

IT'S **HIM** HUMAN INVESTIGATION MANAGEMENT

Situational Awareness: Survive the kidnap

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FOUNDATION FOR
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ISIO - International Security
Industry Organization



This work is based on ISBN **978-0-620-81265-8** Critical thinking the X Factor in Criminology, Security and Risk (Vol 3) Juan Kirsten ©2018® HIM™

Hundreds of people are kidnapped world-wide for numerous reasons. These incidents have taken place in South Africa, Uganda, Mexico, Philippines, Yemen, Nigeria, and other countries mentioned in the ¹NYA Global Kidnap Report (August 2017).

It would serve to reduce the possibility of being kidnapped in the first place. When there are more eyes on the ground trained in security situational awareness relating to environment then perhaps some kidnaps could be prevented. Having said such, one may survive the kidnap more so than others if they have the right mind-set and strategically manipulate the relationship with the kidnapers to ensure longevity.

In some countries, a person is kidnapped for only a few hours or for a few days. Those cases could be when a person is carjacked and kidnapped for their valuables and their bank cards. It seems that some kidnapers use their victims to transfer funds using a computer or through the phone so that they themselves reduce the risk of getting caught. It makes sense that they may use the transfer methods if there is a daily withdrawal restriction on the card. We suppose that if they use the transfer method then the kidnapers may not hold the victim for days on end. If that is the case, then perhaps open up another account and place a small bit of money in such and provide them a password for that account. (Different countries may experience different criminal methods. The point is to research the modus operandi in your location and consider solutions).

There are other motives for the kidnap besides quick money and valuables. In these instances, one would have to strategically out-think and outsmart the perpetrator/s. In the amazing work on Stockholm syndrome of ²Christen Marie McLaughlin (2015), she outlines certain emotional bonds between the abductee and the kidnapper. The emotions in common would be that both dislike the police or authorities, and they have positive feelings towards each other which could initially start as a manipulation by the kidnapper and resulting in spontaneous and mutual positive feelings between the kidnapper and the abductee.

¹ NYA Global Kidnap Report (August 2017)

² Christen Marie McLaughlin (2015): Fear or Love: Examining Stockholm Syndrome in the Elizabeth Smart Kidnapping case

Being kidnapped by a person or persons of a different culture bring about issues to consider. Without knowing one could aggravate the kidnap situation with simple physical gestures, because distinct cultures find certain behaviour highly offensive. In some cultures, if you touch the kidnapper with your left hand, cross your legs or expose parts of your body that is highly forbidden to some religions and cultures.

Being aware of cultural behaviour of the kidnappers would reduce negative emotions towards the abductee. Furthermore, people of the same culture could talk to each other right in of the abductee without the abductee knowing by using cultural communication with their body language. This cultural communication through hand movement is displaying words - it is part of their linguistics.

Despite the fear, attempt to have an attitude and goal to out-think and outsmart the perpetrators. Consider objectives to survive

- Clarify the mission of the kidnapper/s.
- Clarify the 'relationship situation' of the kidnappers besides focusing on a person of interest. Using the HIM methods identify which person in the group is a possible person that may be a likely person of positive emotions. Try expressing the same emotion as the kidnapper as in, they possibly feel towards the authorities or anything that is in-line with their profile. The kidnapper that agrees or smile at the comments are most likely to support the abductee.
- Clarify if there is any topic to have in common with the kidnapers e.g., kids.

Be respectful. Even go to the extent of telling the kidnapper your name so that the kidnapper acknowledges your existence. Make sure to smile and say thank you for any water or food offered and smile. In other words, create a bonding bridge so that you know where they truly stand in relation to their personal life and beliefs. You may be in a situation that you could use the HIM methods to get the person of interest to talk as much as possible to gather reliable and all-the-information to determine their likes and dislikes. Make sure that you are asking questions or making comments that generate approval from the kidnappers.

[Human Investigation Management](#)

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