

SPECIAL SECURITY DEFENCE SERVICES FZ LLE  
SPECIALISED RISK & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

TRAVEL SECURITY & CONTINGENCY  
PLANNING

نحن نرحب بكم ونتطلع دوماً لخدمتكم

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**THE FUTURE OF RISK MANAGEMENT**  
SECURING A BETTER FUTURE

Opening comments:

The world we live in today has changed in the last few years and new and potentially dangerous threats are crippling development in challenging environments by insurgent and criminal groups targeting foreign companies and their personnel. Security & safety issues have dramatically increased in recent years in countries and regions where government entities and commercial companies operate such as countries within the Middle East – [ The Arab Spring ] throughout Africa , Asia & South America.

This escalation of countries in conflict and post conflict regions with social unrest issues and the increased global threat of kidnapping to individuals working/operating in challenging environments have prompted international companies, organizations even individual private businessmen to seek and implement risk & crisis management services to include travel security, contingency planning & personal protection.

Statistically shown the preferred tactics used by insurgencies and criminal groups is kidnapping of government officials, foreign workers, businessmen including western expats for ransom ( Express Kidnapping) or political influence as seen in recent months.



## Travel Security - Why ?

Global Kidnapping is escalating out of control and getting worse in remote, corrupt and developing countries. Over the last few years since the collapse of the global financial and oil markets, global intelligence outlets and agencies around the world such as the UN and Interpol have reported a significant increase in cases of the exploitation of people for monetary gain or political leverage . While cases of kidnapping and ransom continue to be common and increasing in African and Latin American countries, a growing percentage of organized kidnapping (Express Kidnapping) cases in Europe the Middle and Far East is being seen by criminal & insurgent groups as the fastest way for financial gain or to finance further activities.

With funding from the Middle & far East drying up and a decade of UK/US-backed global military pressure taking its toll, Islamic extremists in global conflict regions are relying on kidnapping for their survival.

The kidnapping-for-ransom stings offer the extremists and affiliated groups a vital source of income to finance further actives, with the most lucrative targets expatriates and foolhardy foreigners who ignore travel warnings and drift into the most lawless parts or no-go areas of the country there are operating or visiting.

Extremists & criminal groups look at foreigners as potential hostages and walking dollars,” due to the options these groups now have in today’s media enhanced & interactive world.



In most cases extremists carry out most of the kidnappings of foreigners for either financial income or political bargaining, when this is not achieved they can be either sold to other groups or smaller gangs who are also known to snatch targets and sell them to the dominant militant group.

But while the kidnapping of foreigners grab the daily headlines, many more expatriates working on more sensitive projects or where their companies/organisations do not want international exposure are abducted then quietly released after ransoms are paid.

Ransom payments are then used to buy more arms, pay off members, hire new recruits or bribe community elders to turn a blind eye to their crimes. They have simply realized that kidnap-for-ransom activities is a spontaneous and lucrative enterprise to finance their agendas.

The UK/US global campaign led to funds from Middle East sources drying up and as the international community launched its global war on terror, home grown jihadists found themselves with limited funds and had to resort to other creative means.

Where some warlords previously held political posts supporting Muslim rebel groups who have been waging a separatist insurgency for decades, many of these extremist elements have side-stepped their terror credentials and have reverted to criminal activities such as kidnapping and extortion for survival and to be seen by other groups as staying active and participating in their campaigns .



Kidnapping cases differ in the motivations of the kidnappers, the demands being made for the release of the hostages, and the circumstances where the kidnapping has occurred. Insurgent and criminal groups are all very well informed and interact with each-other and all mainly use three forms of kidnapping as a tactic to achieve their goals (shown here):

Kidnapping for ransom. ( Express Kidnapping mainly by criminal groups).

Kidnapping with political influence and demands ( Mainly by insurgent groups).

Kidnapping of commercial vessels & private yachts ( Maritime pirates).

Political and criminal groups mainly target western foreigners and in some instances due to complacency or policy, kidnap victims have either been sold to another groups or perished when demands were not met. Foreign employees, particularly those in the government, oil and mining sectors, foreign businessmen, aid and humanitarian workers, journalists, tourists are regularly targeted as we have recently seen in the media, (Known as soft targets).



Be aware of your surroundings:

Insurgent & criminal groups use common tactics bribing local merchants such as tour and transport operators to identify foreign visitors for potential kidnap operations. Hostages may be taken by their captors into a neighboring country. For example, humanitarian workers and tourists in Kenya have been kidnapped by militants and held in Somalia, doctors kidnapped in Burkina Faso taken across the border into Mali, West Africa, the list goes on.

We are showing here just a select few of countries where the threat of kidnapping is particularly prevalent, and where SSDS Risk Management travel advisories specifically warn of the threat of kidnapping.

Listed countries with severe threat of kidnapping warnings:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Syria, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen and the Indian Ocean, especially near the coast of Somalia.



A select few kidnapping incidents in the last 6 months up until April 2017 include:

- January 2016 – Australian missionaries kidnapped in northern Burkina: Two elderly Australian doctor-missionaries kidnapped by Ansar Dine near Baraboulé in northern Burkina where they've lived for many decades. This follows an attack by AQIM-affiliated jihadists a day earlier on a hotel in Ouagadougou (similar hotel attacks occurred recently in neighbouring Mali).
- October 2016 – US NGO kidnapped near Abalak, Niger: An American missionary/NGO worker was kidnapped from the village of Abalak, south of Agadez where he'd lived for many years. His two guards were killed and it's said he was last seen heading towards Mali.
- December 2016 – French aid worker kidnapped in Gao, Mali: A Frenchwoman who ran an NGO AAG supporting local children was kidnapped in Gao, the French foreign ministry has confirmed.
- South Sudan, March 21: rebels kidnapped four oil workers including a Pakistani national in an effort to force foreign companies to leave the country. Fighters loyal to former vice president Riek Machar seized the workers employed by DAR Petroleum Operating Company from Upper Nile State on Saturday - the second group of oil workers abducted this month.
- Two Germans kidnapped in northern Nigeria : Police say gunmen have seized two Germans from a village in northern Nigeria. The two are archaeologists who have been working in the region for ten years kidnapped February 2017
- CONGO - Two UN experts kidnapped in central Kasai: Michael Sharp and Zahida Katala of the UN Expert Group for the Democratic Republic of Congo", and four local nationals kidnapped February 2017



Continued: kidnapping incidents up until April 2017 include:

- Somalia and Kenya because of threats by the terrorist group al-Shabaab: In 2016, terrorist attacks involving shootings, grenades, or other explosive devices resulted in 122 fatalities. The bulk of these incidents occurred in Wajir, Garissa, Lamu and Mandera counties. Potential terrorist threats remain in Kenya, including within the Nairobi area, along the coast, and within the north-eastern region of the country.
- American and an Australian professor kidnapped in Kabul Afghanistan January 2017
- Missionary Sister Cecilia kidnapping in Mali: Sister Cecilia a missionary working in southern Mali kidnapped in February 2017.
- April 2017 Four aid workers have been kidnapped by members of the Somali Islamist militant group, al-Shabab: The Somali nationals, doing work paid for by the World Health Organization (WHO), were abducted in the town of Luuq in the south-western Gedo province.
- March 2017 Aid workers employed by a US-based Christian charity have been abducted in famine-hit South Sudan.
- Foreign nationals remain at a high risk of kidnapping throughout the listed countries amid fragmented and volatile political situations and heightened insecurities. Ultimately, through time and experience SSDS has developed a profound understanding within these countries of the societal, legislative and operational situation 'on the ground'. Allowing us and our clients a unique level of freedom and enables us to create safe and secure environment in a sustainable manner in which to operate.



## Realistic Solutions:

Foreign businessmen, aid and humanitarian workers, journalists, and expatriates in general who travel to the countries listed or countries & regions known to have safety & security issues where there is a particular and real threat of kidnapping should ensure you have personal security measures in place before you travel, if you are unsure or feel you require further information on a destination seek professional security advice, ask to receive country intelligence reports and always be fully prepared ( Knowledge based) for the environment you are travelling to and always update your life & kidnapping insurance before travelling.

## SSDS Risk Management support service: Travel Security

SSDS risk management provides a full comprehensive range of options from travel consultancy, chaperone services, close protection and support services. SSDS is a full service company specialising in risk identification, mitigation and management supported by realistic effective solutions specifically tailored to the environment you are travelling to, operating or conducting business in. SSDS risk management solutions have proven time after time to be extremely effective in some of the worlds most challenging, remote and problematic countries due to our extensive experience and attention to detail.

Travel security is becoming more & more a necessity in todays problematic world rather than an option and its always good practice to be safe rather than sorry and have this contingency in place.



SSDS Travel Services include but not limited to:

- Consultancy and advisory services
- Country intelligence & report service
- Risk Assessment, analysis and recommendations
- Contingency planning including medical & security evacuation
- Chaperone security for individual travelers
- Full close protection for specific individuals and group business travelers
- Personnel tracking
- Electronic security capabilities
- Physical security enhancements
- Personnel training relating to the country ( HEAT Training included)
- Insurance services relating to your destination & circumstances
- Kidnap & Hijacking negotiation service



The risk & crisis management services we provide are innovative and directly focussed on the specific requirements of our clients through six divisions:

- Consultancy
- Management
- Operations
- Intelligence
- Technical Services
- Training

Combined with the extensive knowledge , capabilities and experience of our personnel allows us to provide the highest quality advise & realistic solutions to our clients.

All SSDS risk management activities are conducted with the highest degree of professionalism, discretion, integrity and client confidentiality , and within the framework of national and international law.





## Risk & Crisis Consultancy



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## Close Protection



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## Media Security Africa



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## Personal Protection Haiti



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## Summary

In today's world risk appears in a variety of complex and continuously evolving forms with very few situations ever the same. SSDS recognize areas of risk through extensive experience and by continual monitoring of global situations allowing us to provide a realistic and comprehensive range of solutions specific to the environment you are travelling to and up-to date knowledge of any & all possible risk situations.

SSDS personnel who have extensive cultural & environmental experience will always operate one step ahead providing the services required by integrating with local authorities and creating affective solutions that can be quickly implemented minimizing the areas of vulnerability to you and your personnel in your travel/business plans, or projects. This allows you to continue conducting your business and fulfilling your objectives without interference, safe in the knowledge that if a potential threat is detected or a situation arises affecting your business it will be addressed correctly, and effectively.

Travel security will provide you and your personnel with peace of mind in today's unpredictable world: SSDS risk Management operates with a number of travel agencies and commercial companies who regularly send personnel to remote and challenging environments, we welcome you to join our growing group of companies that refuse to be a statistic or intimidated by criminal and insurgent groups.



You are welcome to contact us anytime if you need advise or wish to discuss a project or travel plans !

# QUESTIONS

SSDS RISK & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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