

Press Release

For immediate release

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AKE warns of further abductions in Afghanistan

AKE reminds clients of the risk of abduction in Afghanistan. The level of risk has been highlighted by the recent kidnap and release of a British journalist in the north of the country.

It is likely that several further incidents will take place this year.

Stephen Farrell was seized along with his Afghan translator on 5 September in the province of Kunduz.

The translator was killed during the rescue operation.

As highlighted in AKE research, an average of one foreigner is kidnapped once every two months in Afghanistan, with ransom payments for their release reaching hundreds of thousands.

The presidential and provincial elections on 20 August saw a spike in the number of kidnaps, particularly implicating locals associated with the polls. Most of the victims appear to have been released unharmed after a short time, although some voters were mutilated as forewarned by the Taliban.

While members of the press remain most at risk of abduction in the country, all foreign personnel, including investors and business travellers are at risk.

Kunduz province is located north of Kabul and borders with Tajikistan. It has an estimated population of over 800,000.

The major ethnic groups living in Kunduz province are Pashtoon and Tajik, followed by Uzbek, Hazara, Turkmen and other.

Ends

Notes to editors

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Founded in 1991 by Andrew Kain, AKE Ltd provides security and risk management to international businesses, NGOs and the Media.

AKE is a leading international security risk mitigation company providing a variety of fully integrated services. AKE distinguishes itself from other security services companies by taking a proactive, intelligence-led approach to assessing, monitoring and training for and protecting against risk.

Staffed by leading experts in incident response, AKE is a world leader in the fields of Kidnap for Ransom, Threat Extortion, Coercive Bargaining, Siege Negotiations, War Tax Demands, Unlawful Detention, Product Extortion and Piracy and Hijacking.

The advice of our experts has led to the successful outcome of hundreds of cases throughout the world. We will deploy one of our consultants to any location in the world within 24 hours.

With hundreds of cases and decades of combined specialist experience, the AKE team is able to bring invaluable advice and expertise to whatever crisis or hostile situation you may face. Our team of experts has worked in over 75 countries, in varying levels of conflict, including Near and Middle East, Russia (FSU), Africa, Latin America, China and the Pacific Rim.

We offer vast knowledge and experience to assist our clients in making the most informed and timely decisions possible. Our team acts exclusively as advisors guiding you through the processes of what to expect, explanation of various scenarios and the likely sequence of events. We can also provide post-incident support to victims and those involved who often have the need to discuss their experiences with people who understand the events that they have recently been through.