

# Surviving The Crossfire

Praesidio's Kidnap & Ransom response consultants **S-RM** recently managed the evacuation of a lone employee who was inadvertently stuck in Mozambique during an **active assailant attack**. S-RM were successfully able to preserve the livelihood of the individual during the course of the 4 day operation by immediately communicating the following basic lifesaving principles to the lone employee:

- Your phone is vital to keep you connected with S-RM – **preserve battery life at all costs by:**
  - a) Keeping the ringtone / sound off
  - b) Don't make outgoing calls unless absolutely essential
  - c) Only turn the phone on at specified times, unless absolutely essential
  - d) Reduce screen brightness and resolution
  - e) Turn on smart battery mode
  - f) Use SMS rather than voice
  - g) Use WiFi instead of 4G if available
  - h) Disable non-essential apps/programmes running in the background
- If a mobile device's battery dies, it is only possible to establish its last recorded position through GPS data. In the event that the phone still has battery power, is switched on, but has run out of airtime, (a) emergency calls can still, usually, be made; and (b) its location can still be established, to approximately 100m through geolocation.
- If a car is available, the **keys** should be kept on hand throughout.
- Food is not critical but **water** is, stay hydrated.
- If safe to do so, **assess** the current situation from your view point and feed that information back to S-RM.
- It might become imperative to evacuate from the current hiding place. S-RM will discuss how to respond to **various scenarios**, based on best, worst and most likely cases so you're prepared to deal with these possibilities.



Picture courtesy Daily Maverick

A few basic principles goes a long way towards keeping you safe until the operation is complete.

Founded in 2005, S-RM has over 160 employees and has completed projects in more than 140 countries. Headquartered in the UK, S-RM has international offices in South Africa, Switzerland, Brazil, Hong Kong, and the US, in addition to project consultants worldwide. Their backgrounds include academia, law enforcement, intelligence, management consultancy, journalism, finance, and the military, with over 25 languages spoken across their international offices.

All of Praesidio's K&R / Special Contingency policies include 24 hr access to S-RM and cover the unlimited fees for their services.