PRESS RELEASE
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AKE GROUP "Kidnapping of Clementina Cantoni underlines the need for international workers to display constant vigilance and avoid complacency"

The security situation in Afghanistan has palpably deteriorated with the abduction of Clementina Cantoni, an Italian aid worker with CARE International, and with it, the confidences of much of the expatriate community.

AKE Group's James McLeod-Hatch, Intelligence Analyst with special responsibility for Afghanistan, stated that, "Although the situation in the country has been hazardous since the original US invasion, sources on the ground indicate that much of the international community, especially in the capital, was nevertheless often complacent as to the danger of operating in such an environment".

The death of Steven MacQueen on 7 March hinted at local ire towards international workers: but whereas he was considered a special case (due to the nature of his work that involved him with the poppy industry), it has only been in the last two weeks that attitudes have begun to change. Mr McLeod-Hatch believes, "The alacrity with which students took to the streets in violent protest over the allegations made by Newseek magazine is yet another indication that anti-Western sentiment has been steadily building".

Two other recent incidents of attempted kidnap of expatriate personnel in recent weeks in the capital, demonstrates that there are factions in Afghanistan who are prepared to use extreme measures to achieve goals of varying political import, a trend AKE Group projects will continue. AKE's Managing Director Andrew Kain stressed that it was imperative for international workers to understand the threats against them in such environments, "AKE has always stressed the need for intelligence and training as the cornerstone of any risk mitigation strategy".

AKE Group is a proven leader in the field of risk mitigation services, having spent over a decade helping clients stay well informed, safe and effective. As a provider of intelligence, training and security consultancy services AKE uses both analytical and operational experience to deliver an integrated, proactive approach to risk. AKE clients achieve insurance benefits, increased effectiveness, protection of assets and a competitive edge

Since 1991 AKE has offered training, security and intelligence services to the financial sector (including underwriters and brokers in Lloyds), the energy sector, the engineering and construction industries, government agencies and the media.

AKE is committed to promoting solid risk management principles by closely packaging security, intelligence and insurance.

For more information on AKE's risk management approach, please contact:

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