

ThreatRate 2018/19 Global K&R Trends and Insights Report





About ThreatRate's Annual 2018/19 K&R Report

At ThreatRate we believe that the most complex risk management questions are best answered with facts.

We are a Risk Intelligence company that synthesizes, analyzes and visualizes millions of documents and datapoints to give our clients timely comprehensive fact-based insights.

ThreatRate's Kidnap for Ransom Annual Report offers global and regional kidnapping analytics and trend insights.

Data is derived from various credible open sources and is focused only on insurable kidnap for ransom activity and outcomes that would be of interest to our corporate clients, governmental agencies NGOs and our academic collaborators.

The report reviews global K&R analytics first, before taking a deeper dive into the three key regions where most kidnapping incidents took place in 2018.

ThreatRate's historical Kidnap for Ransom data that spans over fifteen years is benchmarked to identify evolving trends and outliers both regionally and globally.

NOTE: ThreatRate is using APIs and open sources that record incidents of kidnapping and other threat related events from around the globe. Only events that would meet the criteria of insurance providers are recorded. As such, the report does not cover global kidnappings of illegal immigrants by human traffickers or gang wars ("bad on bad") kidnappings.

THREATRATE GLOBAL K&R 2019 FORECAST

In the coming year we expect to see a continued high rate of kidnap & ransom incidents in West Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Dry season in Africa has been a historic high point for K&R, and indicators point to September–March as the most dangerous months. Should current geopolitical conflicts in West Asia continue, the share of kidnappings involving multiple victims should increase to around 50% in that region.

Local elections times in Africa are also highly correlated with K&R activity and in 2019, throughout the year, there are 33 planned election events in 23 African countries suggesting a heightened K&R risk in these countries.

While Nigeria will continue to be one of the most dangerous countries for K&R, trends are indicating signs of improvement. Over the past three years we saw the total kidnappings for ransom in Nigeria dropping some 56% from its peak in 2015.

Mexico and the Philippines are projected to have some of the most severe kidnapping incidents. This year, an increasing share of kidnappings in Mexico took place from a vehicle or on the street, rather than from an office building, and the average duration for incidents was 31 days. The Philippines saw some of the greatest number of kidnapped victims in 2018. These trends are expected to continue into 2019 in geographies with loose government control, such as northern Mexico and the southern islands of the Philippines.

India will continue to show high kidnapping events rate. Although kidnapping of foreigners is rare, local nationals employed by foreign companies are at high risk being perceived as earning higher salaries. As kidnapping gangs have achieved economic success, foreign employees and travelers perceived as wealthy compared to the local population, will continue to be targeted.

Kidnappings from vehicles are likely to remain the most common incident location, especially for government employees and security agents.

Education and school-age kidnappings should also decrease in 2019, as a singular high-profile kidnapping of 100 schoolgirls by Boko Haram caused an outlier in 2018.

Virtual kidnappings in which criminals make their victims believe their loved one was kidnapped, are projected to become increasingly common in 2019. This category while frequent is still underreported, and service providers should consider specialized protections as this incident type becomes more common.

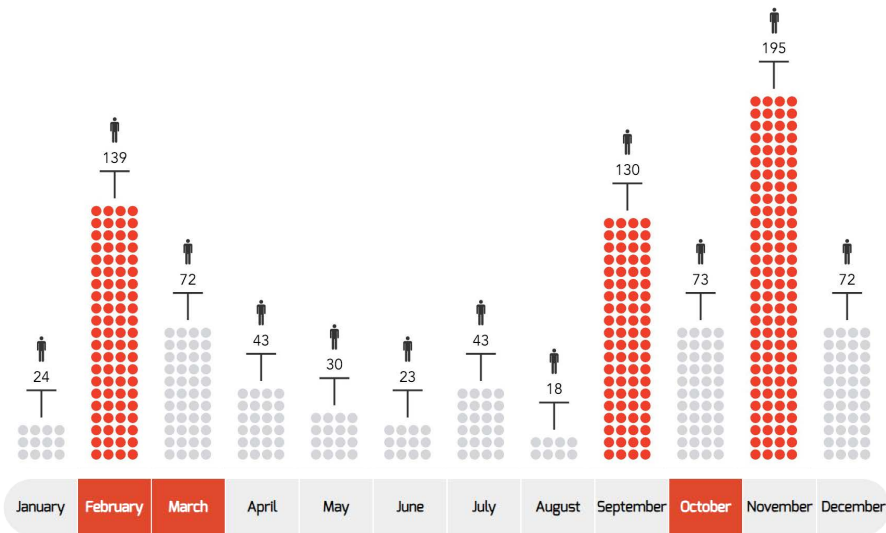
ThreatRate analytics indicate the following 5 strategies to help our clients prepare for 2019:

- Use country-specific analytics to create risk profiles for planned travel in 2019.
- Match historic review of threat risk trends with real-time information in the month prior to travel.
- Prepare for high ransom demands in Mexico and the Philippines, ranging from \$100–\$200K on average.
- Equip clients with specialized servicing for virtual kidnappings, as these are often underreported.
- Train employees traveling abroad in avoidance techniques and educate them about the risk

For more information and client inquiries visit us at www.threatrate.com or contact matt.merrill@threatrate.com

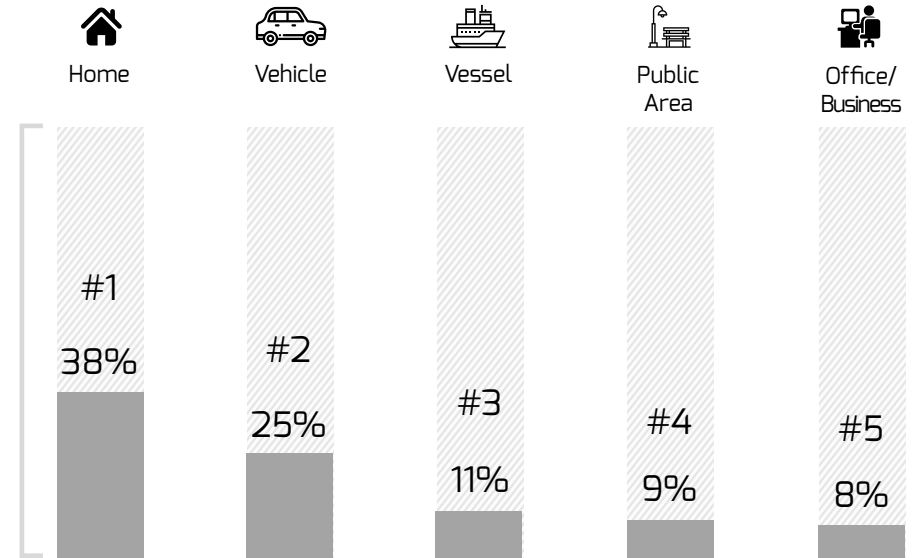
Threat forecast 2019 / Five Key Growing Trends

TOTAL KIDNAPPINGS BY MONTH 2015-2018



* Showing average number of kidnapping events per month

MOST POPULAR KIDNAPPING LOCATIONS 2015-2018



#1

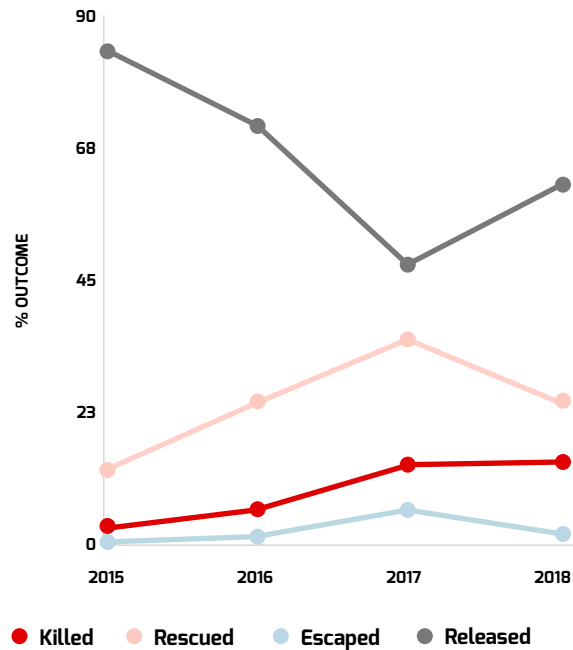
Looking into 2019, our five year trend analysis points to the dry season of September-March in Africa as most prone to kidnappings.

#2

Expect vehicular kidnappings to remain high, especially for government and security agents.

Threat forecast 2019

KIDNAPPING OUTCOMES TRENDS



#3

The percentage of kidnapped victims who are killed has increased nearly 600% over the past five years while the number of people released have declined 27% during the same time, a trend that is likely to continue in 2019

HIGHEST RISK COUNTRY



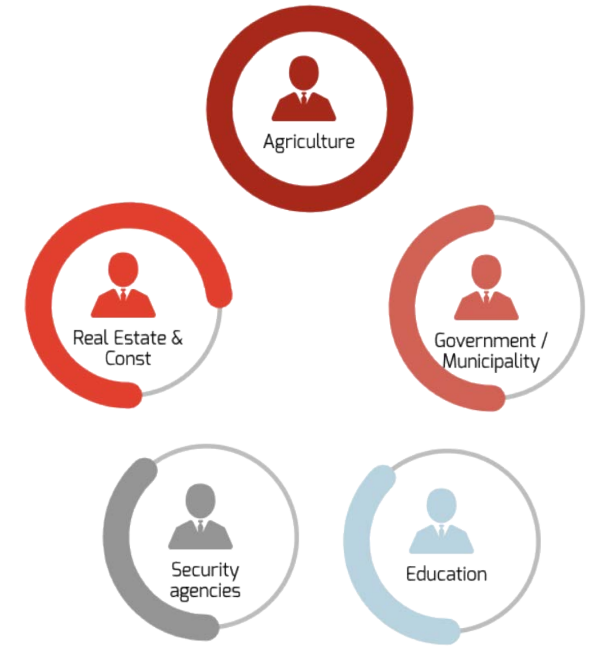
NIGERIA



#4

Despite a decline in total kidnappings over the past 5 years, Nigeria will remain a top threat for foreign kidnappings as long as their government has partial control over the rule of law. Use extra caution in the Port Harcourt and Lagos regions.

PROFESSION W/HIGHEST KIDNAPPING RISK



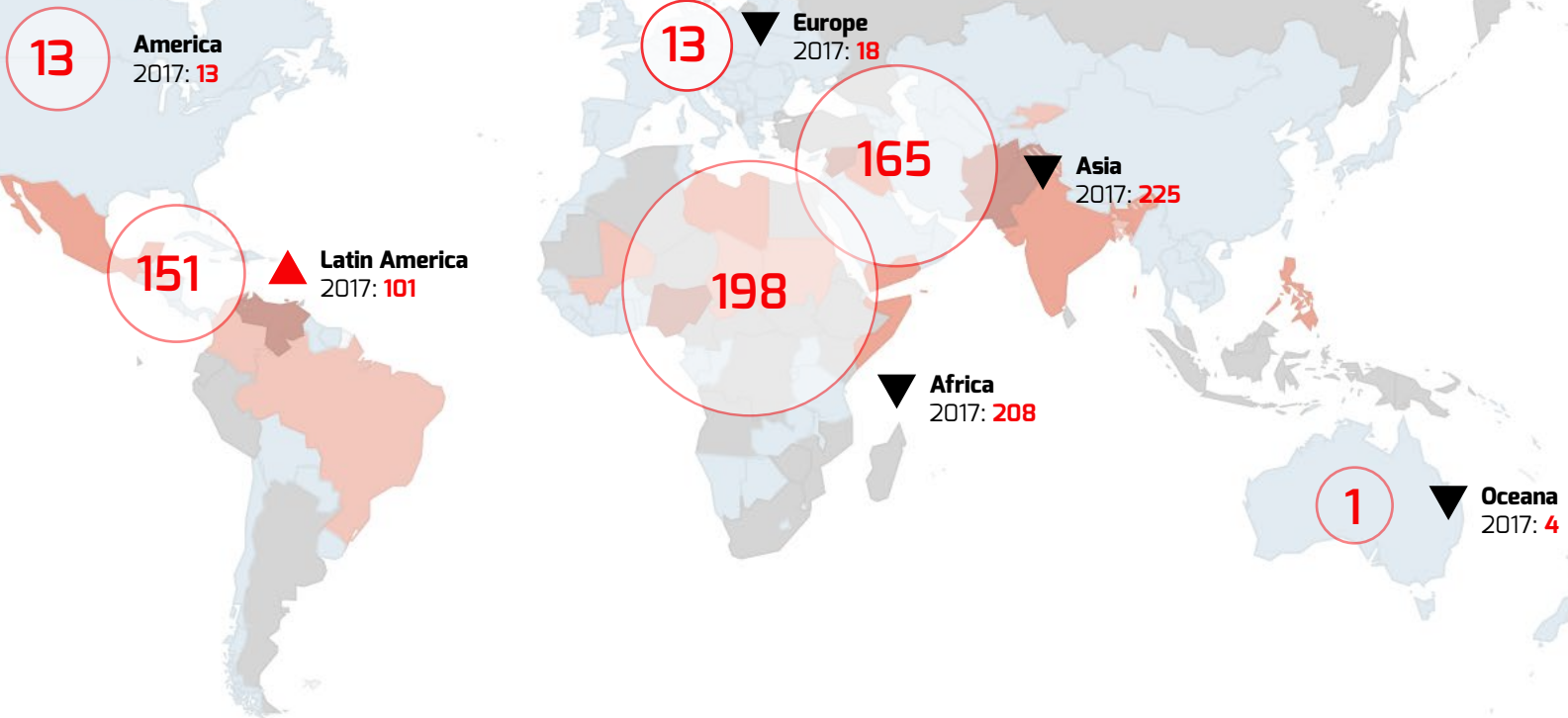
#5

While the trend of schoolteacher kidnappings will likely subside or remain isolated to Nigeria, these five professionals are especially at high risk of kidnapping worldwide.

2018 Global Analytics



Kidnapers committed 541 attacks worldwide, **down from 569 (4.9%) in 2017**



While the trend worldwide has been positive with mild to significant decrease in the number of kidnapping incidents, all eyes are on Latin America where K&R activity has gone up 49.5% in 2018.

ThreatRate Analytics @ a Glance

Our database covers

- 192 countries with real time monitoring
- 7 incident types including K&R
- 10+ unique victim and situational analytics.

In 2018 there were **541** K&R incidents with many of these events including multiple victims.

NOVEMBER
70 KIDNAPPING
INCIDENTS



MONTH W/HIGHEST
KIDNAPPING

350
DAYS



LONGEST KIDNAP
DURATION

AFGANISTAN
278 VICTIMS



COUNTRY
W/HIGHEST KIDNAPPING

19-25
ADULTS



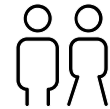
AGE GROUP
MOST KIDNAPPED

27%
OF VICTIMS



LOCATION MOST
KIDNAPPED FROM

89% MALE
11% FEMALE



GENDER
SPLIT

\$84,500



AVERAGE RANSOM
PAID

62%
RELEASED



MOST PREVAILING
KIDNAPPING OUTCOME

EDUCATION



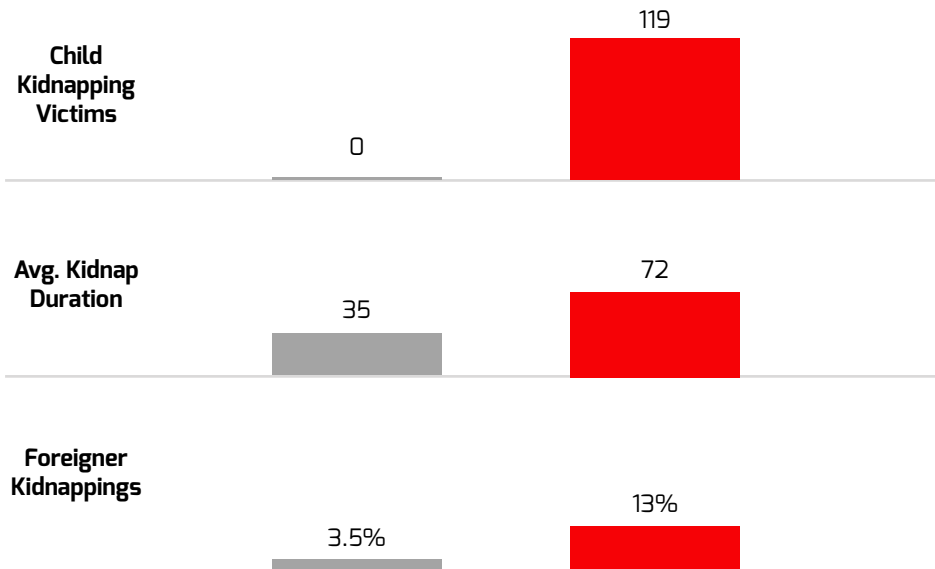
PROFESSIONAL GROUP
MOST KIDNAPED

While Nigeria and Afghanistan had the highest number of kidnappings, Nigeria has more severe K&R activity along 3 key measures

Afghanistan



Nigeria



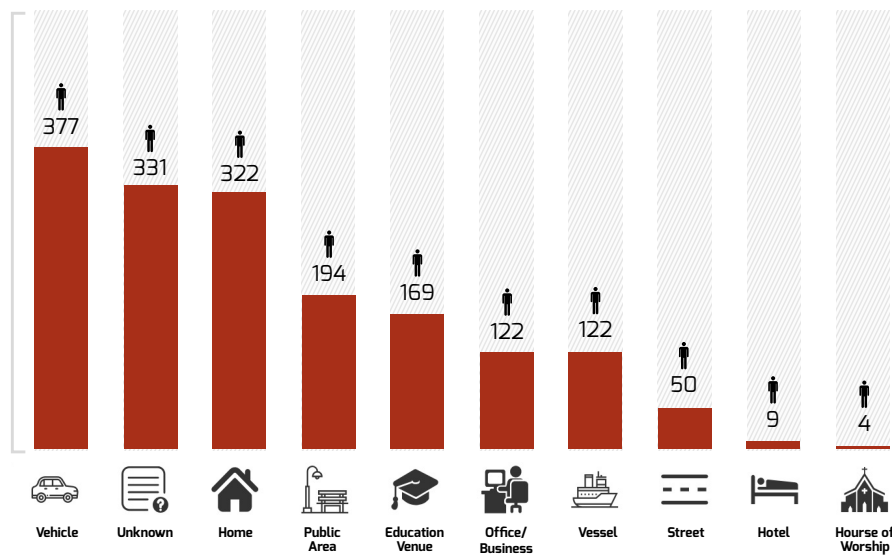
TOP 30 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VICTIMS KIDNAPPED

Nigeria	331
Afghanistan	285
Cameroon	197
Mexico	97
Somalia	70
Democratic Repul	69
India	51
Colombia	46
Iraq	43
Philippines	40
Libya	38
Pakistan	38
Syria	35
Venezuela	30
South Africa	30
Niger	19
Bangladesh	19
Uganda	16
Malaysia	15
Brazil	12
United States	9
Mozambique	8
Trinidad and Toba	7
Costa Rica	6
Peru	5
Panama	5
Kenya	5
Argentina	4
Nepal	3
Canada	1

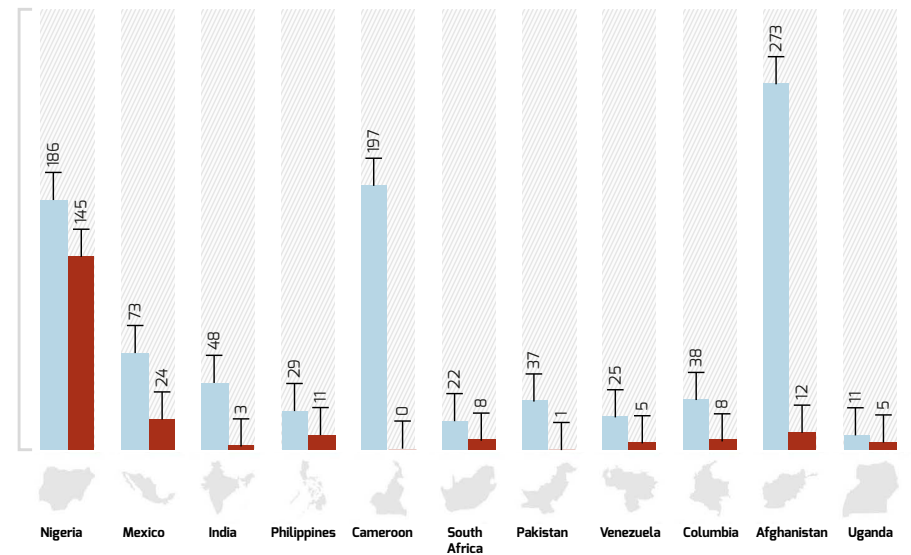
The Dapchi school kidnapping of 110 schoolgirls in Nigeria created a global outlier.



ThreatRate indicators in the education sector were elevated due to a major outlier incident: the Dapchi school kidnapping of 110 schoolgirls in Nigeria.

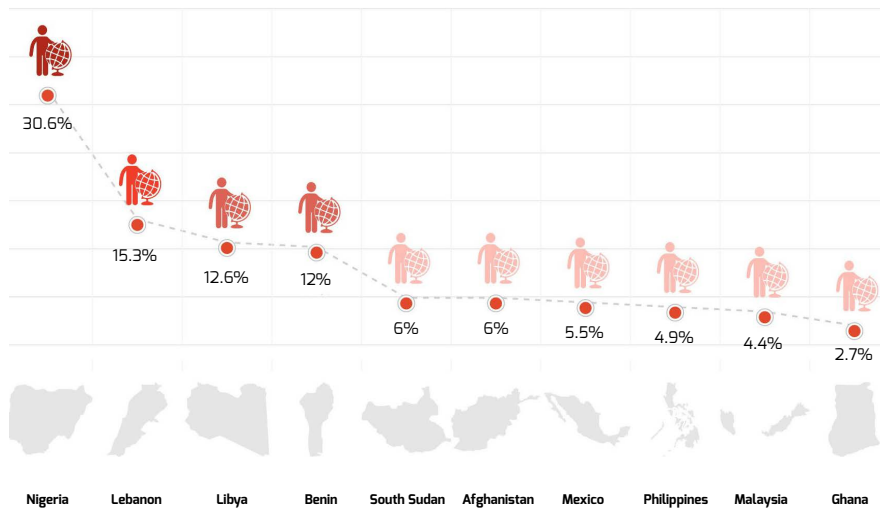


This rise in educator kidnappings also made the education venue nearly as prevalent as public area for kidnapping location. The number of kidnappings at a school rose by 245% from 2017 to 2018.

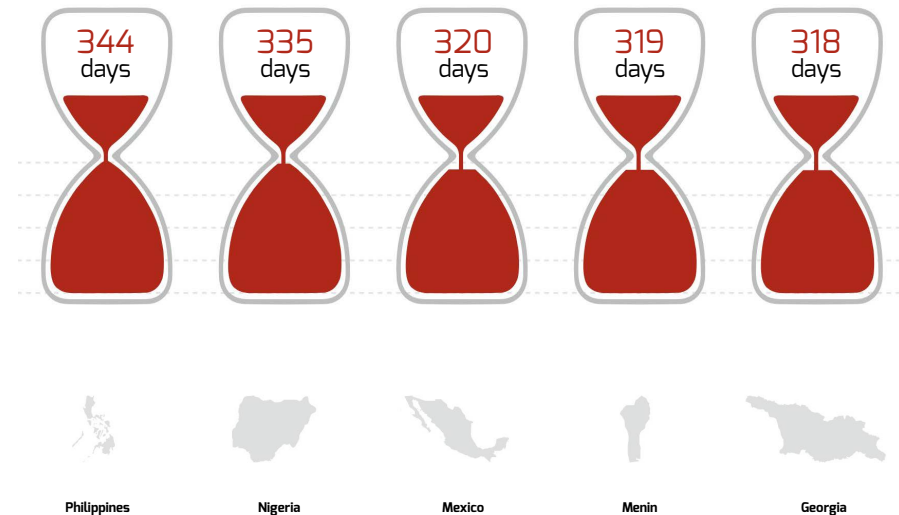


This group of women accounted for nearly 44% of the kidnappings in Nigeria, causing an outlier in an otherwise male-dominated victim cohort.

Foreign kidnappings were still most prevalent in Africa and the Middle East, yet the most extreme cases were diminished



The percentage of foreign kidnappings remained similar from 2017 to 2018



Some of the longest kidnappings in 2017 lasted over 2 years, with that time cut in half in 2018.

Kidnapping is correlated with other threat factors, which have remained high in Central Africa and Western Asia.

To supplement kidnap & ransom data, ThreatRate uses 7 Threat Score criteria to evaluate global risk together to provide a complete picture of risk, and to establish a baseline for *duty of care*.

2018 THREAT SCORE: TOP 3 COUNTRIES BY REGION

		Crime	Terrorism	Civil Unrest	Kidnapping	Extortion	Wrongful Detention	Evacuation
AFRICA	Nigeria	4	4	5	5	4	5	4
	Somalia	4	5	4	4	4	4	5
	Lybia	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
ASIA	Syria	4	5	5	5	4	5	5
	Afghanistan	4	5	4	5	3	4	5
	Iraq	3	5	4	4	2	3	5
LATAM	Venezuela	4	1	4	5	4	4	3
	Mexico	5	2	3	4	5	3	2
	Colombia	3	3	3	3	3	2	1

■ Low
 ■ Medium
 ■ Med-High
 ■ High
 ■ Very High

2018 Regional Analytics

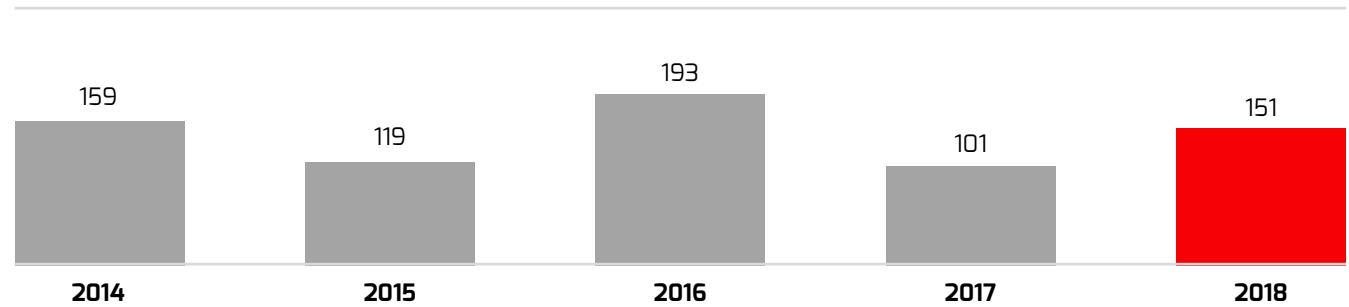


Regional Trends: Latin America

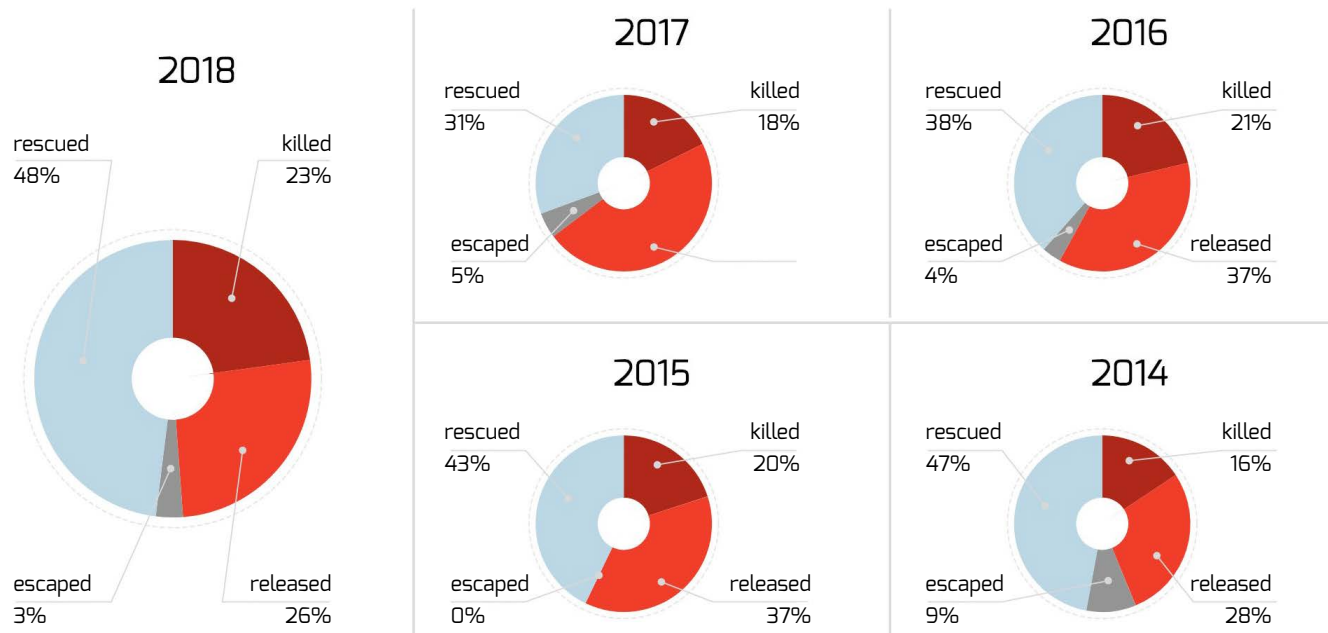
2018 saw a continuation in the slowdown from the high in 2016, aided by a significant slowdown in Mexico and Venezuela. However, victim fatalities remain the highest among any region. Home kidnappings are also becoming increasingly common, with longer duration than the vehicle-based express kidnapping.

Kidnappings are decreasing in number (1) but are increasing in severity (2). Trends in vehicle and home kidnappings have remained flat, while instances in the office/ place of business are becoming increasingly common.

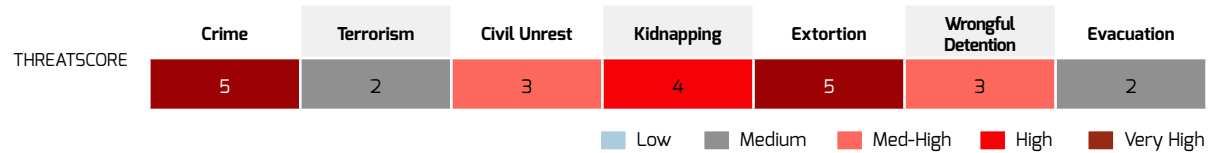
(1) TOTAL KIDNAPPING EVENTS



(2) FIVE YEAR ANALYSIS OF KIDNAPPING RESULTS IN LATAM



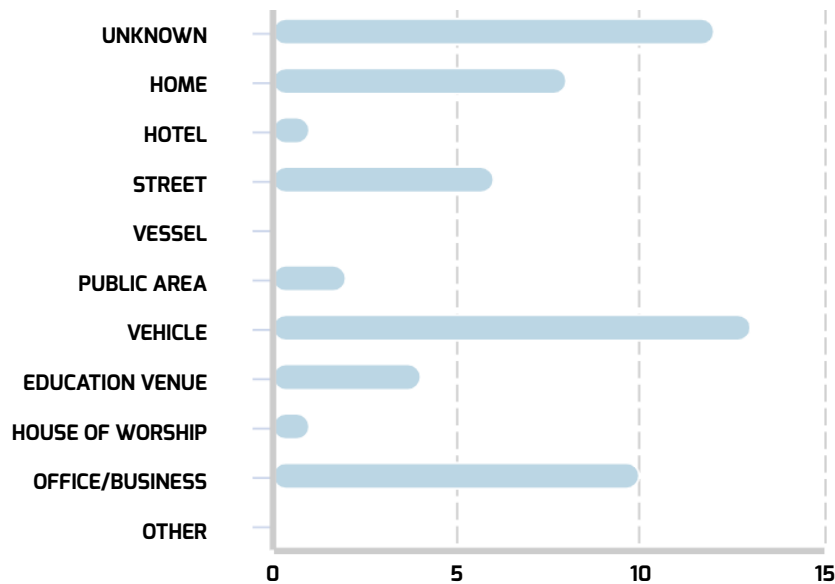
Country Profile: Mexico



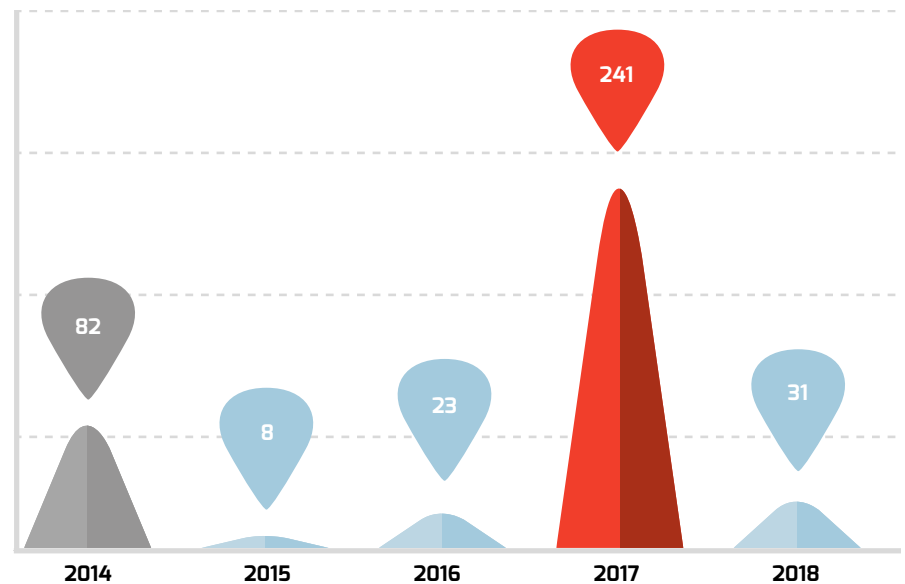
Mexico saw one of the highest ransom amounts among the 190 country sample, with **\$80,256 on average** for 2018. Still, the vast majority of kidnappings in the country were of locals, accounting for 90% total.

1. While vehicle kidnapping is still the leading location in Mexico, we also note the rise of office/business and home kidnappings.
 2. Average kidnapping duration has skyrocketed in 2017 but has decline to a more normative level in 2018.
- Additionally, 'Virtual kidnappings' are estimated to be widespread yet under-reported.

(1) KIDNAPPING LOCATION



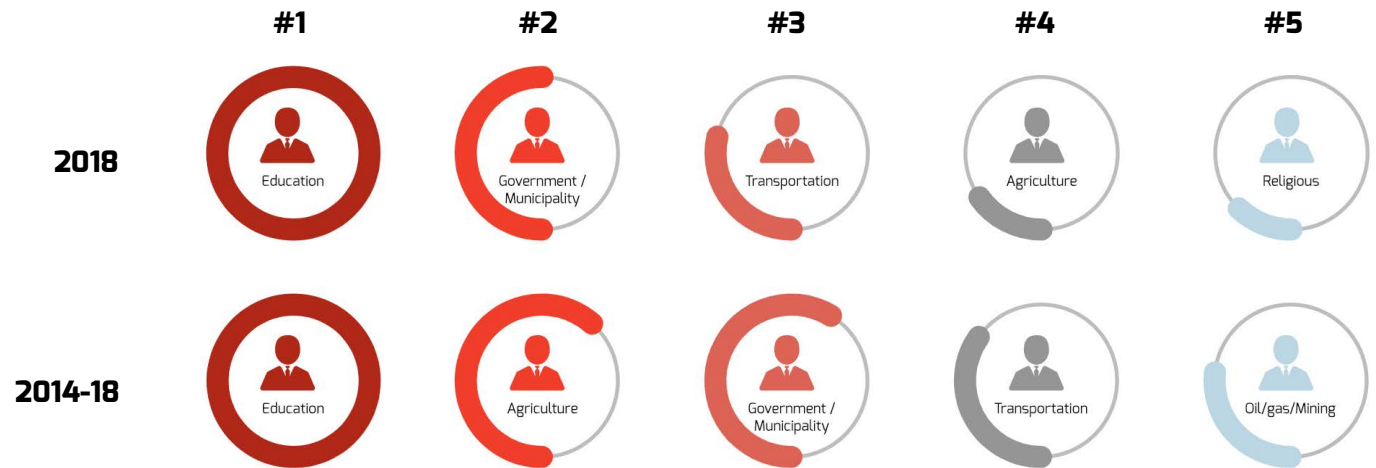
(2) AVG. KIDNAPPING DURATION



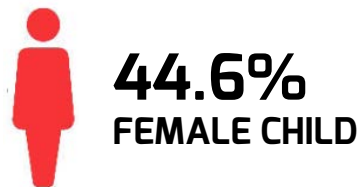
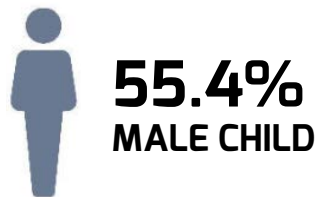
Regional Trends: Africa

2018 was the first year for the share of Religious sector kidnappings to surpass the Oil/Gas/ Mining sector, a trend that is expected to continue for the next few years. Africa also has a disproportionately high share of female child kidnappings due to the isolated education kidnappings in Nigeria. Despite being the region with the greatest number of kidnapping incidents (198 in 2018), Africa also has the largest share of released victims.

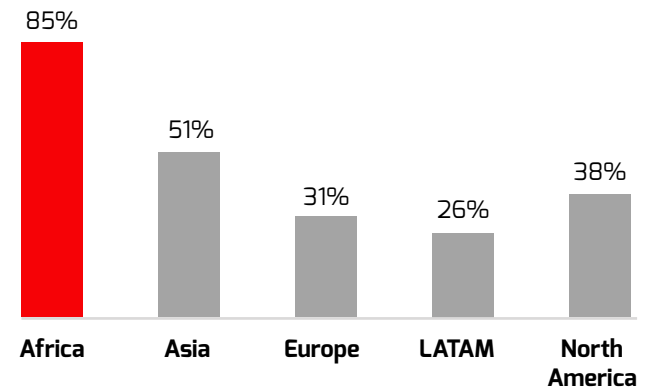
(1) AFRICA'S MOST KIDNAPPED SECTORS



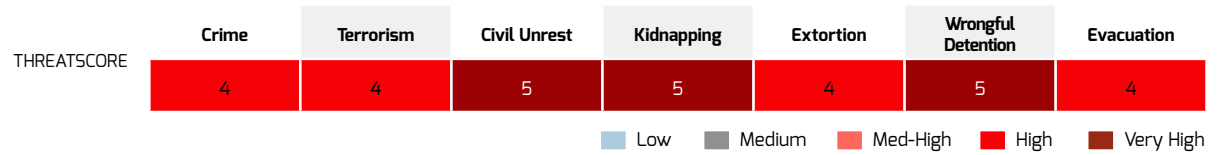
(2) 2018 CHILD KIDNAPPING BY GENDER



(3) % VICTIMS RELEASED



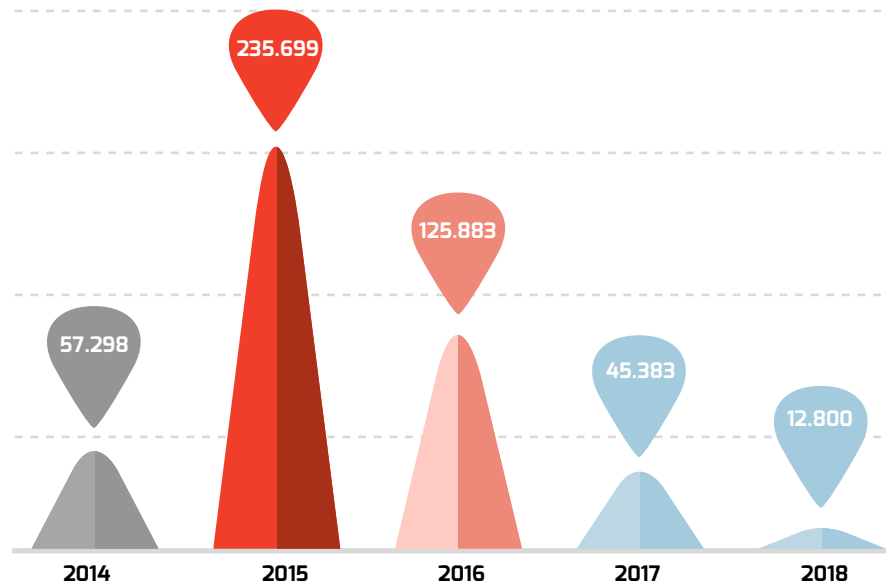
Country Profile: Nigeria



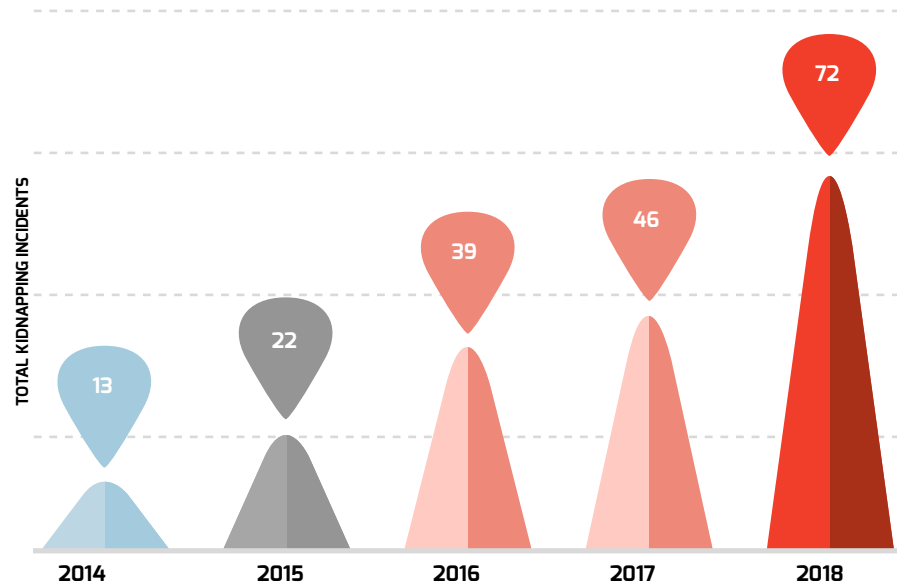
Nigeria had the highest number of victims worldwide, with a spike due to the Dapchi school kidnapping perpetrated by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

Our data shows that the average duration of kidnapping has been on a steady incline however the total number of incidents (the Dapchi kidnapping is grouped as one) and average ransom are on the decline. Travel to Nigeria is still extremely dangerous, however, with a persistently leading share of foreigner kidnappings (13%).

(1) AVERAGE DEMANDED RANSOM US\$



(2) AVG. KIDNAPPING DURATION

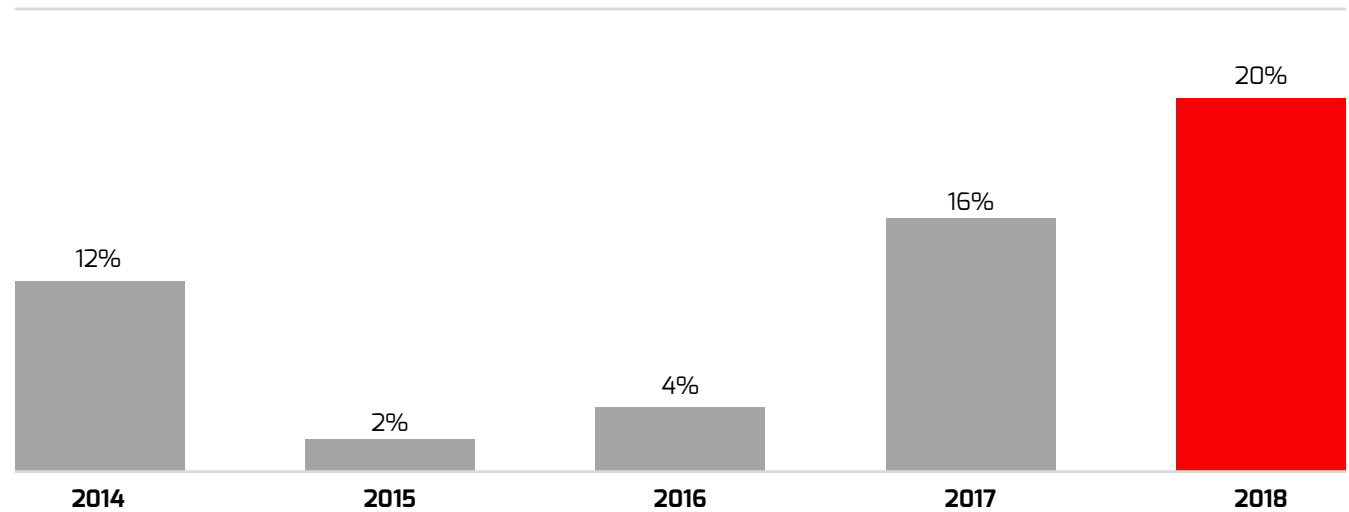


Regional Trends: Asia

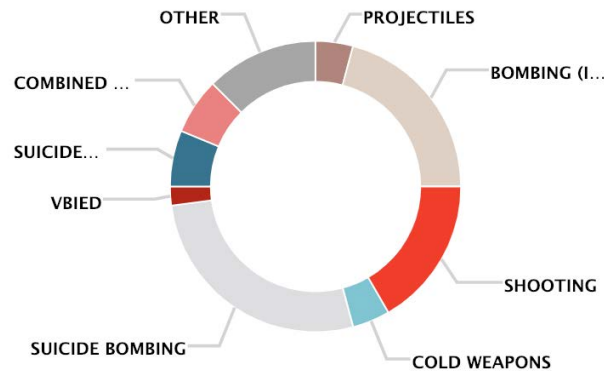
The changing nature of conflict in the Middle East has also influenced kidnap and ransom trends in the region as a whole: instances involving multiple victims and cases ending in death have increased dramatically in 2018.

As a share of terror targets, military and police are starting to decline as conflicts are increasingly domestically focused. Military attacks are slowly being replaced by terror targeting government buildings directly.

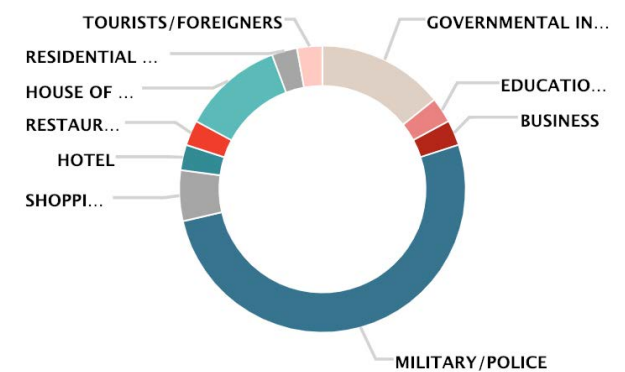
(1) VICTIMS KILLED AS KIDNAPPING OUTCOME



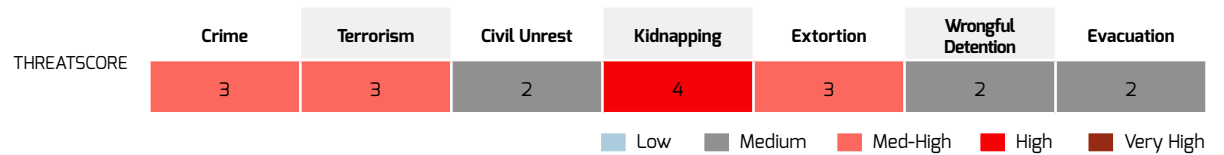
(2) ATTACK TYPE



(3) TARGET LOCATION



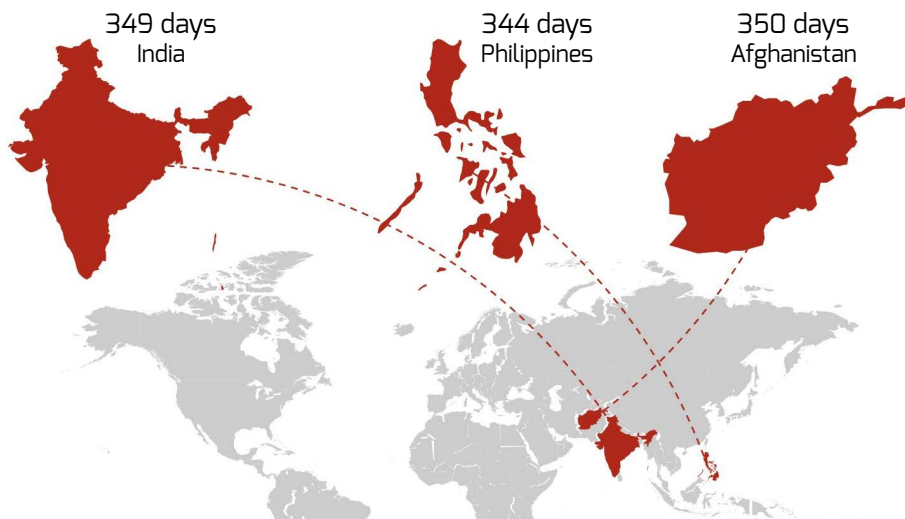
Country Profile: Philippines



The Philippines high rate of kidnapping activity is due to militant groups in the southern Philippines that have used kidnap and ransom as a common tactic as governmental stability remains a persistent issue

1. The Philippines was one of the top 10 countries in the world for the greatest number of kidnapped victims.
2. While the 2018 global gender distribution of kidnapping stood on 89% male and 11% female, and the 2018 Asian gender distribution of kidnapping was somewhat similar with 92% male and 8% female, the Philippines is showing a dramatically different ration both in 2018 and one average over theist 5 years making the likelihood of women to get kidnapped 300% higher that the global and regional average

TOP 3 COUNTRIES IN ASIA WHERE KIDNAPPED VICTIMS WERE HELD THE LONGEST



PHILIPPINES GENDER RATIO OF KIDNAPPED VICTIMS

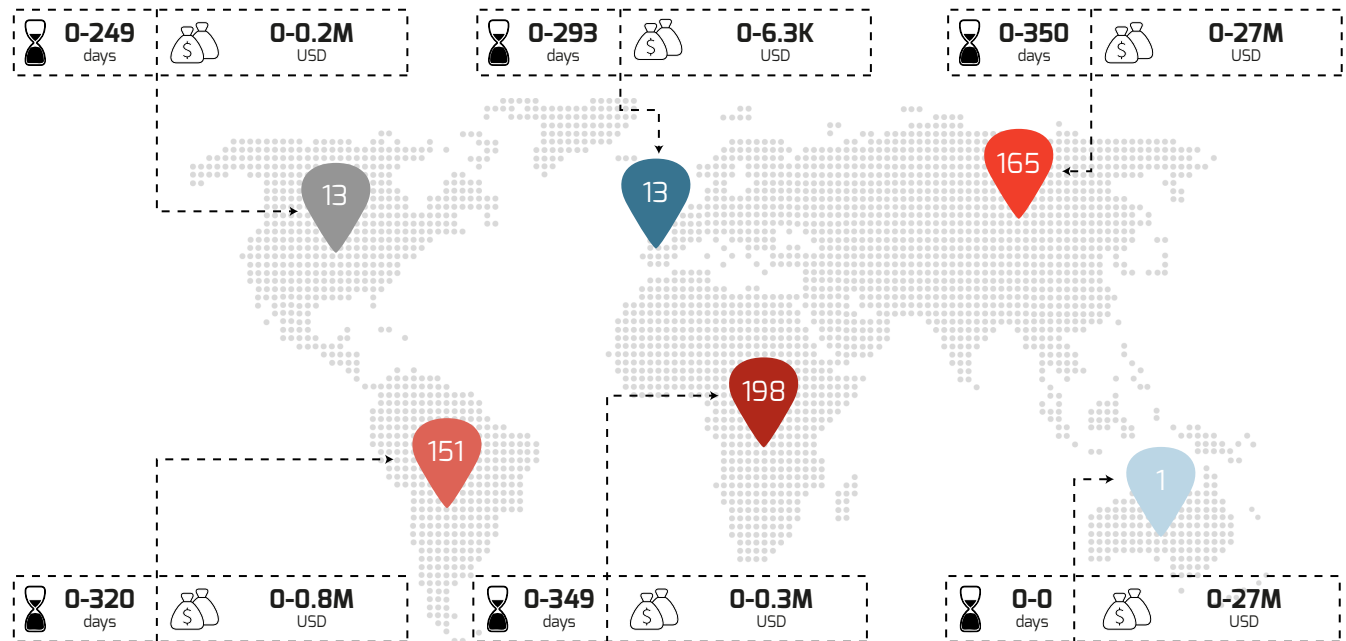
Year	Male	Female
2018	71.4%	28.6%
2017	85.4%	14.6%
2016	90.2%	9.8%
2015	78%	22%
2014	57.7%	42.3%
AVE	76.54%	23.46%

Regional Trends: North America, Europe, Oceania

With very few incidents occurring in North America, Europe, and Oceania, kidnapping for ransom is isolated, sporadic, and unpredictable in these regions.

Kidnappings in North America, when occur, tend to be higher in demanded ransom than the rest of the world average, but still never reaching the high rates of extreme cases in Mexico and the Philippines. The sole incident with a paid ransom amount on record was 30k in the United States.

REGIONAL VIEW OF KIDNAPPING DURATION AND RANSOM PAID // 2018





Risk Intelligence that Keeps You Safe

ThreatRate is a global risk intelligence company that utilizes its decade-deep proprietary big-data to quantify and qualify security risk. Over its years, ThreatRate has helped global institutional and corporate clients benchmark their Risk Management strategy relative to the rapidly evolving global and local security trends using real-time actionable analytics and insights.

ThreatRate offerings include:

- Visualized analytics with customized dashboards and infographics
- ThreatRate experts with cross-industry depth
- 100+ risk-focused reports published annually
- API for customized access

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