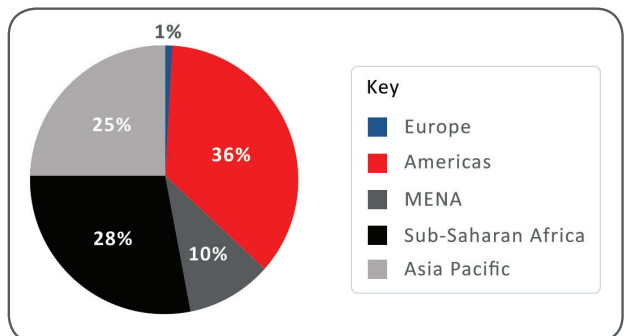
Kidnapping continued to be a global concern in 2013. red24 estimates that more than 30,000 kidnappings for ransom took place in 2013, while thousands of abductions in response to various other motivations also occurred. Globally, a trend towards an increase in express kidnappings was also identified.

High- and extreme-risk destinations, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Nigeria, Iraq, Pakistan and the Sahel/Sahara region, experienced elevated threat levels to foreign and local nationals. The civil war in Syria also contributed to an ongoing elevated threat of kidnapping, including a risk for nationals of both regional and Western states. In some bordering states, particularly Lebanon, conflict and insecurity spillover translated into a heightened kidnap threat level and an associated increase in incidents.

Elsewhere, there is an increased threat from kidnapping in the Sahel/Sahara region (specifically in Mauritania, Mali, southern Algeria, southern Libya and Niger) and in Nigeria, which accounted for more than 25 percent of all kidnappings globally and 70 percent of all abductions in Africa.

In the Americas, Mexico recorded its highest number of kidnappings in 16 years in 2013. Venezuela continued to experience an incline in the number of reported events, with as many as 2,000 incidents taking place in 2013. Central and South America also continued to see an upward trend in the number of express kidnappings, where the hostage is seized for a relatively short period of time, just long enough to obtain some concession or financial gain.

In Europe, the threat remains generally low overall; however, socio-economic pressures are anticipated to result in further kidnappings in certain areas in 2014. Furthermore, conflict-affected areas, such as south east Turkey and the North Caucasus, will continue to pose an ongoing direct risk to foreign and local nationals alike, if basic precautions are not adopted. Kidnapping in Asia remained largely confined to the traditional hotspots of India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Afghanistan, while China continued to experience a specific type of labour dispute-related kidnapping. India continued to record the highest number of kidnappings globally, in excess of 43,000, although only approximately 2 percent of these were conducted for ransom.





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About red24

red24 is a crisis management assistance company that provides a range of security and other assistance services, offering preventative and reactive advice to assist individuals and organisations in avoiding and managing security risks to themselves, their families and their assets.