

KIDNAP & EXTORTION

EXPERT INSIGHTS

5 RECENT GLOBAL TRENDS

Data from the latest reported kidnappings suggest the following:

1. Average kidnap in 2011 was 29 days, in **2018** this was down to **5 days**
2. This was caused partly by certain kidnap hotspots, including Nigeria, apparently adopting a **high turnover, rapid settlement strategy**, maximising profits through high volumes rather than extended durations
3. Kidnappers remain motivated, primarily, by **financial gain** (as opposed to religious or idealist aims)
4. Vast majority of kidnappers remain "low-tech / low-level" criminals, who continue to prefer low-tech communications such as **mobile telephones or intermediaries** (specifically the victim's phone or "burner" mobile phones)
5. Kidnappers are however slowly embracing newer technologies such as **cryptocurrencies, Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp** (but still mostly prefer the shock value of oral expression).



David Lawson

Deputy Head of Crisis Response at S-RM
David served in the British military for over 30 years including in Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. Over the past decade, he has gained significant experience worldwide as a crisis specialist.



Taken from various extracts of the article Expert Insights: Kidnap & Extortion where S-RM spoke to David Lawson about some of the recent global trends in kidnapping and extortion, and to hear about some of the key considerations for S-RM's Crisis Response team when they are working on a live case. For the full article, go to <https://gsi.s-rminform.com/articles/expert-insights-kidnap-and-extortion>

Praesidio Risk Managers proudly utilise S-RM as their response consultants on their Kidnap & Ransom insurance policies.

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