

THREATRATE 2018/19 GLOBAL K&R

Trends and Insights Report

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CATEGORY
Kidnapping

KIDNAPPING · JANUARY 2019

ThreatRate 2018/19 Global K&R

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

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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.

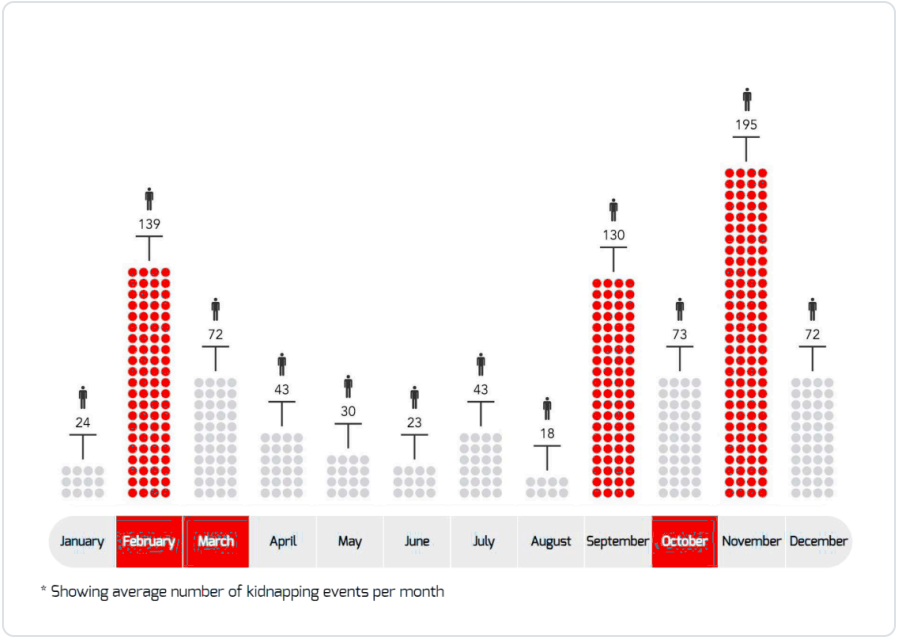
ThreatRate analytics indicate the following 5 strategies to help our clients prepare for 2019:

- 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

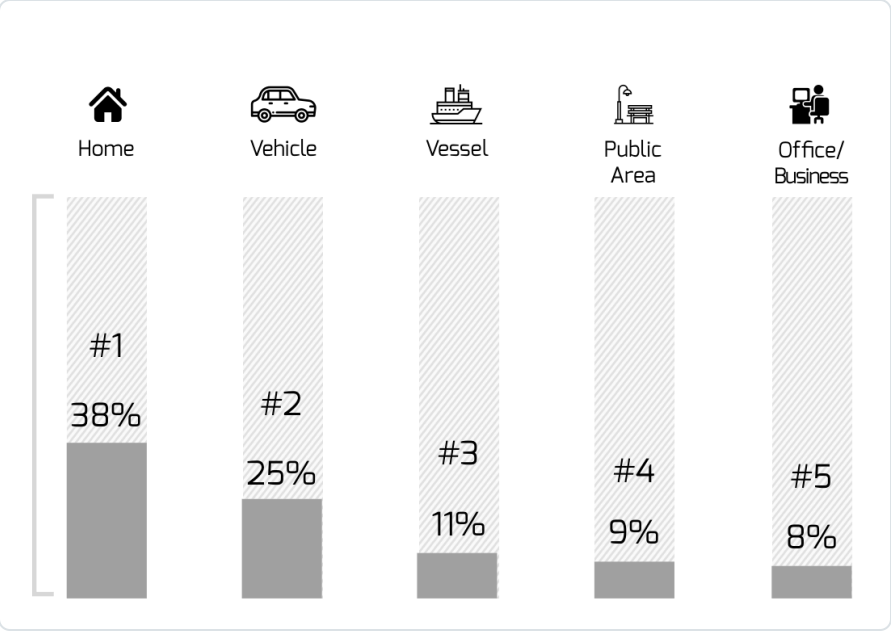
TOTAL KIDNAPPINGS BY MONTH 2015-2018



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

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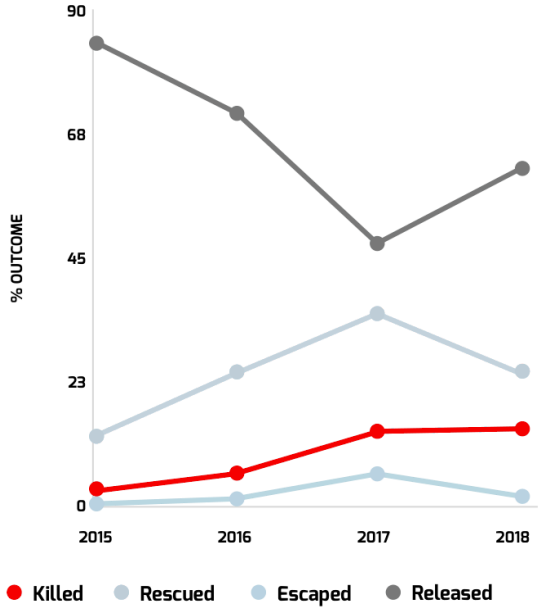
MOST POPULAR KIDNAPPING LOCATIONS 2015-2018



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

Threat forecast 2019

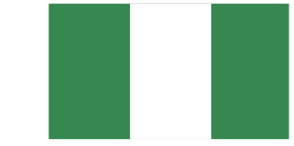
KIDNAPPING OUTCOMES TRENDS



#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

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HIGHEST RISK COUNTRY

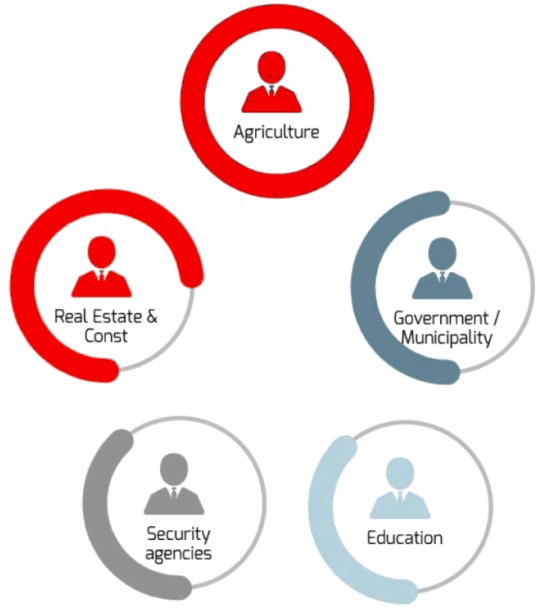


NIGERIA



#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

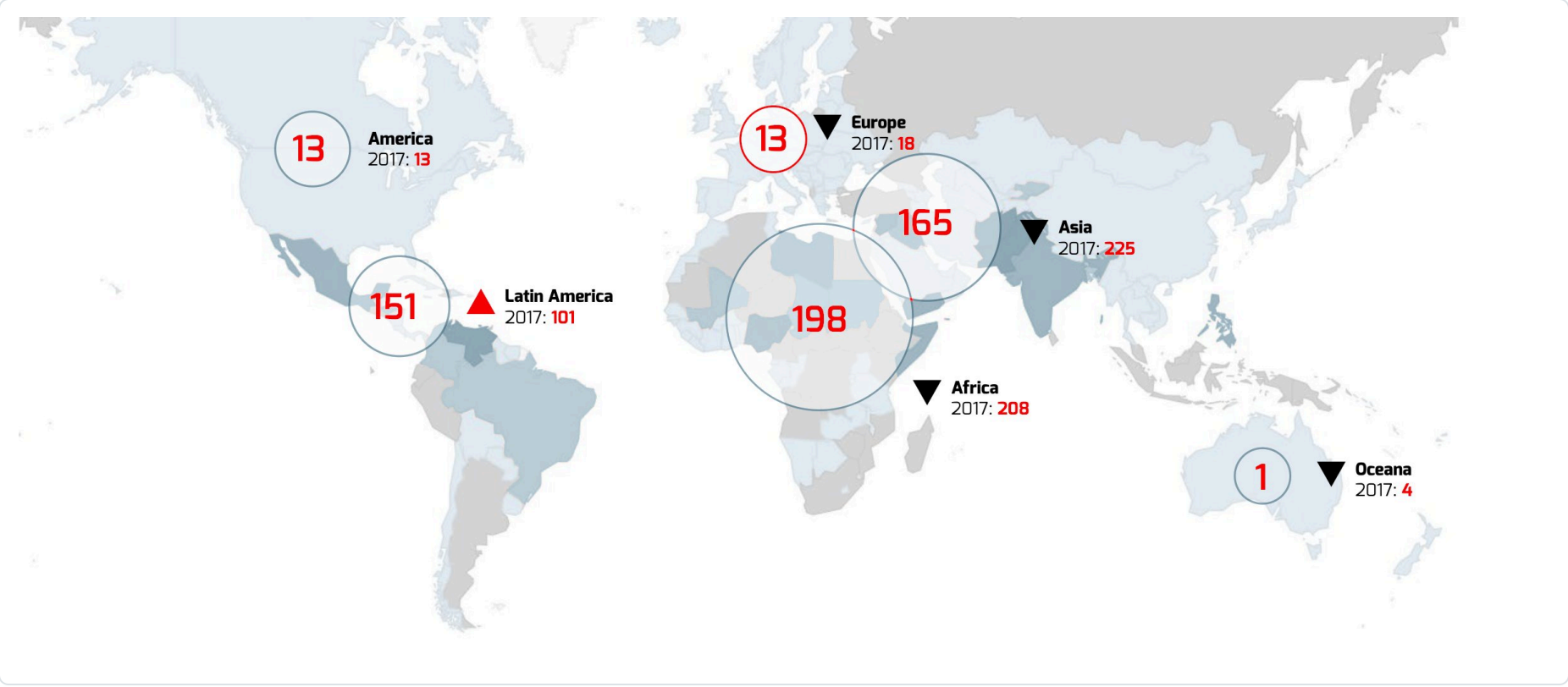


#5 While the trend of schoolteacher kidnappings will likely subside or remain isolated to Nigeria, these five professionals are especially at high risk of kidnapping worldwide.

2018 Global Analytics

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Kidnappers 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

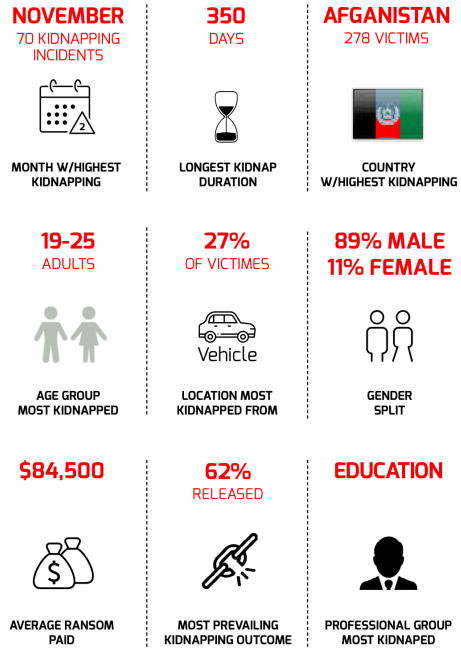
Our database covers

- 192 countries with real time monitoring
- 7 incident types including K&R

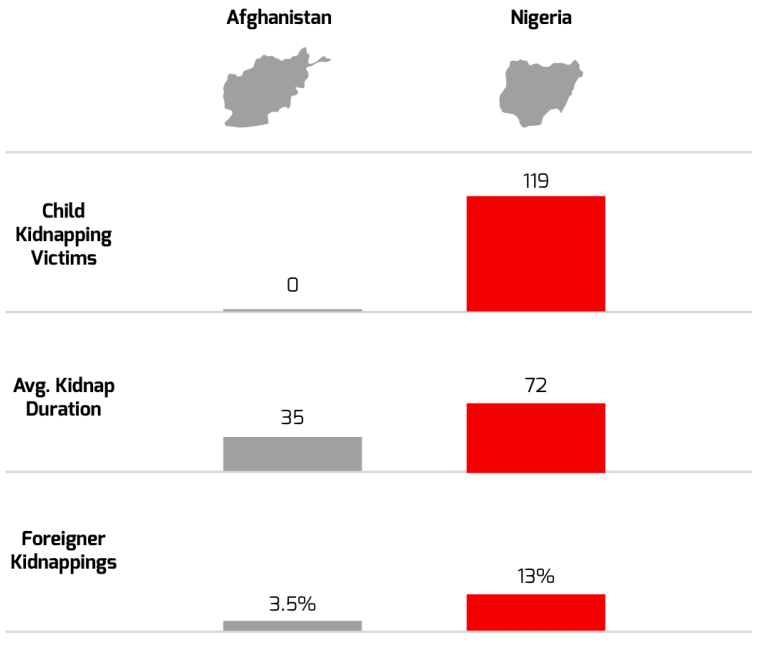
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- 10+ unique victim and situational analytics.

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



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



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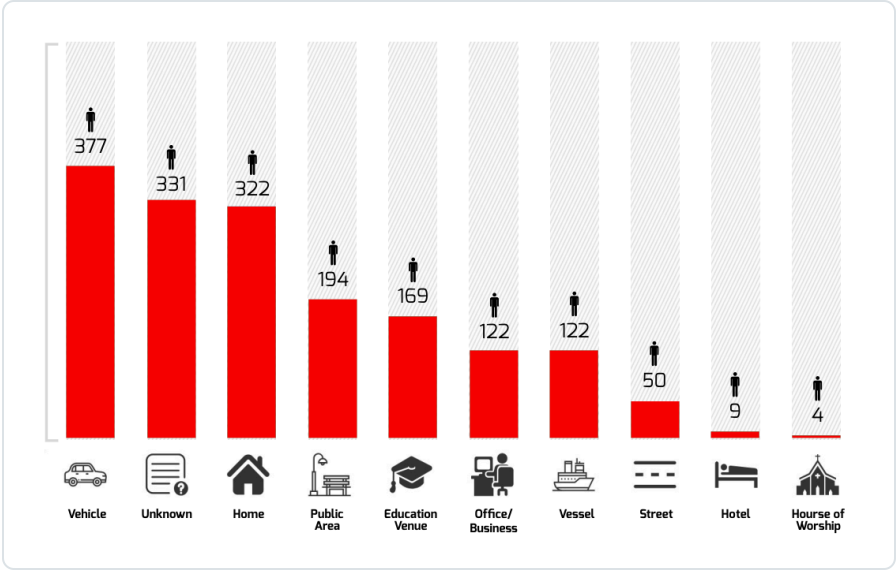
TOP 30 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VICTIMS KIDNAPPED



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

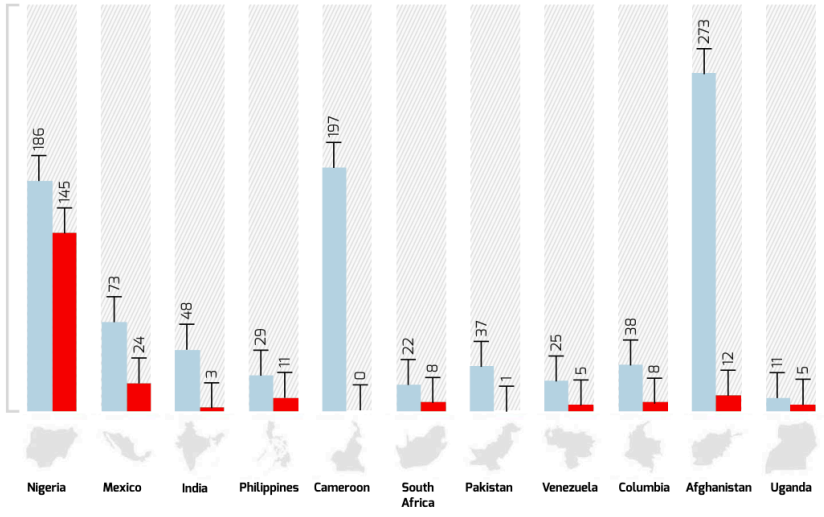


ThreatRate indicators in the education sector were elevated due to a major outlier incident: the Dapchi school kidnapping of 110 schoolgirls in Nigeria.



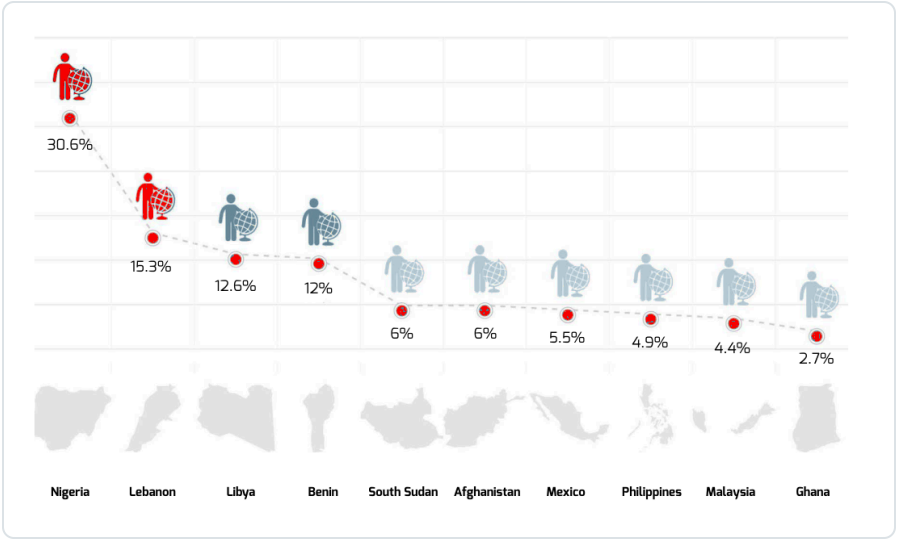
This rise in educator kidnappings also made the education venue nearly as prevalent as public area for kidnapping location. The number of kidnappings at a school rose by 245% from 2017 to 2018.

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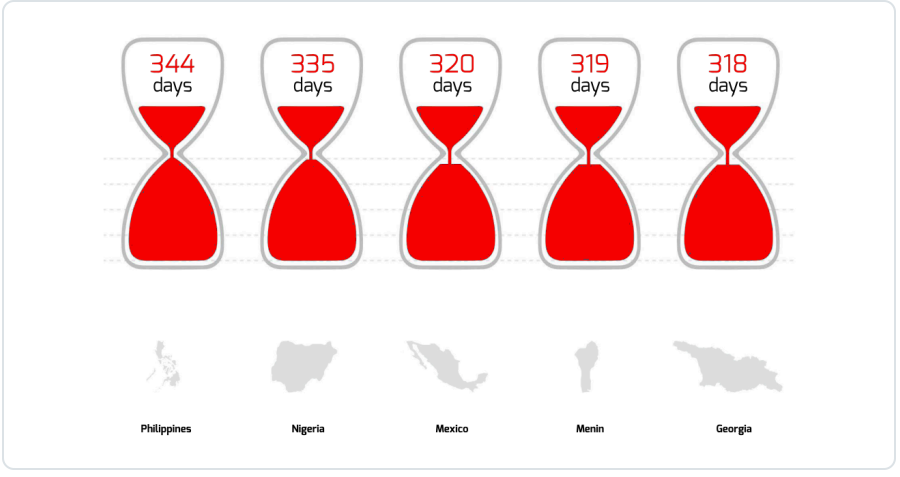


This group of women accounted for nearly 44% of the kidnappings in Nigeria, causing an outlier in an otherwise male-dominated victim cohort.

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



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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

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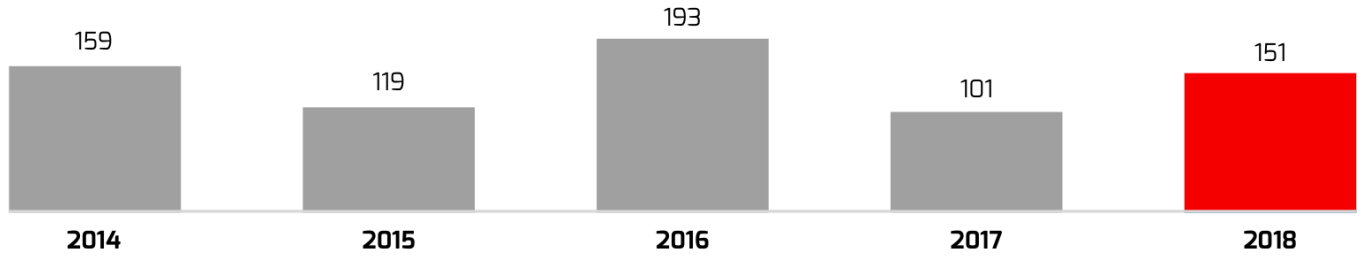
2018 Regional Analytics

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.

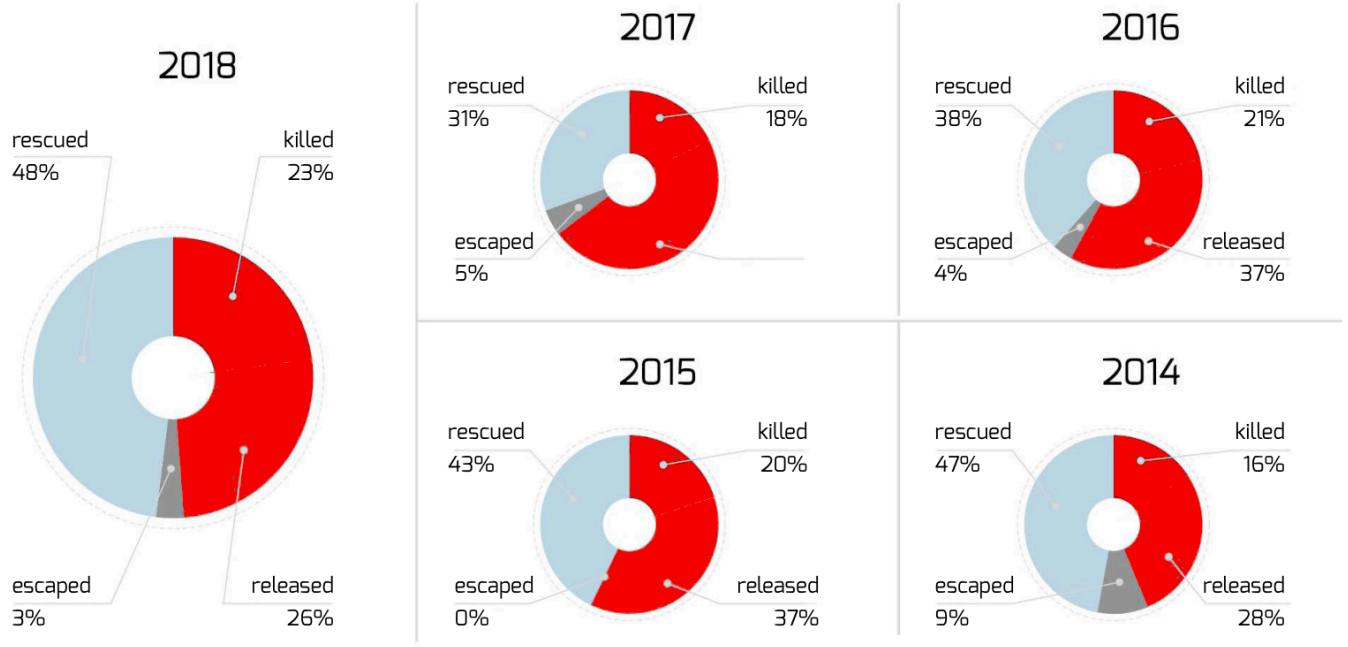
Kidnappings are decreasing in number (1) but are increasing in severity (2). Trends in vehicle and home kidnappings have remained flat, while instances in the office/ place of business are becoming increasingly common.

(1) TOTAL KIDNAPPING EVENTS



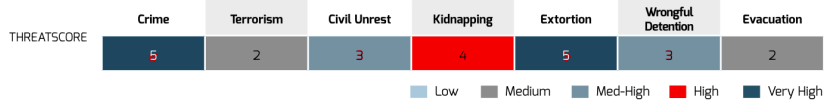
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(2) FIVE YEAR ANALYSIS OF KIDNAPPING RESULTS IN LATAM



Country Profile: Mexico



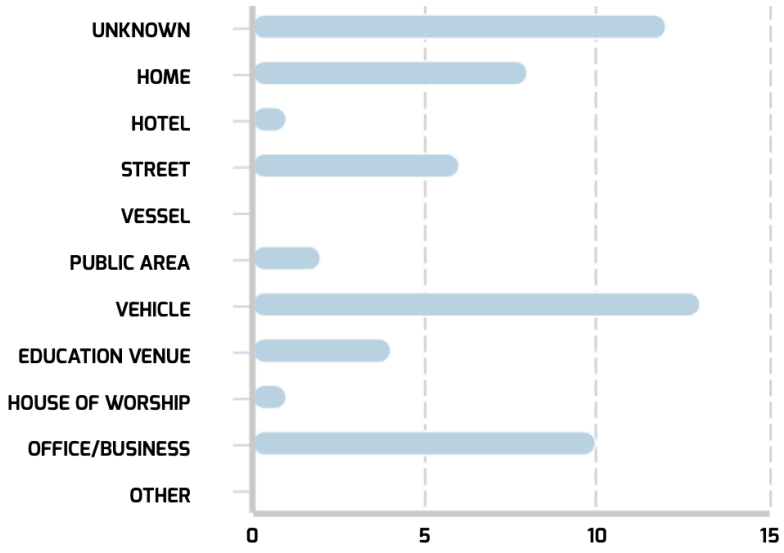


Mexico saw one of the highest ransom amounts among the 190 country sample, with $80,256 on average for 2018. Still, the vast majority of kidnappings in the country were of locals, accounting for 90% total.

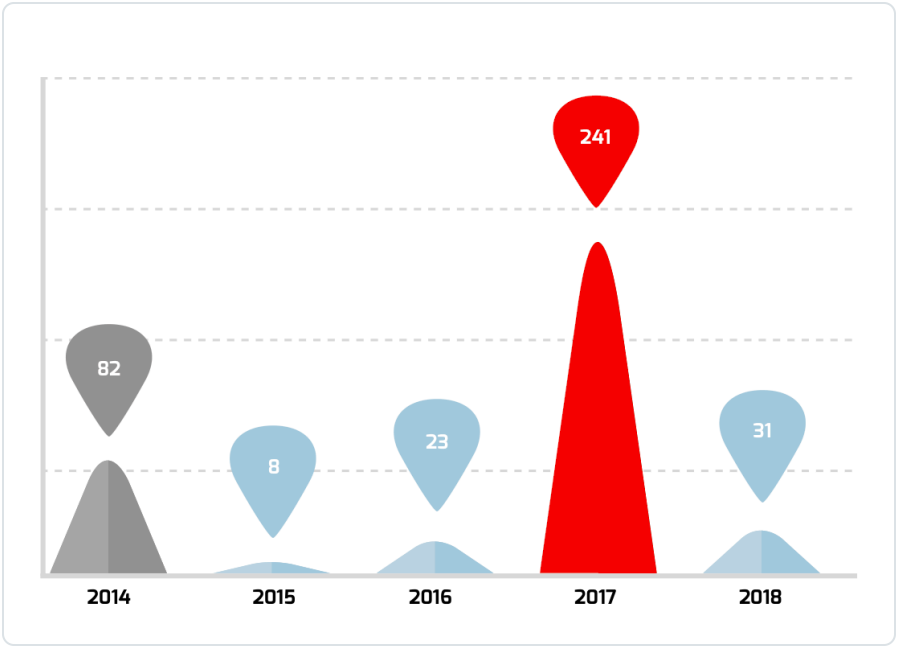
- 1. While vehicle kidnapping is still the leading location in Mexico, we also note the rise of office/business and home kidnappings.
- 2. Average kidnapping duration has skyrocketed in 2017 but has declined to a more normative level in 2018. Additionally, 'Virtual kidnappings' are estimated to be widespread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

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(1) KIDNAPPING LOCATION



(2) AVG. KIDNAPPING DURATION

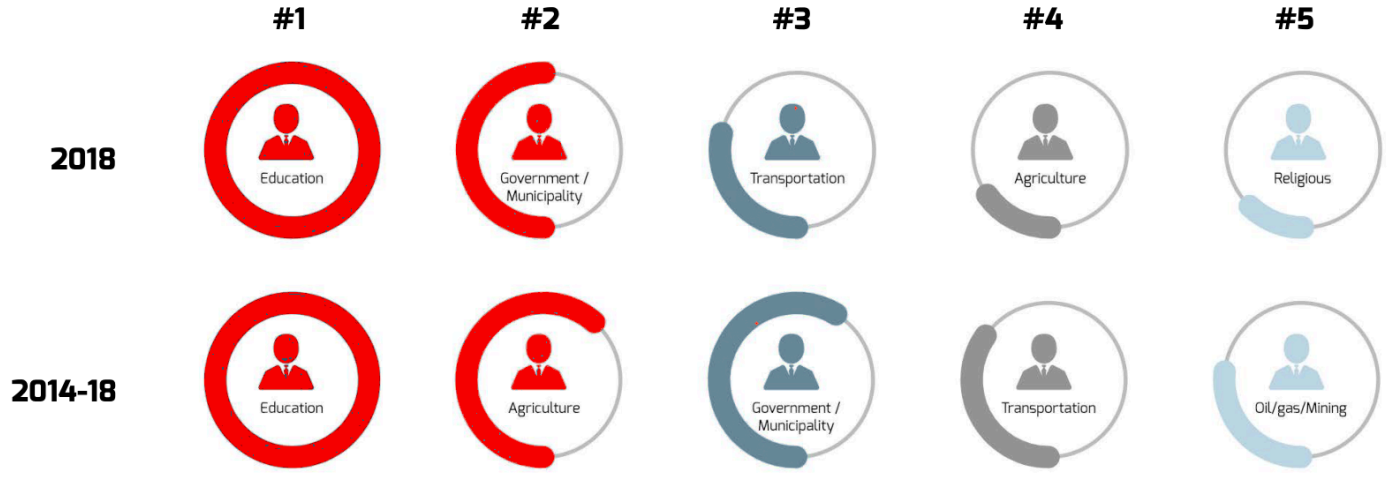


Regional Trends: Africa

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.

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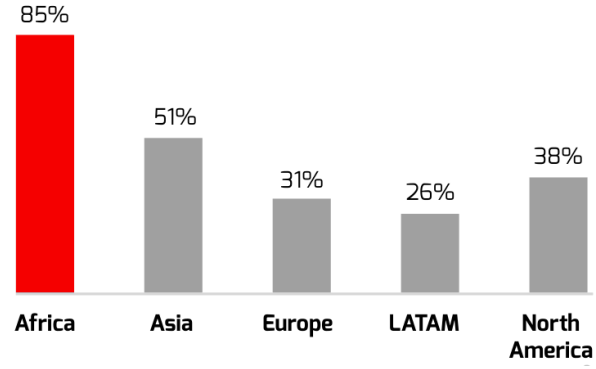
(1) AFRICA'S MOST KIDNAPPED SECTORS



(2) 2018 CHILD KIDNAPPING BY GENDER



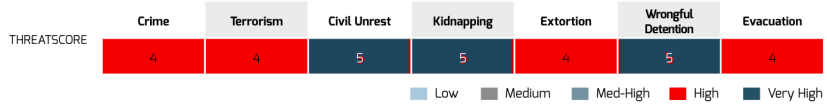
(3) % VICTIMS RELEASED



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Country Profile: Nigeria

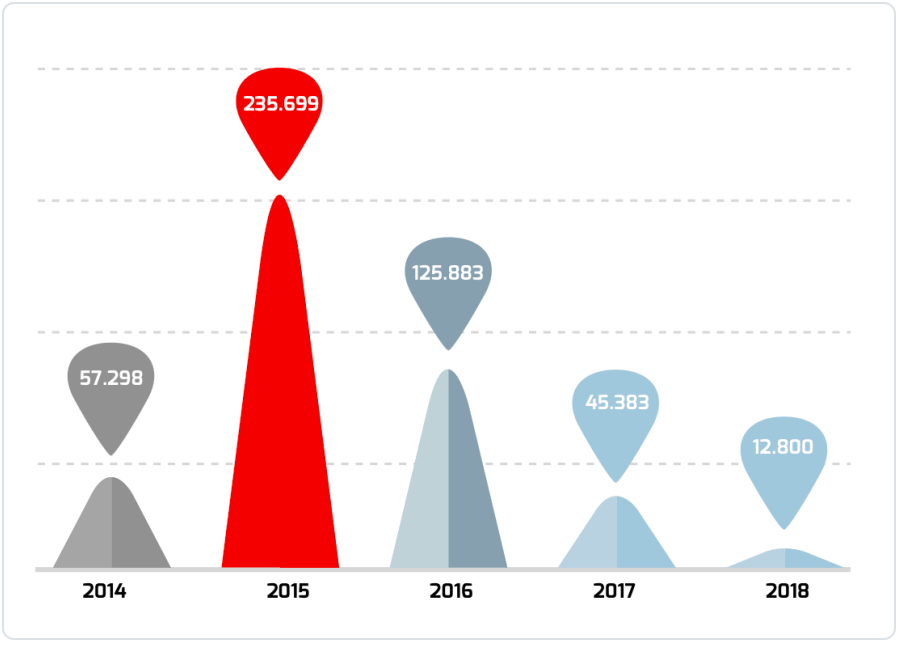




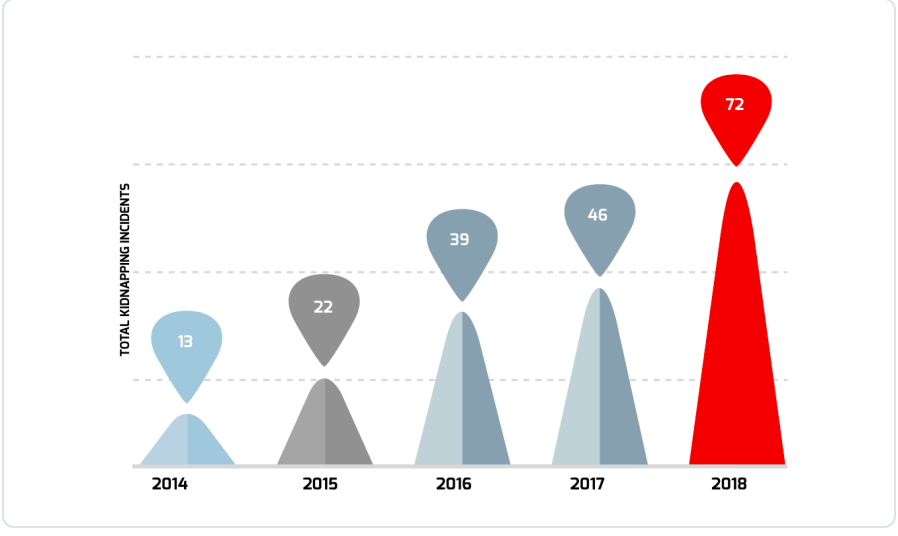
Nigeria had the highest number of victims worldwide, with a spike due to the Dapchi school kidnapping perpetrated by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

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



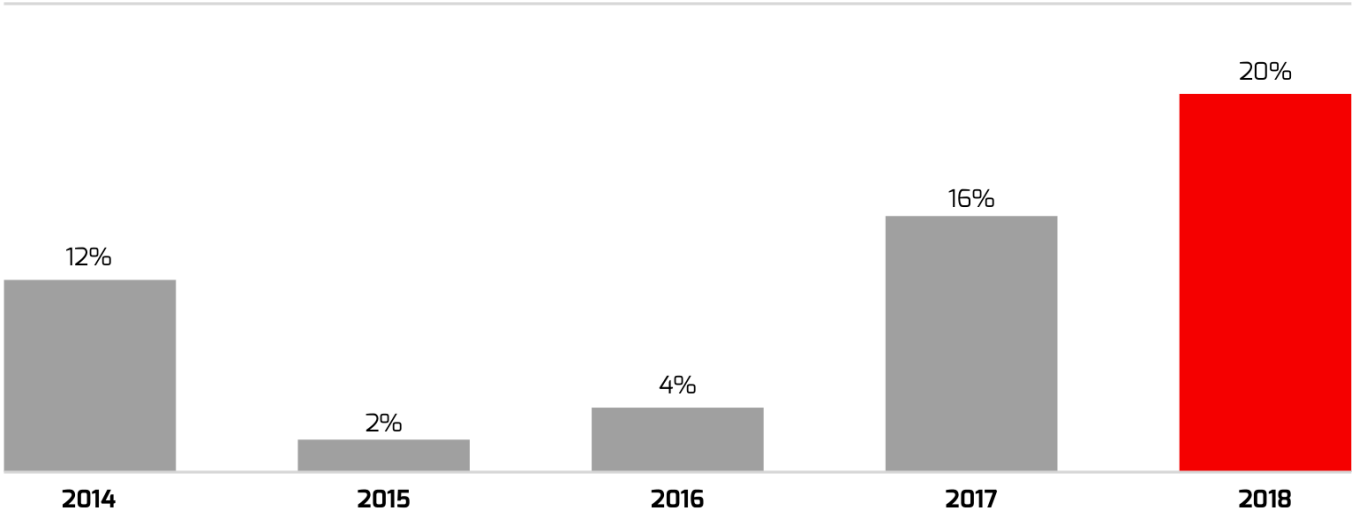
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Regional Trends: Asia

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.

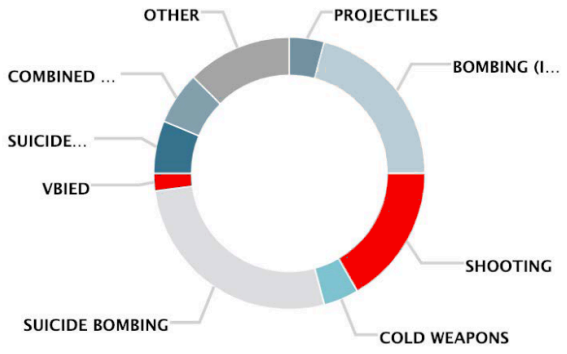
As a share of terror targets, military and police are starting to decline as conflicts are increasingly domestically focused. Military attacks are slowly being replaced by terror targeting government buildings directly.

(1) VICTIMS KILLED AS KIDNAPPING OUTCOME

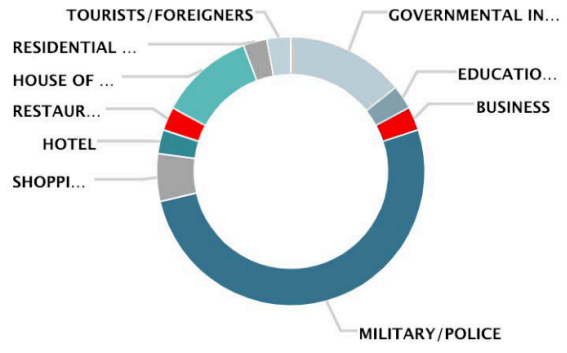


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(2) ATTACK TYPE

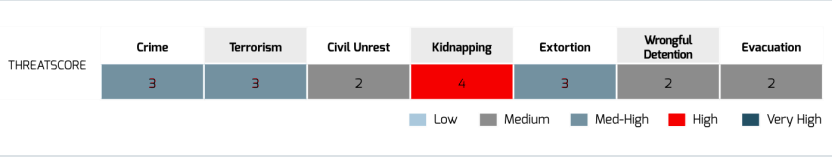


(3) TARGET LOCATION



Country Profile: Philippines



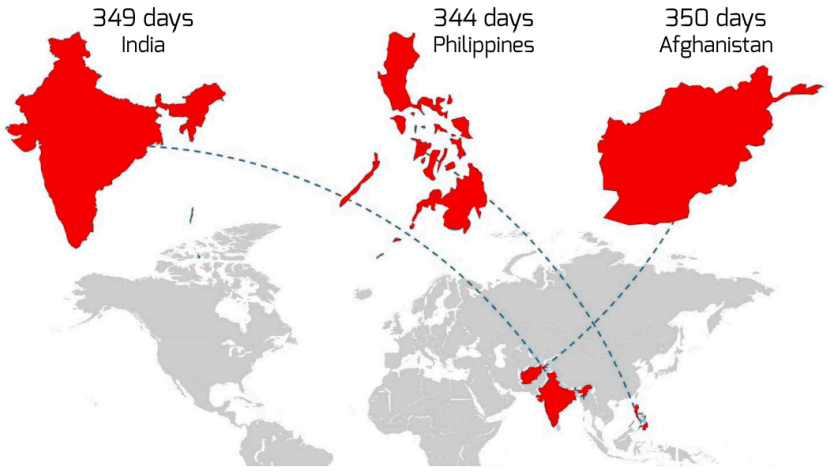


The Philippines high rate of kidnapping activity is due to militant groups in the southern Philippines that have used kidnap and ransom as a common tactic as governmental stability remains a persistent issue

- 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 ratio both in 2018 and on average over the last 5 years making the likelihood of women to get kidnapped 300% higher than the global and regional average

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



PHILIPPINES GENDER RATIO OF KIDNAPPED VICTIMS

Year		
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%**

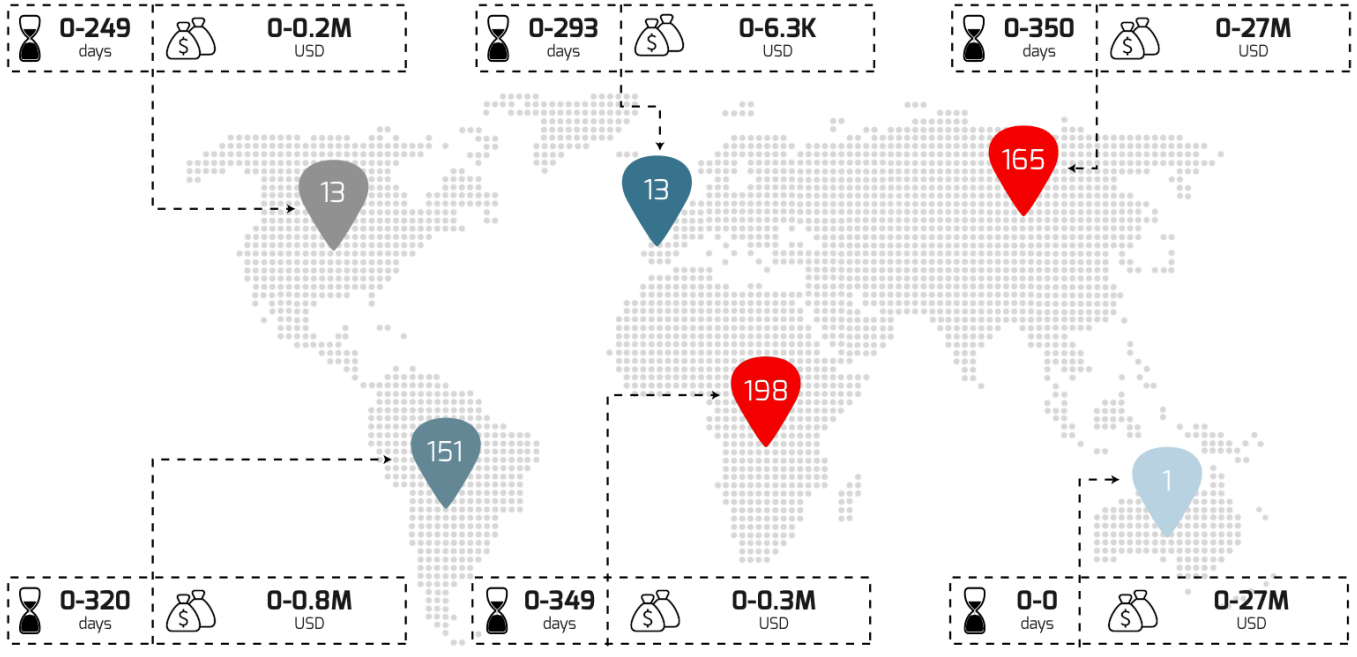
Regional Trends: North America, Europe, Oceania

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.

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REGIONAL VIEW OF KIDNAPPING DURATION AND RANSOM PAID // 2018



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Risk intelligence that keeps you safe

ABOUT THREATRATE

ThreatRate helps you benchmark your risk management strategy against rapidly evolving global and local trends, with real-time, actionable analytics and insights.

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