

Annual Report on
International Child Abduction

2020



REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

APRIL 2020

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
THE SEAN AND DAVID GOLDMAN
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
PREVENTION AND RETURN ACT OF 2014
22 U.S.C. §9111, ET SEQ.



United States Department of State

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Reader:

The Department of State leads the U.S. government's efforts to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions. I am proud of how the public servants at the Department of State assist some of our most vulnerable citizens – our children.

A dedicated team of country officers within the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues and consular officers overseas strengthens our close coordination efforts with law enforcement agencies and foreign governments to achieve our shared goal of preventing international parental child abductions. During 2019, the Office of Children's Issues responded to more than 5,400 prevention-related public inquiries and enrolled more than 4,500 children in our prevention programs, on par with enrollments in 2018.

When a left-behind parent reports an abduction to the Office of Children's Issues, our team of country officers provides information and resources to parents and works with foreign governments to facilitate the prompt resolution of abduction and access cases. Of the reported abductions our country officers handled, 220 children returned to the United States and an additional 118 cases were resolved in other ways during 2019.

As a party to the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention), the United States is committed to the principle that generally the courts in a child's place of habitual residence are best positioned to resolve matters of custody, and that abducted children should be promptly returned to their country of habitual residence. The Department of State works with our Convention partner countries to strengthen compliance with the Convention and address issues of mutual concern. Likewise, we advocate with countries that have not joined the Convention to develop the institutions and procedures required to resolve international parental child abductions and to become party to the Convention.

The 2020 Annual Report on International Child Abduction illustrates the Department of State's efforts to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions during 2019. Despite continued progress, during 2019 some countries demonstrated a pattern of non-compliance as defined in the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014. This Report cites 10 such countries. I remain deeply committed to encouraging these countries to take more effective measures to resolve cases of international parental child abduction on behalf of children and families around the world. I trust that this Report will be a valuable resource for Congress, parents, attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State

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Introduction

The Department of State's Role in International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) Cases

As the U.S. Central Authority for the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention), the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues leads U.S. government efforts to prevent abductions and to respond when international abductions happen. Country officers work with foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, other U.S. government agencies, and international organizations to resolve IPCA matters. We also actively encourage countries to become party to the Convention, which is the best means of ensuring that countries establish procedures to address abduction cases. Once the Convention is in force between the United States and another Convention party, also known as "partnership" under the Convention, we collaborate with foreign officials from that country to promote compliance with Convention obligations.

When parents report that their children have been abducted or retained outside of the United States ("outgoing abduction cases"), country officers inform them of potential options and provide resources to help them seek the return of, or access to, their children. In 2019, country officers responded to 295 initial inquiries in which parents sought information and resources regarding abductions but did not proceed with providing complete documentation. Country officers handled 716 outgoing abduction cases, including 485 cases opened in 2019.

If a parent files for return or access under the Convention, country officers forward the application to our counterparts in the foreign central authority (FCA) where the child is believed to be located. After confirming the location of the child, typically FCAs seek a voluntary resolution or offer to conduct mediation between the parents. If the parents cannot reach a voluntary agreement, then the case generally moves to the judicial phase during which a judge makes a decision about whether the child should return to the country of habitual residence.

When the Convention is not an option, such as when children are located in a country for which the Convention is not in force with respect to the United States, other options that may be available are [mediation](#), [litigation in foreign courts](#), or the [pursuit of criminal law remedies](#). These same alternatives are available even when the Convention is an option as the Convention is not an exclusive remedy. While the Office of Children's Issues can provide a list of attorneys in the country where the child is located, country officers cannot act as a legal

representative for either parent. Parents who use a foreign civil justice system will likely need to retain an attorney in the country where the child is located.

When a child returns to the United States as a result of a judicial order or voluntary arrangement, the Office of Children's Issues, U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, and law enforcement colleagues work to facilitate the child's safe and expeditious travel. From issuing travel documents to providing contacts with consular staff and victim's assistance specialists, country officers provide options and resources to facilitate safe return and reintegration.

Parents may also choose to resolve abductions or retentions through voluntary agreements or [mediation](#). Depending on the arrangements that parents make, sometimes children will return to the United States and other times they will remain overseas. The Office of Children's Issues provides information and resources regarding [mediation](#) in IPCA matters, but it is not directly involved in mediating specific cases.

For IPCA cases in which children are removed to, or retained in, the United States ("incoming abduction cases"), the Office of Children's Issues, serves as the U. S. Central Authority under the Convention. It carries out the required functions of locating children, providing an option for voluntary resolution, facilitating access to mediation services when requested, and monitoring proceedings under the Convention. In this capacity, the Office of Children's Issues also educates U.S. judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officials on the United States' obligations under the Convention.

Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues has a dedicated prevention team which responds to inquiries from parents, the legal community, law enforcement, foreign governments, and other stakeholders about how to prevent international parental child abduction. We also assist in preventing third-country abductions transiting through the United States. In 2019, the Office of Children's Issues fielded more than 5,400 prevention-related inquiries, nearly a four percent increase over 2018.

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) is one of the Department of State's most important tools for preventing international parental child abduction. In 2019, we enrolled more than 4,500 children into the CPIAP, on par with enrollments the previous year. If a passport

application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in the CPIAP, the program allows the Office of Children's Issues to contact the enrolling parent(s) or legal guardians(s) to verify whether the parental consent requirement for issuance of a passport to a minor has been met. Parents can access the enrollment forms through the Department of State's website or by contacting the Office of Children's Issues.

When alerted to a possible abduction in progress, the Office of Children's Issues liaises with law enforcement officials to seek to prevent a child from departing from the United States if a parent or legal guardian of the child presents an order from a court of competent jurisdiction prohibiting the removal of the child from the United States. In 2019, we helped enroll 363 children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Prevent Abduction Program, an increase of 54 percent over 2018. More information on this program is available on CBP's website.

Immediate Steps that May Help Prevent an Abduction:

Obtain a court order: A court order can be an important preventive measure. The Office of Children's Issues strongly encourages parents to consult an attorney regarding their particular circumstances, including the possibility of obtaining an order that prohibits their child from traveling outside of the United States.

Contact law enforcement: Inform law enforcement immediately of any court orders, and the potential for international parental child abduction.

Contact airport police and the airlines: Contact the airlines and airport law enforcement at the departing airport.

Contact the foreign embassy or consulate: Inform the foreign embassy or consulate nearest you if your child is or may be a dual national.

The Office of Children's Issues' duty officer program provides round-the-clock assistance by phone at 1-888-407-4747 to assist parents and law enforcement officials to thwart international parental child abductions. The Office of Children's Issues prevention team can also be reached via email at PreventAbduction1@state.gov for non-emergency questions or assistance.

Cooperation with Law Enforcement

Federal, state, and local law enforcement bodies have a prominent role in the prevention and resolution of

international parental child abduction. When law enforcement authorities encounter a child at risk for IPCA, or who has been abducted internationally, they should contact the Office of Children's Issues immediately. The Department of State engages regularly in outreach efforts to law enforcement regarding our role and the resources the Department has to assist them in abduction cases.

The Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (the Act) of 2014 increased collaboration on IPCA among federal agencies. The Department of State maintains regular contact with law enforcement agencies and organizes biannual interagency meetings to improve coordination efforts to prevent international parental child abductions. Participants include the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), and the Department of Defense (DOD). The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children also participate. This interagency cooperation has increased the effectiveness of the Department of State's round-the-clock duty officer program to assist parents whose children may be imminently at risk of international parental child abduction, or who need assistance facilitating the safe return of their child from abroad.

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Department of State and DHS, the Office of Children's Issues has placed two prevention officers at CBP's National Targeting Center as liaisons. This arrangement has enhanced communication, streamlined processing of time-sensitive cases, expedited responses from both Departments, and expanded the Department of State's relationships with law enforcement entities.

Diplomatic Efforts to Combat International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues engages with both Convention partners and non-partners to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions. The Office of Children's Issues conducts long-term advocacy to improve cooperation with foreign governments on abduction matters by encouraging countries to become party to the Convention, to provide meaningful assistance in abductions not falling under the Convention, and to strengthen compliance with the Convention where applicable.

The Office of Children's Issues manages diplomatic engagement on abduction matters in coordination with Department of State regional bureaus and other offices. Country officers maintain regular contact with counterparts in foreign central authorities, foreign missions in Washington, D.C., and U.S. diplomatic missions overseas. Each abduction is unique, and each country has its own distinct judicial system, law enforcement entities, and cultural and family traditions. The Department of State tailors its strategy to deploy the most effective bilateral approach with each country.

The Office of Children's Issues leverages the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) to further diplomatic engagement with foreign leaders and improve understanding and implementation of the Convention. IVLP participants are emerging leaders who travel through the United States to engage with U.S. counterparts in public and private sector organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Officers from the Office of Children's Issues with regional expertise in prevention and abduction regularly meet with IVLP participants to provide an overview of the U.S. Central Authority's role in preventing and resolving international parental child abductions. IVLP delegations often include judges and attorneys, government officials, and civil society leaders. In 2019, the Office of Children's Issues hosted and engaged IVLP participants from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ghana, India, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

Throughout 2019, senior U.S. government officials continued to engage with foreign officials around the world to promote the prevention and resolution of international parental child abductions. They also use these opportunities to raise concerns regarding individual cases with foreign officials. The following are some examples of these efforts:

- In February 2019, a senior Department official met with the Brazilian Minister of Justice to urge implementation of procedural changes to expedite Convention cases in the Brazilian judiciary.
- In a February 2019 digital video conference, senior Department officials met with Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and the Argentine Central Authority Director to urge the expeditious resolution of Convention cases.
- In February 2019, following the change of administration in Brazil, U.S. Embassy Brasilia officials met with the new Foreign Ministry leadership at the Under Secretary level to reiterate the Department's concerns over Brazil's continued pattern of noncompliance and the need to expeditiously resolve Convention cases, emphasizing our concern regarding unresolved cases.
- In February 2019, a Department of State official traveled to Spain and Italy to engage with their respective central authorities to advance cooperation and address case-specific concerns. While in Italy, this official met with representatives of U.S. Naval Forces Europe's Judge Advocates General to highlight how international parental child abduction can affect U.S. service members and their families.
- Also in February 2019, the Department facilitated training in Argentina for more than 20 U.S. government officials from U.S. missions across the Western Hemisphere. Hosted by U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires, the training focused on how to prevent and resolve international parental child abduction cases.
- In March 2019, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues traveled to Peru to engage Peruvian officials including the Peruvian Central Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the President of the Supreme Court. In addition, the Special Advisor oversaw a roundtable discussion with Consuls from Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Spain, and the United Kingdom to explore ways to encourage the expeditious resolution of abduction cases involving Peru.
- In March 2019, during the U.S.-Brazil Bilateral Consular Dialogue, the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs raised international parental child abduction and Convention noncompliance concerns with senior Government of Brazil officials.

- In March 2019, Department of State officials traveled to Islamabad to engage the Government of Pakistan on its implementation of the Convention. While in Pakistan, the U.S. delegation met with high-level officials from the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice to gain further insight into Pakistan's work on implementing the Convention and to encourage cooperation between the United States and Pakistan on IPCA issues.
- Also in March 2019, Department of State officials met with the Japan Central Authority Director in Washington, DC to discuss Japan's implementation of the Convention and Japanese legislation to improve enforcement of court return orders.
- In April 2019, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on IPCA cooperation. The MOU provides that AIT and TECRO will facilitate communication and cooperation on this critical issue, through and in coordination with their designated representative organizations, the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Taiwan Ministry of Health and Welfare. In May, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues traveled to Taipei to launch the inaugural Joint Commission on IPCA between AIT and TECRO.
- In April 2019, the United States partnered with Jamaica under the Convention. Days prior to the April 1 entry-into-force date, Department of State officials met with Jamaican officials in Washington and joined the Jamaican Central Authority in Kingston via digital conference to welcome the partnership and to discuss implementation of the Convention.
- Also in April 2019, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues hosted Saudi Arabian officials in Washington, DC for consultations of the U.S.-Saudi Joint Commission to Address International Parental Child Abduction, established through the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding in 2017.
- In June 2019, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues led a delegation to Egypt to meet with senior officials from Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. The officials discussed the Convention and the resolution of pending abduction cases.
- In June 2019, a Department of State official traveled to Japan to participate in the Japan Central Authority's Tokyo Symposium commemorating five years of the Convention's entry-into-force in Japan. While in Tokyo, the official met with officials from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice to encourage Japan to effectively implement the new law passed in May to strengthen its process for enforcement of court orders for the return of children under the Convention and to encourage greater cooperation with Japan on pre-Convention cases.
- Also in June 2019, the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs met with the Brazilian Minister of Justice and Public Security and urged Brazil to support legislative mechanisms to expedite Convention cases in the court system.
- Among various IPCA engagements throughout 2019 with India, the U.S. Ambassador to India met with high-level officials in India's Ministry for Women and Child Development and the Ministry of External Affairs to discuss the resolution of pending abduction cases and to urge India to accede to the Convention.

- In September 2019, during the U.S.-Brazil Strategic Partnership Dialogue, the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs and other senior Department officials urged the Brazilian Secretary for National Sovereignty and Citizenship Affairs to address longstanding unresolved cases and pressed for support for needed structural reforms in the Brazilian judiciary to facilitate the expeditious resolution of abduction cases.
- In October 2019, the Director of the Office of Children’s Issues met with the Attorney General and the Central Authority of Trinidad & Tobago to clarify case processing and reinforce the importance of judicial expediency.
- In November 2019, Department of State officials met with Slovakia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labor, Family, and Social Affairs, which serves as the Slovak Central Authority, to raise concerns regarding Slovakia’s new legislation that could allow parents to file unlimited appeals in Convention cases.
- Also in November 2019, a Department of State official met with the Romanian Central Authority to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders, as well as judicial delays.

Each country that is a party to the Convention must designate a Central Authority, which serves as the main point of contact for parents and other governments involved in IPCA cases. The Central Authority helps to locate abducted children and processes requests for the return of, or access to, these children.

What is the Hague Permanent Bureau?

The [Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law](#), commonly referred to as the Hague Permanent Bureau, supports international implementation of this Convention and other Hague Conventions on an ongoing basis. The Hague Permanent Bureau maintains the Hague Conference’s website containing resources such as the [Guides to Good Practice](#) that may help a country effectively implement the Convention.

What is the role of the Department of State in Convention cases?

The Department of State’s Office of Children’s Issues serves as the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention and leads U.S. government efforts to combat international parental child abduction within the Department of State and with other U.S. government agencies. The Office of Children’s Issues coordinates with other relevant offices in the Department of State as well as Congress, law enforcement, social services agencies, attorneys, and other organizations as needed in specific cases or in the development and implementation of U.S. government policy.

When a child is wrongfully removed from or is being wrongfully retained in a country with which the United States has partnered under the Convention, a parent can file an application requesting that the child be returned to the United States. A parent may also request access to a child under the Convention. The Office of Children’s Issues serves as the primary point of contact for both parents and foreign central authorities (FCAs) and will liaise with FCAs and U.S. embassies and consulates abroad to confirm the child’s welfare and facilitate the filing of the application, as appropriate. The Office of Children’s Issues submits completed applications to the FCA in the country where the parent believes the child to be located.

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

What is the Convention?

The *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention) is an international treaty that establishes a civil mechanism to promptly return children who have been removed from or retained outside of their country of habitual residence in violation of custodial rights. Parents can also seek access to their children across international borders under the Convention. The Convention has proven to be one of the most effective tools available for parents or legal guardians to seek the return of their abducted children. The Convention entered into force for the United States on July 1, 1988.

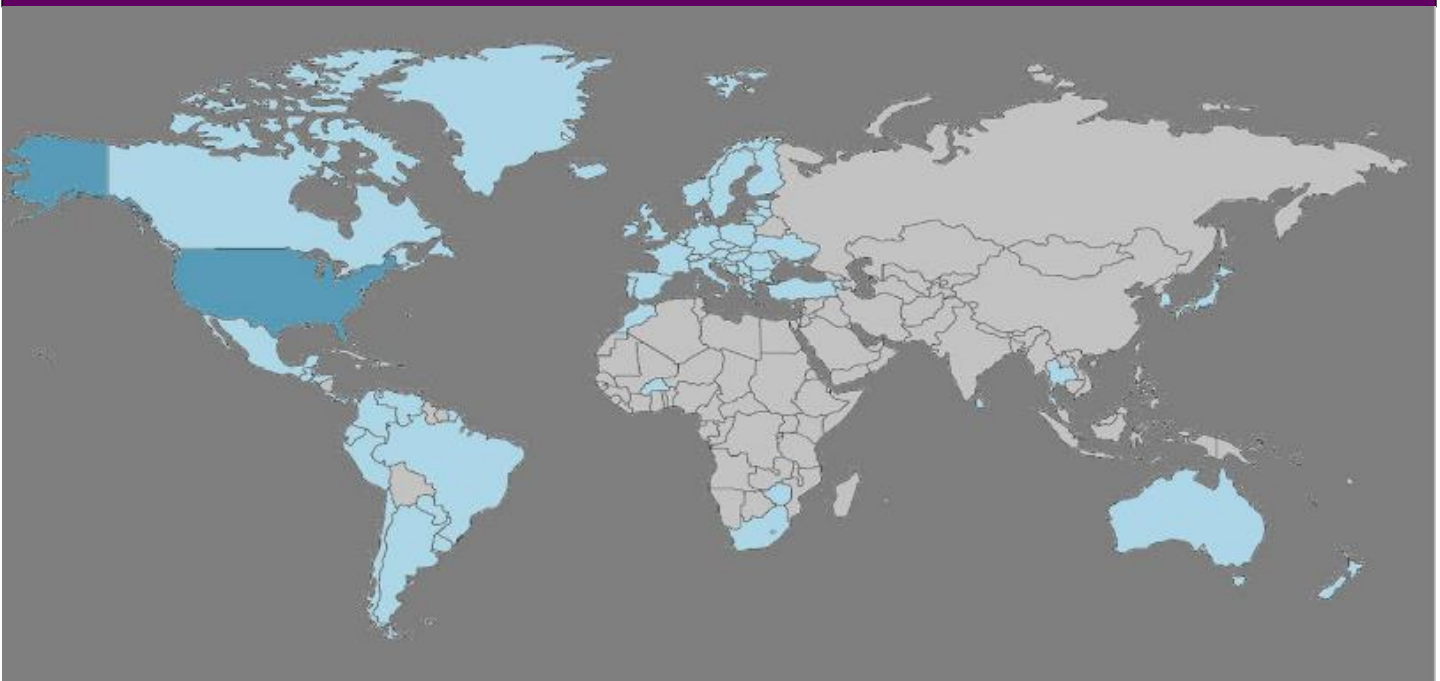
After the application for return or access has been filed, FCAs must take all appropriate measures to locate wrongfully removed or retained children and facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of the child unless specific exceptions apply. Courts should decide these cases promptly, and the Office of Children’s Issues monitors Convention cases throughout the foreign administrative and legal processes.

Does the Convention apply to all international parental abductions?

No. The Convention does not apply to every international abduction or retention.

The Convention must have been in force between the two countries when the wrongful removal or retention occurred. [The Convention is in force between the United States and 79 partners.](#)

2019 U.S. CONVENTION PARTNERS



In order to seek a return under the Convention, a parent or legal guardian must show that:

- The child is under the age of 16.
- The child was habitually resident in one Convention country immediately before any breach of custodial rights and was wrongfully removed to or retained in another Convention country.
- The removal or retention of the child was wrongful; a removal or retention is considered wrongful if it was in violation of custodial rights, and the parent was exercising those rights at the time of the removal or retention or would have been but for the removal or retention.

Will a child return if a parent files a Convention case?

Under the Convention, the judicial or administrative authorities of Contracting States may refuse to return an abducted child to a country of habitual residence under specific exceptions. Contracting States vary in how they interpret the exceptions.

Will a parent gain access to a child by filing a Convention case?

Countries vary greatly in how they handle requests for access under the Convention.

If a parent already has a U.S. custody order, why pursue a Convention case?

U.S. court orders may not be recognized in other countries. The Convention provides a civil legal mechanism to request the return of or access to a child. Parents may wish to consult an attorney to determine the best strategy for their particular circumstances. While the Office of Children's Issues and U.S. embassies and consulates cannot provide legal advice, the Department of State provides information about [retaining a foreign attorney](#) and [U.S. embassies](#) generally publish lists of attorneys who have identified themselves as willing to assist U.S. citizen clients. Foreign law directories, bar associations, or other organizations may be able to provide additional information on legal counsel in a foreign country.

The Role of the Department of State in Non-Convention Cases

The Office of Children's Issues also leads the U.S. government response to international parental child

abduction to countries that are not Convention partners with the United States. For parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in countries that are not Convention partners with the United States, the Office of Children's Issues can provide information and resources about country-specific options for pursuing the return of or access to an abducted child. The Department may also coordinate with appropriate foreign and U.S. government authorities to monitor the welfare of abducted U.S. citizen children and encourage voluntary resolutions, as appropriate. The Office of Children's Issues or a U.S. embassy can also provide a [list of attorneys](#) who have expressed their willingness to represent U.S. citizen clients in the country where the child is located.

Parents should consider consulting an attorney who can provide legal guidance that is specific to their circumstances.

Assistance to U.S. Military Personnel and Their Families

Providing assistance to our military families is a priority for the Department. We work closely with the Department of Defense to facilitate Convention applications, explain options available to parents, and inform military liaisons about options in abduction and access proceedings. We recognize that abductions involving military parents present unique challenges. For that reason, we provide training to our military colleagues who may be in a position to help military families to mitigate the risk of loss of contact with children and to understand the legal means available to prevent and resolve abduction cases.

The Department of State is engaged with the Department of Defense's Office of Legal Policy and the Service Chiefs of Legal Assistance for all five branches of the military on IPCA issues that may impact military service members and their families. The Office of Children's Issues and Department of State attorneys regularly provide training to educate military lawyers and others on measures for preventing and resolving international parental child abductions. For example, in 2019, a team from the Office of Children's Issues provided trainings for judge advocates from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy at Yokota Air Base, Yokosuka Navy Base, and Camp Foster in Japan. A team also provided training at a legal assistance symposium in Norfolk, Virginia for judge advocates focused on international family law issues.

Generally, while serving overseas, active-duty U.S. military members and their accompanying non-active duty dependents are subject to the foreign country's laws. Civil issues, including family law matters, generally fall under the jurisdiction of the host country's courts. The country where a U.S. military family is living may be considered the family's habitual residence. For more information, please see our website. The Department of Defense may have additional resources to assist in preventing and resolving international parental child abductions.

In 2019, the Office of Children's Issues responded to three initial inquiries affecting military parents regarding possible abductions for which no completed application was submitted to the Department. The Office of Children's Issues also worked on ten abduction cases affecting military parents. Of these, four were resolved and nine were unresolved at the end of the year.

Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2019, 220 abducted children returned to the United States.

The majority, 160, returned from Convention countries, while 60 children returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction, as defined in the Act.

Last year, the Department worked on 118 abduction cases that were resolved without the abducted children returning to the United States. These include cases that were closed for the following reasons: (1) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Convention and determined not to return the child under the provisions of the Convention; (2) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement for the child to remain; (3) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; (4) the left-behind parent could not be located by the Office of Children's Issues for more than one year; and (5) the left-behind parent or child passed away.

Of the 118 cases noted above, 87 involved Convention member countries, and 31 involved non-Convention countries.

To provide a longer-term perspective, the Office of Children's Issues reviewed the files of all children involved in abduction cases opened in 2017. By December 31, 2019,

33 percent of these children had returned to the United States. Of the abduction cases opened in 2017, 48 percent had resolved either judicially or voluntarily, another 45 percent resolved for other reasons or had been closed administratively, and lastly 7 percent remained open at the end of 2019.

Other Issues Regarding International Parental Child Abduction

Voluntary Agreements

Voluntary agreements are an important mechanism through which international parental child abduction cases may be resolved. This is true in both the Convention and non-Convention context. Parents can simultaneously pursue both a return through the Convention and a voluntary agreement.

Parents considering mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution should always consult a legal representative for guidance, as mediation may or may not be the right option for a particular case.

Domestic Violence Resources Available in IPCA cases

Recognizing that some parents and children impacted by international parental child abduction are also survivors of domestic violence, the Office of Children's Issues encourages families to seek appropriate resources and legal advice. There are more than 10,000 organizations and agencies in the United States that provide support and services to victims of crime, including domestic violence, regardless of their immigration status. Services may include counseling, language interpretation, safety planning, emergency housing in confidential shelters, and emergency financial assistance. There are toll-free telephone helpline services with trained operators who help survivors at all hours, seven days a week, may be able to provide translation, and can connect a victim with free local services.

Survivors may seek court intervention and obtain protection orders, child custody and divorce orders, and child support orders. Civil and criminal court judges can order several remedies to promote the safety and welfare of the victim and children, including parenting classes, substance abuse

classes, and drug rehabilitation. Prosecutors may also pursue criminal charges and penalties.

Under the Hague Abduction Convention, a judge may decline to return a child to his or her country of habitual residence if there is a grave risk that returning the child would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.

While the Department of State can refer survivors of domestic violence to various federal or state-specific organizations, shelters, attorneys, and other resources, it does not assess the veracity of domestic violence allegations, or any other factual matters, in abduction cases.

In 1996, the U.S. government launched the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24-hour, toll-free service that provides crisis assistance and local shelter referral for callers across the country. The telephone number is (800) 787-SAFE (800) 787-7233). The TDD number for the hearing impaired is (800) 787-3224.

Criminal Laws and Remedies

International parental child abduction is a crime in the United States.

Under the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act, anyone who “removes a child from the United States, or attempts to do so, or retains a child (who has been in the United States) outside the United States with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights” may be imprisoned for up to three years. In addition, every state and the District of Columbia have criminal laws regarding parental kidnapping. It is important that parents seek legal advice before moving or retaining a child across international borders.

A decision by a left-behind parent about whether to [pursue criminal charges](#) against the taking parent is a difficult one that should be made through consultation with a legal representative and in consideration of its potential impact on other aspects of their efforts to secure the child’s return. Depending on the circumstances, criminal charges filed against the taking parent can either help or hinder the successful return of the child.

Resources for U.S. Judges in the Application of the Convention

As the U.S. Central Authority, the Office of Children’s Issues helps to educate judges in the United States on the

Convention. Judges hearing Convention cases can access important resources including legal analysis and abduction prevention tools and information at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/International-Parental-Child-Abduction/for-providers/for-judges.html>.

We send letters to U.S. judges hearing Convention cases in the United States that highlight important aspects of the Convention. The letters reference articles such as the requirement for cases to be handled expeditiously and for the court to decide habitual residence rather than custody. The letters also further explain our role as the U.S. Central Authority and provide additional resources such as the United States’ implementing legislation, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. We notify judges that the four U.S. members of the International Hague Network of Judges, who are experts on the Convention, are available for consultation on IPCA cases. The role of a Network Judge is to help facilitate direct judicial communications by serving as a link to his/her colleagues at the domestic level and other members of the Network at an international level.

Use of Airlines in Abductions

Many international parental child abductions take place via international airline flights, although the Department of State has no specific data on this issue. In June 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) thoroughly reviewed commercial airline practices aimed at preventing international parental child abduction. The GAO report addressed the appropriate role of commercial airlines in preventing international parental child abductions. The Department of State recommends the following best practices for airlines to aid in preventing abductions:

1. **Efforts to Support and Cooperate with Law Enforcement:** Federal and state law enforcement entities have a prominent role in preventing abductions and airlines should work to support law enforcement agencies in this role. As private sector entities, airlines in the United States do not have the authority to enforce custody orders. Commercial airlines’ main role related to the prevention of abductions is cooperating, upon request, with law enforcement officials.
2. **Know How to Report:** Commercial airline employees should be made aware of the Office of Children’s Issues’ contact information and potential child abduction indicators, so that abduction cases reported to the airlines, either by parents, attorneys, courts, law enforcement officials, or other stakeholders may be appropriately referred for immediate assistance. The Department of State

provides brochures that contain the Department’s contact information and information on potential child abduction indicators to port authorities, airline employees, and the general public. The Department will continue its outreach activities to these stakeholders.

How to Use This Report

This report provides Congress with information regarding international parental child abduction. To that end, readers may find a data page for every country with one or more open abduction cases during 2019 that were reported to the Office of Children’s Issues for a child whose reported habitual residence is the United States. These pages are organized into two sections. The first section consists of countries determined to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance during 2019 as defined by the Act. The second section consists of the remainder of countries with one or more abduction or access cases for a child whose reported habitual residence is the United States. Countries that did not have an open abduction or access case in 2019 are not listed in this Report.

Each country data page includes a country summary, a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children’s Issues in 2018 and 2019, and an evaluation of the foreign central authority. Additionally, readers will find status reports on Department of State requests for governments to locate children, rulings by foreign judicial authorities, actions taken to enforce judicial orders, and Department recommendations. For those countries where the Department submitted cases to a foreign central authority, an additional table appears under the central authority section with data required by the Act.

This Report presents a snapshot of abduction and access cases in a country during calendar year 2019. The volume of cases over this period may not be sufficient to indicate major trends in a particular country. Therefore, the Office of Children’s Issues recommends considering the information presented in this report along with the information presented in [previous annual reports on IPCA](#) and the other topical annual reports and [country information](#) the Department of State publishes.

The following blank country data page with accompanying definitions explains how data is organized in this report.

Understanding the Country Pages

Country Summary: This section indicates whether the country is a party to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention), and whether the Convention is in force between the country and the United States. For countries not party to the Convention, if the Office of Children’s Issues has established bilateral procedures with the country, that will also be indicated in the summary. This section will also state if a country is being cited for a “pattern of noncompliance” as defined in the Act. All commentary on this page refers to the country’s performance during calendar year 2019. If appropriate, previous citations will also be included here.

Initial Inquiries: The number of inquiries for which U.S. Central Authority staff provided information and resources, but no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year includes any abduction case reported to the U.S. Central Authority prior to January 1 that had not been resolved or closed by that date. An abduction case is any abduction matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority for which a parent or legal guardian has submitted sufficient documentation to meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.				
New Abduction Cases reflects reported abduction cases received by the U.S. Central Authority from January 1 through December 31, which meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.				
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year reflects the number of reported abduction cases resolved from January 1 through December 31. A resolved abduction case is defined as any reported abduction that was resolved for one of the following reasons: 1) the child was returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; 5) the left-behind parent could not be located for one year despite documented efforts by the U.S. Central Authority to locate the parent; or 6) the death of the child or left-behind parent.				
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year includes abduction cases closed for reasons other than those listed in the definition of a resolved abduction case.				
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year counts abduction cases still open on December 31.				

Abduction and access cases are dynamic and require coordinating information among several parties. Each year, the Report is based on the information available at the time of publication; for some countries, there may be minor discrepancies in the data between the end of one year and start of another as a result of information obtained after the reporting period. Additionally, the total number of the children listed under abduction cases resolved, closed, and still open in some country pages may not equal the number of children for the total abduction cases in that year, as individual outcomes for some children may be different from those of other children in a given case.

Significant Developments: Changes to a country’s laws or other events that impact the handling of abduction matters in a country are reported here.

Central Authority: Countries party to the Convention designate an office to carry out Convention responsibilities. For non-Convention countries, the central authority is the “foreign ministry or other appropriate authority of such country,” 22 U.S.C. §9101(10). This section of the Report assesses the country’s central authority, where appropriate.

Table 2. Abduction cases conveyed to the country by the U.S. Central Authority	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year reflects any abduction case pending with the foreign central authority on January 1.				
New Cases Filed with the FCA reflects abduction cases the U.S. Central Authority transmitted to the foreign central authority from January 1 through December 31.				
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year reflects the total number of abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority at any time during the year.				
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months. In a Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the completed application for return of the child is submitted for determination to the judicial or administrative authority, as applicable, in the country in which the child is located. In a non-Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the request for return of the child was submitted to the foreign ministry or other appropriate authority in the country in which the child is located.				
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year is the percent of the abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority or relevant foreign government office that were unresolved on December 31.				

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention directs central authorities to “take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” This section indicates the number of abduction cases that were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In a Convention country, location is the step after the U.S. Central Authority has transmitted the abduction case to the foreign central authority and the responsible authorities attempt to locate the child. In a non-Convention country, location refers to requests made by the Department of State to the competent authorities to locate a child reported abducted to its territory. This section describes the country’s performance in locating children that were reported abducted to the country.

Judicial Authorities: This section describes the performance of the country’s judicial or administrative body with adjudicative authority to hear and decide upon abduction or access cases.

Enforcement: This section describes the country’s performance implementing judicial or administrative orders in abduction or access cases.

Department Recommendations: This section describes the Department’s recommendations for future engagement with the country concerning international parental child abduction.

Access: This section describes any access cases with the country during 2019. In an access case, a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children living in a foreign country through the Convention.

Pre-Convention Cases: If the Convention is in force between the United States and the country, this section will indicate whether there are ongoing cases that predate the Convention partnership.

**COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATING A
PATTERN OF NONCOMPLIANCE**

Argentina

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2019, Argentina continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Argentine judicial authorities persistently failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for five years. Argentina was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received seven initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Argentina for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	2	2
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	4	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (67%)	2

Significant Developments: In March, the Special Advisor for Children’s Issues traveled to Argentina to emphasize best practices for Hague Abduction Convention implementation. During this visit, the Department raised concerns with the length of time to resolve cases, specifically encouraging Argentine officials to address judicial delays. Following the Special Advisor’s visit, the legislation, introduced in 2018 and designed to address judicial delays, was approved by the Argentine Senate. The legislation must go through additional approvals before becoming law in Argentina.

Central Authority: The United States and the Argentine Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	4	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	25%		100%	



Argentina (continued)

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. It took 52 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Argentine judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: In one longstanding case, Argentina did not enforce a return order for several years. Additionally, Argentina’s legal system allows multiple appeals both on the merits of the decision and on the manner in which the decisions are enforced, thereby creating excessive delays.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Argentina. This case was opened in 2018. This case has been filed with the Argentine Central Authority. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Argentine authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Argentine authorities to address issues of concern.



Brazil



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2019, Brazil continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Brazilian judicial authorities persistently failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result, 55 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for four years and one month. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006-2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received 10 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Brazil for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	10	14	9	12
New Abduction Cases	7	11	3	5
Total Abduction Cases	17	25	12	17
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	7	10	3 (25%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	10	15	9 (75%)	12

Central Authority: The United States and the Brazilian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	10	14	9	12
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	10	2	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	16	24	11	16
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	7	10	6	8
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	44%		55%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In one case, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was six months. As of December 31, 2019, there was one case where the Brazilian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child. The Department of State requested location assistance, but the Brazilian authorities have not yet identified a location.



Brazil (continued)

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Brazilian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. Brazil's unresolved caseload has increased to 55 percent from 44 percent in the last reporting period, even as the total number of cases decreased from 16 to 11 and the number of children involved decreased from 24 to 16. In 2019, the Department did not observe any systemic changes regarding longstanding judicial delays, including, but not limited to, systemic delays both at the appellate and enforcement stages. We remain concerned with the Brazilian judiciary's repeated failure to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention.

Enforcement: While courts in Brazil ordered returns under the Convention, Brazilian authorities were not always able to enforce these orders. In one notable case, after ten years of litigation at all levels of the Brazilian judiciary, the Brazilian court still failed to enforce its own order for return.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Brazil. All of these cases were opened prior to 2019 and have been filed with the Brazilian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, one access case (33 percent) had been resolved, and two cases remained open. Both of the two remaining access cases have been pending with the Brazilian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Brazilian authorities to address issues of concern.



Costa Rica



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Costa Rica since 2008. In 2019, Costa Rica demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provision of the Convention. The Department previously cited Costa Rica in the 2011 – 2016 Annual Reports but did not cite Costa Rica in the 2018 or 2019 reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Abduction Cases	4	6	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	7	9	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	6	3 (60%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	2 (40%)	2

Significant Developments: As of December 3, 2019, the Office of Children’s Issues was unaware of any children abducted from the United States to Costa Rica returning to the United States pursuant to a judicial order. Judicial delays persist in abduction cases in Costa Rica.

Central Authority: The United States and the Costa Rican Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	6	3	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	9	6	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	29%		17%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. As of December 31, 2019, there were no open cases where the Costa Rican authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Costa Rican judicial authorities affected cases during 2019. The Department is not aware of any cases where a child was returned to the United States pursuant to a court order under the Convention in the eleven-year history of the United States’ partnership with Costa Rica under the Convention.



Costa Rica (continued)

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Costa Rican authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Costa Rica. Of these, two cases were opened in 2018. Both cases were filed with the Costa Rican Central Authority in 2018. By December 31, 2019, both cases (100 percent) had been resolved. No access cases have been pending with the Costa Rican authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Costa Rican Central Authority will continue the processing and resolution of cases under the Convention. The Department will continue working with the Costa Rican authorities to raise awareness of and compliance with the Convention in Costa Rica.



Ecuador



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2019, Ecuador continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Ecuadorian judicial authorities persistently failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and ten months. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received seven initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ecuador for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	7	3	4
New Abduction Cases	3	4	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	7	11	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	7	1 (33%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	2 (67%)	2

Significant Developments: In 2019, judges from the United States and Ecuador met more than once to discuss Convention best practices. Additionally, representatives from the Office of Children’s Issues traveled to Quito in December 2019 for high-level meetings to discuss Ecuador’s Convention implementation with the Ecuadorian Central Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador’s specialized law enforcement unit for children *Dirección Nacional de Policía Especializada para Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes* (DINAPEN), the National Court of Justice, and the Judicial Council.

Central Authority: Though the Ecuadorian Central Authority leadership changed three times in this reporting period, the United States and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	7	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	10	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	3	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	33%		33%	



Ecuador (continued)

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 60 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays in deciding Convention cases, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. As a result, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year. Additionally, a judicial decision raised concerns.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ecuadorian authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Ecuador. One case was filed with the Ecuadorian Central Authority in 2017, and the other case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2019, one case (50 percent) had been resolved, and one case remained open. One case has been pending with the Ecuadorian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Ecuadorian authorities to address issues of concern.



Egypt



Country Summary: Egypt does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2003, the United States and Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate parental access to abducted children. In 2019, Egypt continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Egypt persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 46 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and six months. Egypt was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and 2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Egypt for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	15	20	15	26
New Abduction Cases	8	14	5	8
Total Abduction Cases	23	34	20	34
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	8	6 (30%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	16	24	14 (70%)	25

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Egypt worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	11	15	10	15
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	11	15	13	21
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	10	14	6	9
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	91%		46%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities of Egypt failed to take appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. As of December 31, 2019, there was one case where the Egyptian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.



Egypt (continued)

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Egyptian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Egyptian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department of State will continue to encourage Egypt to ratify the Convention and create the legal infrastructure needed for effective implementation of the Convention.



India



Country Summary: India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2019, India continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in India persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 41 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for 3 years and 6 months. India was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to India for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	70	82	71	82
New Abduction Cases	17	20	31	39
Total Abduction Cases	87	102	102	121
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	14	18	9 (9%)	13
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	3	3	4 (4%)	4
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	70	81	89 (87%)	103

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in India regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In July 2018, India's Ministry of Women and Child Development directed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to constitute a mediation cell to resolve international child custody disputes. However, the United States is not aware of any abduction cases between the United States and India that were resolved through this service in 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	44	50	41	47
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	9	46	54
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	51	59	87	101
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	36	40	36	41
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	71%		41%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.



India

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Indian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Indian law and attempts to resolve custody disputes in the local courts were generally unsuccessful, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. Some left-behind parents reported difficulty with serving taking parents in India causing delays in court proceedings. Additionally, judicial action in custody cases in India has been slow, and Indian courts tend to default to granting custody to the taking parent.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Indian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department of State will continue to encourage India to accede to the Convention.



Jordan



Country Summary: Jordan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2006, the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate parental access to abducted children. In 2019, Jordan continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Jordan persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jordan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	8	6	10
New Abduction Cases	7	10	4	7
Total Abduction Cases	12	18	10	17
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	7	11	4 (40%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	7	6 (60%)	9

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Jordan worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In 2018, the Government of Jordan began offering mediation services to parents involved in international parental child abductions through the Family Mediation Directorate. However, the United States is not aware of any abductions cases that were resolved through this service in 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	5	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	6	10
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	3	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		17%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Jordanian authorities.



Jordan (continued)

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Jordanian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Jordanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Jordan to accede to the Convention.



Peru



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2019, Peru continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention and judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 45 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and 11 months. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Peru for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	8	9	11
New Abduction Cases	8	10	2	4
Total Abduction Cases	15	18	11	15
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	7	2 (18%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	9	11	9 (82%)	13

Significant Developments: In October 2019, Peru’s Judicial Authority drafted a judicial protocol intending to expedite Convention cases. As of December 31, 2019, the Peruvian Central Authority reported that the executive branch was still reviewing the protocol, which has not yet been implemented.

Central Authority: There have been serious delays in the processing of cases by the Peruvian Central Authority and a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding abduction cases, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. The Peruvian Central Authority continued to refuse to accept an abduction case, despite an obligation to take all appropriate measures to initiate or facilitate the institution of proceedings under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	7	8	9	11
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	4	2	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	10	12	11	15
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	5	6	5	6
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		45%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.



Peru (continued)

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 100 days.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Peruvian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Peruvian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Peruvian authorities to address issues of concern.



Romania



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. In 2019, Romania demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities persistently failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. Additionally, law enforcement authorities regularly failed to enforce return orders. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and three months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	3
New Abduction Cases	1	3	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	5	1	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	3	1 (100%)	3

Central Authority: While the United States and the Romanian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	5	1	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Romanian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Romania reached a timely decision. However, delays by the Romanian judicial authorities at the enforcement stage impacted cases during 2019. As a result of these delays, a case was pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: While a court in Romania ordered a return under the Convention, the Romanian authorities were not able to enforce this order. There was one case (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) that has been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement has failed to enforce a return order.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Romanian authorities to address issues of concern.



United Arab Emirates



Country Summary: The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2019, the United Arab Emirates continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for four years and four months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	4	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	2 (50%)	2

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	3	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from Emirati authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Emirati judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Emirati authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage the United Arab Emirates to accede to the Convention.



**COUNTRIES WITH ONE OR
MORE ABDUCTION CASES**

Albania

Country Summary: While Albania became party to the Convention in 2007, the Convention is not in force between Albania and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Albania discussed the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Albanian law and the Albanian government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance.

Judicial Authorities: While one abduction case was filed in the Albanian courts, it was not resolved in 2019 and there is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Albanian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Albanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Albanian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Algeria

Country Summary: Algeria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Algeria for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Algeria have discussed ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Algerian law. However, the options for resolving these cases under Algerian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Algerian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Algerian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to the return of a child needed to be enforced by the Algerian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Algeria to accede to the Convention.



Australia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Australia since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Australia for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	7	3	5
New Abduction Cases	5	6	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	8	13	4	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	9	4 (100%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Australian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	7	3	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	9	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	20%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Australia routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Australian authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Australia. This case was opened in 2019 and was filed with the Australian Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Australian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Australian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Austria



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Austria since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Austria for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1(100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Austrian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Austrian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Austria reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Austrian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Austrian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Azerbaijan



Country Summary: Azerbaijan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Azerbaijan worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Azerbaijani law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Azerbaijani authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Azerbaijani law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Azerbaijani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Azerbaijan to accede to the Convention.



Bahrain

Country Summary: Bahrain does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Bahrain have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Bahraini law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Bahraini authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Bahraini law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bahraini authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Bahrain to accede to the Convention.



Bangladesh

Country Summary: Bangladesh does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Bangladeshi authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bangladeshi judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bangladeshi authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Bangladesh to accede to the Convention.



Belgium

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belgium since 1999.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Belgium for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Belgian Central Authority have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. As of December 31, 2019, there is one case where the Belgian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Belgian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Belgian authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two access cases under the Convention in Belgium and both (100 percent) were resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Belgian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Belize

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belize since 1989.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	3	5
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	3	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	3 (100%)	5

Central Authority: The United States and the Belizean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	3	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 28 days. As of December 31, 2019, there was one case where the Belizean authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Belizean judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Belizean authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Belizean Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Benin

Country Summary: Benin does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Benin. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Beninese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Beninese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Beninese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Benin to accede to the Convention.



Bolivia

Country Summary: While Bolivia became a party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between Bolivia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The Department is concerned about the delays in resolving cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	6	4	5
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	5	7	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5	4 (100%)	5

Significant Developments: In 2019, the Hague Conference on Private International law acknowledged the membership of a Bolivian judge in the International Hague Network of Judges.

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Bolivia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		50%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Bolivian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bolivian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bolivian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Bolivian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Bulgaria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Bulgaria since 2005. While the Department did not cite Bulgaria for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2019, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process.



	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (50%)	3

Central Authority: The United States and Bulgarian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Bulgarian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bulgarian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Bulgarian authorities to address issues of concern.



Cambodia

Country Summary: Cambodia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Cambodia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Cambodian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Cambodian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cambodian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Cambodian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Cambodia to accede to the Convention.



Cameroon

Country Summary: Cameroon does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Cameroonian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Cameroonian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Cameroonian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Cameroon to accede to the Convention.



Canada

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Canada since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Canada for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	9	15	19
New Abduction Cases	35	48	16	22
Total Abduction Cases	42	57	31	41
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	27	38	23 (74%)	30
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (3%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	15	19	7 (23%)	10

Central Authority: The United States and the Canadian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	7	9	15	19
New Cases Filed with the FCA	33	45	19	25
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	40	54	34	44
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	3%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, eight abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took five days to locate a child. As of December 31, 2019, there are no open cases where the authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Canada routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Canadian authorities



Canada (continued)

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 11 open access cases under the Convention in Canada. Three cases were filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, seven of the 11 cases (64 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2019, four (36 percent) remained open. One case has been pending with the Canadian Central Authority for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Canadian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



China



Country Summary: China does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. China was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report. While authorities in China have shown improved cooperation and engagement with the Department of State, the Department is concerned that options for resolving abduction cases under Chinese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	6	5	5
New Abduction Cases	5	5	4	4
Total Abduction Cases	10	11	9	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	6	2 (22%)	2 (22%)
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5	7 (78%)	7 (78%)

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in China worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Chinese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Chinese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Chinese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Chinese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage China to accede to the Convention.



Colombia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Colombia since 1996. Colombia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received six initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Colombia for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.



	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	10	2	2
New Abduction Cases	4	4	15	20
Total Abduction Cases	11	14	17	22
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	9	12	8 (47%)	11
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (6%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	8 (47%)	10

Central Authority: The United States and the Colombian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	7	10	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	6	8
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	11	8	10
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	13%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was one month and 21 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Colombian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Colombian authorities.



Colombia (continued)

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Colombia. Of these, two cases were opened in 2019. All of these cases have been filed with the Colombian Central Authority. By December 31, 2019, two cases (66 percent) had been resolved. Of those resolved, one case was the result of a voluntary agreement between the parents, and the other case was the result of a judicial decision. By December 31, 2019, one case remained open.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Colombian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Côte d'Ivoire

Country Summary: Cote d'Ivoire does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	2

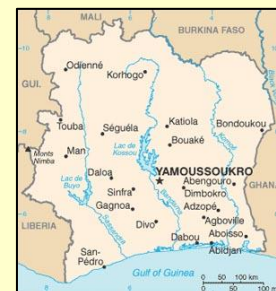
Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ivorian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Ivorian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ivorian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Cote d'Ivoire to accede to the Convention.



Cyprus

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Cyprus since 1995.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	3
New Abduction Cases	2	3	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Cypriot Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	0	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Cypriot authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Cypriot judiciary in 2019. One case was brought before a Cypriot court in 2019, which remains pending.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Cypriot authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Cypriot Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Czech Republic

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Czech Republic since 1998.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Czech Republic for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Czech Republic Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Czech authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the Czech Republic reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: A decision in a Convention case in the Czech Republic was enforced in a timely manner.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case under the Convention in the Czech Republic. This case was opened in 2019 and was filed with the Czech Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Czech authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Czech Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Country Summary: The Democratic Republic of Congo does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Congolese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Congolese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Congolese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage the Democratic Republic of Congo to accede to the Convention.



Denmark

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Denmark since 1991.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Denmark for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Danish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

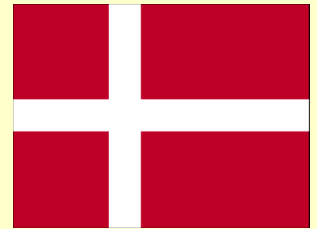
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Danish authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Denmark reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: While a court in Denmark ordered a return under the Convention, the Danish authorities were not able to enforce this order.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Danish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Dominica

Country Summary: Dominica does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	0	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Dominica. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Dominican authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Dominican judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Dominican authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Dominica to accede to the Convention.



Dominican Republic

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Dominican Republic since 2007. The Dominican Republic was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern on noncompliance in the 2014-2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Dominican Republic for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	7	3	3
New Abduction Cases	6	6	2	4
Total Abduction Cases	11	13	5	7
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	8	10	2 (40%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	2 (40%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Dominican Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	5	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	6	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 46 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the Dominican Republic routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Dominican Republic authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Dominican Central Authority will continue the effective processing of cases under the Convention.



El Salvador



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and El Salvador since 2007.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to El Salvador where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	2 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Salvadoran Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Salvadoran authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Salvadoran judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Salvadoran authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Salvadoran Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Ethiopia

Country Summary: Ethiopia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Ethiopia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ethiopian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ethiopian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ethiopian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ethiopian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Ethiopia to accede to the Convention.



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Fiji since 2017.

Central Authority: The United States and the Fijian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

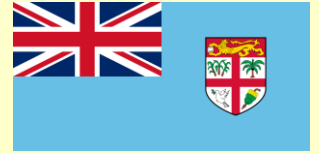
Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Fijian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Fijian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Fijian authorities.

Pre-Convention Cases: In 2019, one pre-Convention case was resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Fijian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



France

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and France since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to France for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	12	5	9
New Abduction Cases	2	4	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	9	16	5	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	5 (100%)	9
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	9	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the French Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	6	11	5	9
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	14	5	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	13%		0%	

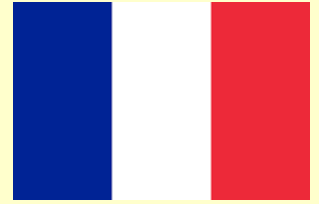
Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 5 months.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of France routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in France were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the French Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.

Guadeloupe: The U.S. Embassy in Nassau, Bahamas provides consular services to U.S. citizens in Guadeloupe, including those related to international parental child abductions. In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority opened one abduction case in Guadeloupe. By December 31, 2019, the aforementioned case remained open. The Department recommends continued affective processing with the French Central Authority and the resolution of cases under the Convention.



Georgia

Country Summary: While Georgia became party to the Convention in 1997, the Convention is not in force between Georgia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

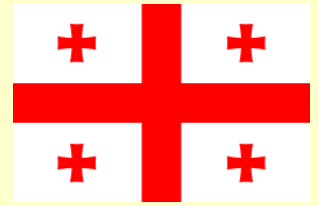
Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Georgia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the Georgian authorities during the year.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Georgian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Georgian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Georgian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Georgian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Germany

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Germany since 1990.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Germany for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	2	2
New Abduction Cases	8	10	4	5
Total Abduction Cases	12	14	6	7
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	10	12	6 (100%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the German Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	4	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	9	4	7
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	11	13	6	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Germany routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Germany were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the German Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Ghana



Country Summary: Ghana does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ghana for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	4
New Abduction Cases	2	5	3	6
Total Abduction Cases	2	5	5	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	3	5 (100%)	10

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Ghana have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ghanaian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ghanaian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ghanaian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ghanaian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Ghana to accede to the Convention.



Greece

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Greece since 1993.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Greek Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Greek authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Greek judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Greek authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Greek Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Guatemala

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Guatemala since 2008. Guatemala was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2012-2017 Annual Reports. There were no new applications submitted to the Department in 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Significant Developments: The Guatemalan authorities hosted a judicial seminar on Convention cases attended by judges from Guatemala and the United States, as well as a representative from the Hague Conference on Private International Law in March 2019.

Central Authority: The United States and the Guatemalan Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	33%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Guatemalan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process by the Guatemalan authorities, which impacted the sole remaining case during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Guatemalan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Guatemalan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Guyana



Country Summary: While Guyana became party to the Convention in 2019, the Convention is not in force between Guyana and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	2	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Guyana have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Guyanese law and the Guyanese government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate the children after the United States submitted a request for assistance.

Judicial Authorities: The Guyanese judicial authorities resolved an abduction case in a timely manner.

Enforcement: Decisions made by Guyanese courts were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Guyanese government officials regarding potential partnership.



Honduras



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. Honduras was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Honduras for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	4	5	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Honduras Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 46 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Honduran judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Honduran authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Honduras. Both of these cases were opened in 2019. One case was filed with the Honduran Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Honduran authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Honduran Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Hungary

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Hungary since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Hungary for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Hungarian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Hungarian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Hungary reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Hungarian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Hungarian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Indonesia

Country Summary: Indonesia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Indonesia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	7	8	8
New Abduction Cases	1	1	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	8	8	11	12
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (10%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	2 (10%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	8	8	8 (80%)	9

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Indonesia worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Indonesian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	7	7	7	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	7	7	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	7	7	6	6
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		86%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Indonesian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Indonesian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Indonesian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Indonesia to accede to the Convention.



Iran

Country Summary: Iran does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The United States does not have diplomatic relations with Iran. The Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran performs limited consular services for U.S. citizens in country. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Iran.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	8	8	10
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	8	11	9	12
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (22%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (11%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	8	10	6 (67%)	9

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Iraq

Country Summary: While Iraq became party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Iraq and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The ability of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to provide consular services to U.S. citizens throughout Iraq including services related to international parental child abduction is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Iraq.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Iraq for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	5	8
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	7	6	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	2 (33%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	4 (67%)	5

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2019, the United States did not inform the Iraqi government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Iraqi authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Iraqi law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Iraqi authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Ireland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ireland since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	4	4
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	4	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (50%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Irish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	4	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	4	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 18 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Ireland reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The decision in the Convention case in Ireland was enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Irish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Israel, Gaza, and West Bank

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Israel since 1991.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Israel for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	5
New Abduction Cases	2	6	6	11
Total Abduction Cases	4	9	7	16
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	5 (72%)	12
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (14%)	3
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	5	1 (14%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Israeli Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	5	5	10
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	8	6	15
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 17 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Israel routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Israel were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Israeli Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Israel, Gaza, and West Bank (cont.)

West Bank: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in the West Bank. While the U.S. Embassy is able to provide limited consular services to U.S. citizens in the West Bank, including those related to international parental child abduction, fluctuating security conditions can make this difficult. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to the West Bank. In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of eight open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, two were initially opened with the U.S. Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, two cases were resolved. By December 31, 2019, six cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Gaza: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in Gaza. The U.S. Embassy is unable to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction in Gaza, given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Gaza. In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open abduction case to Gaza. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Italy

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Italy since 1995.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Italy for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	3	3
New Abduction Cases	7	7	4	4
Total Abduction Cases	10	10	7	7
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	7	7	3 (43%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	4 (57%)	4

Central Authority: The United States and the Italian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	4	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	4	4	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	8	7	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		14%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 43 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Italy reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Italy were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Italy. This case was opened in 2018. No new cases were filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, that case (100 percent) had been resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Italian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Jamaica



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Jamaica since April 1, 2019. As of December 31, 2019, there were no open pre-Convention cases.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jamaica for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children
	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and Jamaican Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children
	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. As of December 31, 2019, there was one open case where the Jamaican authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Jamaican judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Jamaican authorities.



Jamaica (continued)

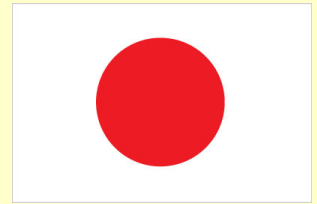
Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases under the Convention in Jamaica. All of these cases were opened in 2019. Two cases were filed with the Jamaican Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, one case (25 percent) had been resolved by voluntary agreement between the parents and two cases were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2019, one case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Jamaican authorities for more than 12 months.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the beginning of 2019, three pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Jamaica. In 2019, all three pre-Convention cases were closed for other reasons. At the end of 2019, there were no remaining pre-Convention cases.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Jamaican Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Japan



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Japan since 2014. Japan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 and 2016 Annual Reports for failure to enforce court orders to return a child to a left-behind parent in cases where the taking parent objected. In 2019, there were no unenforced Convention court orders for return. The Department continues to work with Japan to resolve the 13 pre-Convention abduction cases that remained open at the end of the year, all of which have been outstanding for many years.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received six initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Japan for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	10	4	5
New Abduction Cases	2	3	9	14
Total Abduction Cases	8	13	13	19
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	8	7 (54%)	9
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (8%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5	5 (38%)	9

Significant Developments: Japan passed new legislation in 2019 that revised existing laws governing enforcement of court orders, including the enforcement of return orders in Convention cases. The new law went into effect April 1, 2020. We are carefully monitoring its implementation.

Central Authority: The United States and the Japanese Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The Japanese Central Authority is focused on preventing abductions, expanding mediation between parents, and promoting voluntary returns, and has made effective efforts to educate the public and raise awareness about remedies available under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	6	10	4	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	6	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	13	10	14
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	13%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.



Japan (continued)

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was one day.

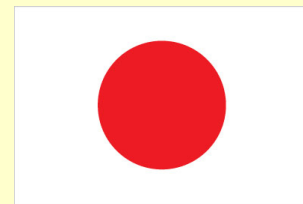
Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Japan routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Japanese authorities. In 2019, in one case that had been pending for more than 12 months, the taking parent complied with the return order following protracted proceedings.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 22 open access cases under the Convention in Japan. Of these, one case was opened in 2019. By December 31, 2019, four cases (18 percent) have been resolved, and five were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2019, 13 remained open and have been pending with the Japanese authorities for more than 12 months. The total number of Convention access cases at the beginning of 2019 included six pre-Convention abduction cases that later filed for access under the Convention. Of these, three remained open at the end of 2019. In addition to filing for access, these left-behind parents continue to seek the return of their abducted children.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2019, 13 pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Japan. In three of these 13 pre-Convention cases the parents also have filed for access under the Convention while retaining their open abduction case. In 10 of the 13 pre-Convention cases the parents have not filed for access under the Convention and continue to seek the return of their children. In 2019, one pre-Convention case was resolved when mediation resulted in regular access, and four pre-Convention cases were closed for other reasons.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Japanese Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Kenya



Country Summary: Kenya does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Kenya for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	2 (40%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	3 (60%)	4

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Kenya have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Kenyan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Kenyan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kenyan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Kenyan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Kenya to accede to the Convention.



Korea, Republic of

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) since 2013.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	8	4	5
New Abduction Cases	0	0	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	6	8	7	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	3 (43%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	6	4 (57%)	4

Central Authority: The United States and the Korean Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	6	8	4	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	8	7	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	17%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was four months and two days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the Republic of Korea reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Korean authorities.

Pre-Convention Cases: In 2019, one pre-Convention case was closed for other reasons.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Korean Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Lebanon



Country Summary: Lebanon does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2004, the United States and Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate parental access to abducted children. Lebanon was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and 2019 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Lebanon for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	9	5	7
New Abduction Cases	2	2	7	8
Total Abduction Cases	8	11	12	15
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	2 (17%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	9	10 (83%)	11

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Lebanon worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Lebanese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	5	4	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	4	4	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	9	8	11
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	4	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		25%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. It took four months and 29 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Lebanese courts, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Lebanese law makes it difficult for Lebanon to resolve these cases.

Enforcement: While domestic court orders in Lebanon are generally enforced, in some cases the Lebanese authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Lebanon to accede to the Convention.



Libya



Country Summary: Libya does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Given the security environment, the U.S. government is not able to provide routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Libya at this time, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Libya.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2019, the United States did not inform the Libyan government of any reported abduction cases.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Libyan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Libyan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Libyan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Lithuania

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Lithuania since 2007.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Lithuanian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was seven days.

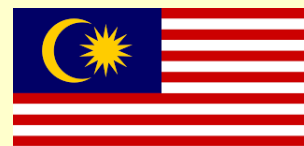
Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Lithuania reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Lithuanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Lithuanian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Malaysia



Country Summary: Malaysia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Malaysia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Malaysian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Malaysian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Malaysian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Malaysian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Malaysia to accede to the Convention.



Malta

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Malta since 2003.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Malta for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Maltese Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

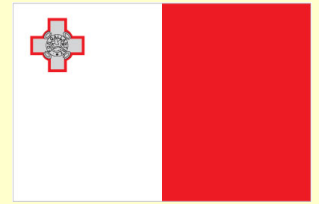
Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Maltese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Maltese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Maltese Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Mexico

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Mexico since 1991.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received 96 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Mexico for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	59	77	45	68
New Abduction Cases	84	146	83	124
Total Abduction Cases	143	223	128	192
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	85	132	72 (56%)	121
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	8	11	8 (6%)	8
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	50	76	48 (38%)	60

Significant Developments: The Mexican Central Authority hosted bilateral meetings in March 2019 and December 2019 with the U.S. Central Authority in Mexico City to further strengthen our close cooperation. The Consular Section of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. hosted a third meeting in May 2019. In addition, the Directors of the Mexican and U.S. Central Authorities both travelled to Texas for joint outreach events in October 2019.

Central Authority: The United States and the Mexican Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	48	64	45	68
New Cases Filed with the FCA	55	98	56	83
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	103	162	101	151
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	20	26	20	24
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	19%		20%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, 38 abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In few cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was two months and 25 days.



Mexico (continued)

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Mexico routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Mexican judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2019. Delays were often related to the “*amparo*,” a constitutionally based injunction that suspends the effects of a lower court’s decision.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Mexico were generally enforced in a timely manner. However, at the end of 2019, there was one case pending for more than 12 months because Mexican law enforcement was not able to locate the child to enforce the return order.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 10 open access cases under the Convention in Mexico. Of these, seven cases were opened in 2019. A total of eight cases have been filed with the Mexican Central Authority. Five of these cases were filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, five cases (50 percent) have been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, three cases were as a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2019, four of the ten open access cases remained open. One case has been pending with the Mexican authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Mexican Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Montenegro

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Montenegro since 1991.



	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Montenegrin Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Montenegrin authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Montenegrin judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Montenegrin authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Montenegrin Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Morocco

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Morocco since 2012. Morocco was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Morocco for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	2	3	5	8
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	6	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	5 (83%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (17%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Moroccan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	2	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	3	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate one child after a Convention application was filed. It took four months and 26 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Moroccan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Moroccan authorities.



Morocco (continued)

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Morocco. Both of these cases were opened in 2019. One case was filed with the Moroccan Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, one case (50 percent) had been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Moroccan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Namibia

Country Summary: Namibia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Namibia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Namibian law are limited.

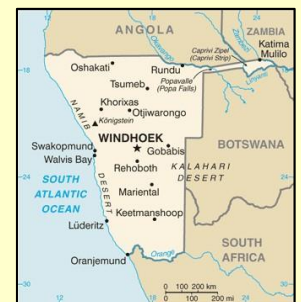
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Namibian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Namibian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Namibian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Namibia to accede to the Convention.



Netherlands

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Netherlands since 1990.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Netherlands for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	0	0
New Abduction Cases	3	3	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (66%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Dutch Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Dutch judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Dutch authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Netherlands. This case was opened in 2019 and was filed with the Dutch Central Authority in 2019. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Dutch Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



New Zealand

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and New Zealand since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the New Zealand Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. It took 17 days to locate these children.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of New Zealand reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the New Zealand authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the New Zealand Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Nigeria

Country Summary: Nigeria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Nigeria for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	12	2	6
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	6	12	3	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	8	3 (100%)	8

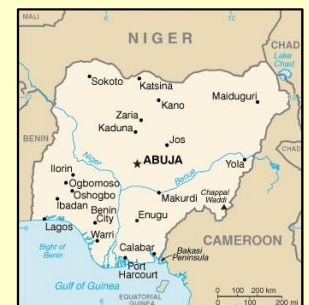
Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Nigerian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Nigerian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Nigerian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Nigeria to accede to the Convention.



Norway

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Norway since 1989.

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Norway. There were no new abduction cases filed with the Norwegian Central Authority in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the Norwegian Central Authority during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Norwegian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before by the Norwegian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Norwegian authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Norway. Of these, two were opened in 2019. All cases have been filed with the Norwegian Central Authority. By December 31, 2019, one (33 percent) of these cases had been resolved and two of these cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the Norwegian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Norwegian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Oman

Country Summary: Oman does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Oman was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.



	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Omani authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Omani judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Omani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Oman to accede to the Convention.



Pakistan



Country Summary: While Pakistan became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between Pakistan and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Pakistani government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Pakistan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	19	27	18	25
New Abduction Cases	7	10	5	11
Total Abduction Cases	26	37	23	36
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	8	9 (39%)	19
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	3	3	1 (4%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	18	26	13 (57%)	16

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Pakistan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Pakistani law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	11	13	8	11
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	12	14	8	11
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	8	9	7	8
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		88%	

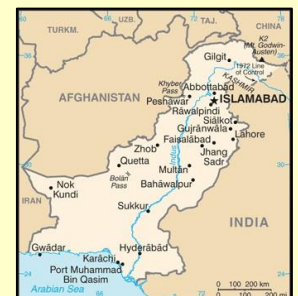
Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Pakistani authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Pakistani judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Pakistani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Pakistani government officials regarding potential partnership.



Palau, Republic of

Country Summary: The Republic of Palau does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

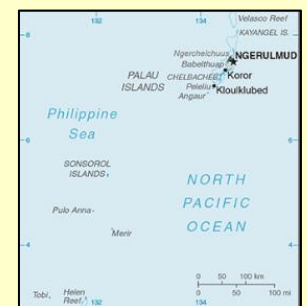
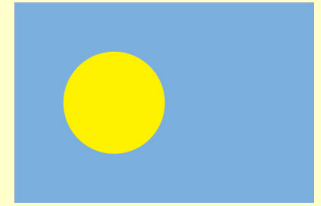
Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Palau have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Palauan law.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Palauan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Palauan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Palauan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Palau to accede to the Convention.



Panama



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Panama since 1994. In 2019, the Department was concerned about delays in the judicial process. Panama was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2017 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department of State received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Panama for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	2	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	2 (100%)	4

Central Authority: The United States and the Panamanian Central Authorities have a cooperative and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	2	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		50%	

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was four months and 19 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Panamanian judicial authorities impacted a case during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Panamanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Panamanian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Paraguay

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Paraguay since 2008.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (0%)	1

Significant Developments: Paraguay approved a protocol that is intended to help expedite the resolution of Convention cases. The Child Abduction Judicial Protocol was approved by the Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay on September 3, 2019.

Central Authority: The United States and the Paraguayan Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Paraguayan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Paraguayan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Paraguayan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Philippines



Country Summary: While the Philippines became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between the Philippines and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Philippine government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Philippines for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	12	15	11	15
New Abduction Cases	6	7	4	6
Total Abduction Cases	18	22	15	21
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	7	7	4 (27%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	11	15	11 (73%)	15

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in the Philippines worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Philippine law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	10	13	8	12
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	10	13	8	12
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	8	11	7	10
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	80%		88%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Philippine authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Philippine judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Philippine authorities.



Philippines (continued)

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Philippine government officials regarding potential partnership.



Poland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Poland since 1992.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	6	2	2
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	6	6	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	5	2 (67%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (33%)	2

Central Authority: While the United States and the Polish Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	6	6	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	6	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	14%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was ten days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Polish judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Polish authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Polish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Qatar

Country Summary: Qatar does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Qatari authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Qatari judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Qatari authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Qatar to accede to the Convention.



Russia

Country Summary: While Russia became party to the Convention in 2011, the Convention is not in force between Russia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Russia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	24	28	10	11
New Abduction Cases	2	2	7	9
Total Abduction Cases	26	30	17	20
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	15	17	9 (53%)	10
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	10	11	8 (47%)	10

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Russia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019. Options for resolving these cases under Russian law can be limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	12	13	6	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	12	13	6	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	6	6	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		16%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Russian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were filed in Russian courts, there is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Russian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Russian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Russian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Saudi Arabia

Country Summary: Saudi Arabia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases. Saudi Arabia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	7	2	3
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	6	10	3	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	5	3 (100%)	5

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Saudi law, and the Saudi government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	4	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	7	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Saudi authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Saudi judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Saudi authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Saudi Arabia to accede to the Convention.



Senegal

Country Summary: Senegal does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Senegal for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	2	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	3 (100%)	4

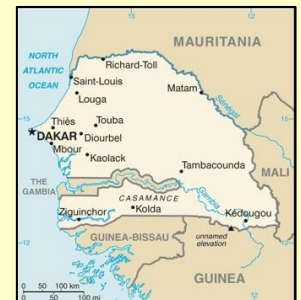
Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Senegalese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Senegalese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Senegalese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Senegal to accede to the Convention.



Serbia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Serbia since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Serbian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Serbian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Serbian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Serbian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Singapore

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Singapore since 2012.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Singaporean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Singaporean authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Singaporean judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Singaporean authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Singapore. Both cases have been filed with the Singaporean Central Authority. One of these cases was filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, neither case (0 percent) had been resolved. One case has been pending with the Singaporean authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Singaporean Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Slovakia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Slovakia since 2001.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	2

Significant Developments: In 2019, the Slovak Republic passed a law that could allow for unlimited appeals in Hague Abduction Convention cases.

Central Authority: The United States and the Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child in less than one week after a Convention application was filed.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Slovak judicial authorities impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Slovak authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department of State will continue to monitor the effect of the new legislation. The Department of State and the Slovak Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Somalia



Country Summary: Somalia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu does not provide consular services, and the ability of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi to provide consular services to U.S. citizens throughout Somalia including services related to international parental child abduction is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Somalia.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2019, the United States did not inform the Somali government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Somali authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Somali judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Somali authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



South Africa

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and South Africa since 1997.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	3	4
New Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	3 (75%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	1 (25%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the South African Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	25%		25%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 18 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of South Africa routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in South Africa were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the South African Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Spain

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Spain since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Spain for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	4	1	3
New Abduction Cases	5	8	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	7	12	3	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	8	2 (67%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	3	1 (33%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Spanish Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	4	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	6	2	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 63 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Spanish judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Spanish authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Spanish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Sri Lanka



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Sri Lanka since 2008.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Sri Lankan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took two days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Sri Lankan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Sri Lankan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Sri Lankan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Sudan



Country Summary: Sudan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Sudan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	3
New Abduction Cases	1	3	3	6
Total Abduction Cases	1	3	4	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	3	3 (75%)	5

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Sudanese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Sudanese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Sudanese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Sudan to accede to the Convention.



Sweden



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Sweden since 1989.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Sweden for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	3	4	5	9
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	6	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	3 (75%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	3 (75%)	4

Central Authority: The United States and the Swedish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	4	7
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	6	10
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 12 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Swedish judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Sweden were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Swedish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Switzerland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Switzerland since 1988.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Swiss Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 43 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Swiss judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Swiss authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Switzerland. This case was opened in 2019. No new case was opened with the Swiss Central Authority, but the Department is monitoring as this case was filed in Swiss family court. By December 31, 2019, this case remained open. No case has been pending with the Swiss authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Swiss Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Syria

Country Summary: Syria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Given the security environment, the U.S. government is not able to provide routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Syria at this time, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Syria.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Syria for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2019.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	2 (67%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2019, the United States did not inform the Syrian government of reported abduction cases.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Syrian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Syrian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Syrian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Taiwan

Country Summary: Due to its unique status, Taiwan cannot become party to the Convention. Therefore, the remedies available under the Convention are not available with respect to Taiwan. While Taiwan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, Taiwan authorities are seeking to identify other approaches to resolve abduction issues. In 2019, the American Institute in Taiwan and Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	3	4
New Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	4 (80%)	5

Central Authority: The American Institute in Taiwan and TECRO have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Taiwan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	3	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: AIT did not request assistance with location from the Taiwan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Taiwan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Taiwan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Thailand

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Thailand since 2016.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Thailand for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	4
New Abduction Cases	2	3	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	2 (67%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	1 (33%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Thai Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	6	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was five months and 17 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Thai judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Thai authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Thai Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Trinidad and Tobago



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago since 2013. The Department continues to urge Trinidad and Tobago to resolve a long-standing pre-Convention abduction case.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Trinidad and Tobago for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	6	4	8
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	5	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	2 (40%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	7	3 (60%)	6

Central Authority: The United States and Trinidad and Tobagonian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	6	3	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	8	4	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	2	5
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	25%		50%	

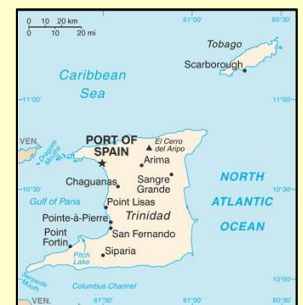
Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 45 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Trinidad and Tobago routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Trinidad and Tobagonian judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted a case during 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Trinidad and Tobagonian authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Trinidad and Tobago. Of these cases, one case was opened in

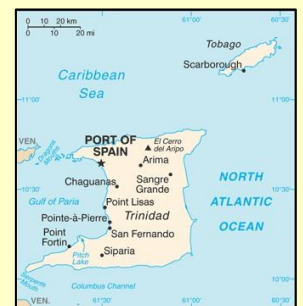


Trinidad and Tobago (continued)

2019. A total of three have been filed with the Trinidad and Tobagonian Central Authority. One new case was filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, two cases (66 percent) had been resolved and one case remained open.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2019, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Trinidad and Tobago. The Department proactively monitors this case and raises its concerns with senior officials in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at every appropriate opportunity.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Tunisia

Country Summary: While Tunisia became party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Tunisia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged with the Tunisian government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention. Tunisia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	2	4	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	4	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Tunisia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Tunisian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Tunisian law.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Tunisian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Tunisian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Turkey

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Turkey since 2000.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Turkey for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	3	7	13
New Abduction Cases	7	9	2	4
Total Abduction Cases	11	12	9	17
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	3 (33%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (11%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	8	5 (55%)	8

Central Authority: While the United States and the Turkish Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	3	7	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	5	2	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	8	9	17
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		22%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was six months and 10 days. As of December 31, 2019, there was one case where the Turkish authorities remained unable to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Turkish judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2019.

Enforcement: While a court in Turkey ordered a return under the Convention, the Turkish authorities were not able to enforce this order.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Turkish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Uganda

Country Summary: Uganda does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	3	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (33%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (33%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	1 (33%)	1

Central Authority: In 2019, the competent authorities in Uganda worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Ugandan law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ugandan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Ugandan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ugandan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Uganda to accede to the Convention.



Ukraine

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ukraine since 2007.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ukraine for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	3	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	6	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (33%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Ukrainian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ukrainian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ukrainian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ukrainian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Ukrainian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



United Kingdom



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the United Kingdom since 1988. The statistics below include cases in the British dependency of Bermuda.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received 11 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Kingdom for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	9	11	10	12
New Abduction Cases	14	16	13	17
Total Abduction Cases	23	27	23	29
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	9	11	13 (57%)	17
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	4 (18%)	4
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	13	15	5 (23%)	7

Central Authority: The United States and the UK Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	9	11	11	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	12	14	9	12
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	21	25	20	25
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	5%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 46 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the United Kingdom routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in the United Kingdom were generally enforced in a timely manner.



United Kingdom (continued)

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 17 open access cases under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Seven of these cases were opened in 2019. Thirteen of these cases have been filed with the UK Central Authority. Five cases were filed in 2019. By December 31, 2019, eight cases of the 13 filed with the UK Central Authority (62 percent) had been resolved and one case remained open for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the UK Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Uruguay

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Uruguay since 2004.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Uruguay Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100 %		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Uruguayan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uruguayan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Uruguayan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Uruguayan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Uzbekistan

Country Summary: While Uzbekistan became party to the Convention in 1999, the Convention is not in force between Uzbekistan and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Uzbekistan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Uzbekistani law.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Uzbekistani authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Uzbekistani judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Uzbekistani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Uzbekistani government officials regarding potential partnership.



Venezuela

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Venezuela since 1997. On March 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of State announced the withdrawal of diplomatic personnel from U.S. Embassy Caracas. All consular services, routine and emergency, were suspended until further notice at that time. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Venezuela.

Initial Inquiries: In 2019, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Venezuela for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Venezuelan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2019, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Venezuelan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Venezuelan judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Venezuelan authorities.

Access: In 2019, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Venezuela. This case was opened in 2018. This case was filed with the Venezuelan Central Authority in 2018 and as of December 31, 2019, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Venezuelan authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Vietnam

Country Summary: Vietnam does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abductions.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	4	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (50%)	2

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Vietnam have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Vietnamese law.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Vietnamese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Vietnamese judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Vietnamese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Vietnam to accede to the Convention.



Yemen



Country Summary: Yemen does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Given the security environment, the U.S. government is not able to provide routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Yemen at this time, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Currently, consular issues are handled remotely through Overseas Citizens Services and U.S. Embassy Riyadh. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Yemen.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	7	4	8
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	5	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	4 (80%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	8	1 (20%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2019, the United States did not inform the Yemeni government of reported abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2019, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Yemeni authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Yemeni judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Yemeni authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Zambia

Country Summary: While Zambia became party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Zambia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2018	2018	2019	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (0%)	2

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Zambia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2019, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Zambian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Zambian judiciary in 2019.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Zambian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Zambian authorities regarding potential partnership.



APPENDICES

CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION (Concluded 25 October 1980)

The States signatory to the present Convention, Firmly convinced that the interests of children are of paramount importance in matters relating to their custody, Desiring to protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful removal or retention and to establish procedures to ensure their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence, as well as to secure protection for rights of access, Have resolved to conclude a Convention to this effect, and have agreed upon the following provisions -

CHAPTER I - SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION

Article 1

The objects of the present Convention are -

- a) to secure the prompt return of children wrongfully removed to or retained in any Contracting State; and
- b) to ensure that rights of custody and of access under the law of one Contracting State are effectively respected in the other Contracting States.

1. Article 2

Contracting States shall take all appropriate measures to secure within their territories the implementation of the objects of the Convention. For this purpose they shall use the most expeditious procedures available.

Article 3

The removal or the retention of a child is to be considered wrongful where -

- a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person, an institution or any other body, either jointly or alone, under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and
- b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention.

The rights of custody mentioned in sub-paragraph a) above, may arise in particular by operation of law or by reason of a judicial or administrative decision, or by reason of an agreement having legal effect under the law of that State.

Article 4

The Convention shall apply to any child who was habitually resident in a Contracting State immediately before any breach of custody or access rights. The Convention shall cease to apply when the child attains the age of 16 years.

Article 5

For the purposes of this Convention -

- a) "rights of custody" shall include rights relating to the care of the person of the child and, in particular, the right to determine the child's place of residence;
- b) "rights of access" shall include the right to take a child for a limited period of time to a place other than the child's habitual residence.

CHAPTER II - CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

Article 6

A Contracting State shall designate a Central Authority to discharge the duties which are imposed by the Convention upon such authorities. Federal States, States with more than one system of law or States having autonomous territorial organisations shall be free to appoint more than one Central Authority and to specify the territorial extent of their powers. Where a State has appointed more than one Central Authority, it shall designate the Central Authority to which applications may be addressed for transmission to the appropriate Central Authority within that State.

Article 7

Central Authorities shall co-operate with each other and promote co-operation amongst the competent authorities in their respective States to secure the prompt return of children and to achieve the other objects of this Convention.

In particular, either directly or through any intermediary, they shall take all appropriate measures -

- a) to discover the whereabouts of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained;
- b) to prevent further harm to the child or prejudice to interested parties by taking or causing to be taken provisional measures;
- c) to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues;
- d) to exchange, where desirable, information relating to the social background of the child;
- e) to provide information of a general character as to the law of their State in connection with the application of the Convention;
- f) to initiate or facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of the child and, in a proper case, to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access;
- g) where the circumstances so require, to provide or facilitate the provision of legal aid and advice, including the participation of legal counsel and advisers;
- h) to provide such administrative arrangements as may be necessary and appropriate to secure the safe return of the child;
- i) to keep each other informed with respect to the operation of this Convention and, as far as possible, to eliminate any obstacles to its application.

CHAPTER III - RETURN OF CHILDREN

Article 8

Any person, institution or other body claiming that a child has been removed or retained in breach of custody rights may apply either to the Central Authority of the child's habitual residence or to the Central Authority of any other Contracting State for assistance in securing the return of the child.

The application shall contain -

- a) information concerning the identity of the applicant, of the child and of the person alleged to have removed or retained the child;
 - b) where available, the date of birth of the child;
 - c) the grounds on which the applicant's claim for return of the child is based;
 - d) all available information relating to the whereabouts of the child and the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be.
- The application may be accompanied or supplemented by -
- e) an authenticated copy of any relevant decision or agreement;
 - f) a certificate or an affidavit emanating from a Central Authority, or other competent authority of the State of the child's habitual residence, or from a qualified person, concerning the relevant law of that State;
 - g) any other relevant document.

Article 9

If the Central Authority which receives an application referred to in Article 8 has reason to believe that the child is in another Contracting State, it shall directly and without delay transmit the application to the Central Authority of that Contracting State and inform the requesting Central Authority, or the applicant, as the case may be.

Article 10

The Central Authority of the State where the child is shall take or cause to be taken all appropriate measures in order to obtain the voluntary return of the child.

Article 11

The judicial or administrative authorities of Contracting States shall act expeditiously in proceedings for the return of children.

If the judicial or administrative authority concerned has not reached a decision within six weeks from the date of commencement of the proceedings, the applicant or the Central Authority of the requested State, on its own initiative or if asked by the Central Authority of the requesting State, shall have the right to request a statement of the reasons for the delay. If a reply is received by the Central Authority of the requested State, that Authority shall transmit the reply to the Central Authority of the requesting State, or to the applicant, as the case may be.

Article 12

Where a child has been wrongfully removed or retained in terms of Article 3 and, at the date of the commencement of the proceedings before the judicial or administrative authority of the Contracting State where the child is, a period of less than one year has elapsed from the date of the wrongful removal or retention, the authority concerned shall order the return of the child forthwith.

The judicial or administrative authority, even where the proceedings have been commenced after the expiration of the period of one year referred to in the preceding paragraph, shall also order the return of the child, unless it is demonstrated that the child is now settled in its new environment. Where the judicial or administrative authority in the requested State has reason to believe that the child has been taken to another State, it may stay the proceedings or dismiss the application for the return of the child.

Article 13

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding Article, the judicial or administrative authority of the requested State is not bound to order the return of the child if the person, institution or other body which opposes its return establishes that -

- a) the person, institution or other body having the care of the person of the child was not actually exercising the custody rights at the time of removal or retention, or had consented to or subsequently acquiesced in the removal or retention; or
- b) there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.

The judicial or administrative authority may also refuse to order the return of the child if it finds that the child objects to being returned and has attained an age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of its views.

In considering the circumstances referred to in this Article, the judicial and administrative authorities shall take into account the information relating to the social background of the child provided by the Central Authority or other competent authority of the child's habitual residence.

Article 14

In ascertaining whether there has been a wrongful removal or retention within the meaning of Article 3, the judicial or administrative authorities of the requested State may take notice directly of the law of, and of judicial or administrative decisions, formally recognised or not in the State of the habitual residence of the child, without recourse to the specific procedures for the proof of that law or for the recognition of foreign decisions which would otherwise be applicable.

Article 15

The judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State may, prior to the making of an order for the return of the child, request that the applicant obtain from the authorities of the State of the habitual residence of the child a decision or other determination that the removal or retention was wrongful within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention, where such a decision or determination may be obtained in that State. The Central Authorities of the Contracting States shall so far as practicable assist applicants to obtain such a decision or determination.

Article 16

After receiving notice of a wrongful removal or retention of a child in the sense of Article 3, the judicial or administrative authorities of the Contracting State to which the child has been removed or in which it has been retained shall not decide on the merits of rights of custody until it has been determined that the child is not to be returned under this Convention or unless an application under this Convention is not lodged within a reasonable time following receipt of the notice.

Article 17

The sole fact that a decision relating to custody has been given in or is entitled to recognition in the requested State shall not be a ground for refusing to return a child under this Convention, but the judicial or administrative authorities of the requested State may take account of the reasons for that decision in applying this Convention.

Article 18

The provisions of this Chapter do not limit the power of a judicial or administrative authority to order the return of the child at any time.

Article 19

A decision under this Convention concerning the return of the child shall not be taken to be a determination on the merits of any custody issue.

Article 20

The return of the child under the provisions of Article 12 may be refused if this would not be permitted by the fundamental principles of the requested State relating to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

CHAPTER IV - RIGHTS OF ACCESS

Article 21

An application to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access may be presented to the Central Authorities of the Contracting States in the same way as an application for the return of a child.

The Central Authorities are bound by the obligations of co-operation which are set forth in Article 7 to promote the peaceful enjoyment of access rights and the fulfilment of any conditions to which the exercise of those rights may be subject. The Central Authorities shall take steps to remove, as far as possible, all obstacles to the exercise of such rights. The Central Authorities, either directly or through intermediaries, may initiate or assist in the institution of proceedings with a view to organising or protecting these rights and securing respect for the conditions to which the exercise of these rights may be subject.

CHAPTER V - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

No security, bond or deposit, however described, shall be required to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses in the judicial or administrative proceedings falling within the scope of this Convention.

Article 23

No legalisation or similar formality may be required in the context of this Convention.

Article 24

Any application, communication or other document sent to the Central Authority of the requested State shall be in the original language, and shall be accompanied by a translation into the official language or one of the official languages of the requested State or, where that is not feasible, a translation into French or English.

However, a Contracting State may, by making a reservation in accordance with Article 42, object to the use of either French or English, but not both, in any application, communication or other document sent to its Central Authority.

Article 25

Nationals of the Contracting States and persons who are habitually resident within those States shall be entitled in matters concerned with the application of this Convention to legal aid and advice in any other Contracting State on the same conditions as if they themselves were nationals of and habitually resident in that State.

Article 26

Each Central Authority shall bear its own costs in applying this Convention.

Central Authorities and other public services of Contracting States shall not impose any charges in relation to applications submitted under this Convention. In particular, they may not require any payment from the applicant towards the costs and expenses of the proceedings or, where applicable, those arising from the participation of legal counsel or advisers. However, they may require the payment of the expenses incurred or to be incurred in implementing the return of the child. However, a Contracting State may, by making a reservation in accordance with Article 42, declare that it shall not be bound to assume any costs referred to in the preceding paragraph resulting from the participation of legal counsel or advisers or from court proceedings, except insofar as those costs may be covered by its system of legal aid and advice.

Upon ordering the return of a child or issuing an order concerning rights of access under this Convention, the judicial or administrative authorities may, where appropriate, direct the person who removed or retained the child, or who prevented the exercise of rights of access, to pay necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the applicant, including travel expenses, any costs incurred or payments made for locating the child, the costs of legal representation of the applicant, and those of returning the child.

Article 27

When it is manifest that the requirements of this Convention are not fulfilled or that the application is otherwise not well founded, a Central Authority is not bound to accept the application. In that case, the Central Authority shall forthwith inform the applicant or the Central Authority through which the application was submitted, as the case may be, of its reasons.

Article 28

A Central Authority may require that the application be accompanied by a written authorisation empowering it to act on behalf of the applicant, or to designate a representative so to act.

Article 29

This Convention shall not preclude any person, institution or body who claims that there has been a breach of custody or access rights within the meaning of Article 3 or 21 from applying directly to the judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State, whether or not under the provisions of this Convention.

Article 30

Any application submitted to the Central Authorities or directly to the judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State in accordance with the terms of this Convention, together with documents and any other information appended thereto or provided by a Central Authority, shall be admissible in the courts or administrative authorities of the Contracting States.

Article 31

In relation to a State which in matters of custody of children has two or more systems of law applicable in different territorial units -

- a) any reference to habitual residence in that State shall be construed as referring to habitual residence in a territorial unit of that State;
- b) any reference to the law of the State of habitual residence shall be construed as referring to the law of the territorial unit in that State where the child habitually resides.

Article 32

In relation to a State which in matters of custody of children has two or more systems of law applicable to different categories of persons, any reference to the law of that State shall be construed as referring to the legal system specified by the law of that State.

Article 33

A State within which different territorial units have their own rules of law in respect of custody of children shall not be bound to apply this Convention where a State with a unified system of law would not be bound to do so.

Article 34

This Convention shall take priority in matters within its scope over the *Convention of 5 October 1961 concerning the powers of authorities and the law applicable in respect of the protection of minors*, as between Parties to both Conventions. Otherwise the present Convention shall not restrict the application of an international instrument in force between the State of origin and the State addressed or other law of the State addressed for the purposes of obtaining the return of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained or of organising access rights.

Article 35

This Convention shall apply as between Contracting States only to wrongful removals or retentions occurring after its entry into force in those States.

Where a declaration has been made under Article 39 or 40, the reference in the preceding paragraph to a Contracting State shall be taken to refer to the territorial unit or units in relation to which this Convention applies.

Article 36

Nothing in this Convention shall prevent two or more Contracting States, in order to limit the restrictions to which the return of the child may be subject, from agreeing among themselves to derogate from any provisions of this Convention which may imply such a restriction.

CHAPTER VI - FINAL CLAUSES

Article 37

The Convention shall be open for signature by the States which were Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the time of its Fourteenth Session.

It shall be ratified, accepted or approved and the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 38

Any other State may accede to the Convention.

The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Convention shall enter into force for a State acceding to it on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

The accession will have effect only as regards the relations between the acceding State and such Contracting States as will have declared their acceptance of the accession. Such a declaration will also have to be made by any Member State ratifying, accepting or approving the Convention after an accession. Such declaration shall be deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; this Ministry shall forward, through diplomatic channels, a certified copy to each of the Contracting States.

The Convention will enter into force as between the acceding State and the State that has declared its acceptance of the accession on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of the declaration of acceptance.

Article 39

Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that the Convention shall extend to all the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, or to one or more of them. Such a declaration shall take effect at the time the Convention enters into force for that State.

Such declaration, as well as any subsequent extension, shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 40

If a Contracting State has two or more territorial units in which different systems of law are applicable in relation to matters dealt with in this Convention, it may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession declare that this Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify this declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.

Any such declaration shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and shall state expressly the territorial units to which the Convention applies.

Article 41

Where a Contracting State has a system of government under which executive, judicial and legislative powers are distributed between central and other authorities within that State, its signature or ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to this Convention, or its making of any declaration in terms of Article 40 shall carry no implication as to the internal distribution of powers within that State.

Article 42

Any State may, not later than the time of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or at the time of making a declaration in terms of Article 39 or 40, make one or both of the reservations provided for in Article 24 and Article 26, third paragraph. No other reservation shall be permitted.

Any State may at any time withdraw a reservation it has made. The withdrawal shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The reservation shall cease to have effect on the first day of the third calendar month after the notification referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 43

The Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession referred to in Articles 37 and 38.

Thereafter the Convention shall enter into force -

(1) for each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to it subsequently, on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;

(2) for any territory or territorial unit to which the Convention has been extended in conformity with Article 39 or 40, on the first day of the third calendar month after the notification referred to in that Article.

Article 44

The Convention shall remain in force for five years from the date of its entry into force in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 43 even for States which subsequently have ratified, accepted, approved it or acceded to it. If there has been no denunciation, it shall be renewed tacitly every five years.

Any denunciation shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at least six months before the expiry of the five year period. It may be limited to certain of the territories or territorial units to which the Convention applies.

The denunciation shall have effect only as regards the State which has notified it. The Convention shall remain in force for the other Contracting States.

Article 45

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall notify the States Members of the Conference, and the States which have acceded in accordance with Article 38, of the following -

- (1) the signatures and ratifications, acceptances and approvals referred to in Article 37;
- (2) the accessions referred to in Article 38;
- (3) the date on which the Convention enters into force in accordance with Article 43;
- (4) the extensions referred to in Article 39;
- (5) the declarations referred to in Articles 38 and 40;
- (6) the reservations referred to in Article 24 and Article 26, third paragraph, and the withdrawals referred to in Article 42;
- (7) the denunciations referred to in Article 44.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at The Hague, on the 25th day of October, 1980, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and of which a certified copy shall be sent, through diplomatic channels, to each of the States Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the date of its Fourteenth Session.

INFORMATIVE LINKS

American Bar Association

www.americanbar.org/

Department of Justice
Office of Violence Against Women

www.justice.gov/ovw

Federal Bureau of Investigation

www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac
www.fbi.gov/contact-us

Hague Conference Permanent Bureau
Child Abduction Section

www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction

International Social Service (ISS-USA)

www.iss-usa.org/

National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children

www.missingkids.com/

The Office of the Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and
Families

www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/about

Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)

www.ovc.gov/

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act














U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services—Resources for Families

www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/domviolence/resources















U.S. Department of State
Office of Children's Issues

www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/en.html

2019 IPCA CASES BY U.S. STATE

 Alaska			United Kingdom	1	Peru	2	
	Philippines	2	Yemen	1	Philippines	2	
 Arizona			 Colorado		Russia	3	
	Belize	1		Argentina	1	Serbia	1
	India	2		Ethiopia	1	Spain	1
	Indonesia	2		India	1	Sweden	1
	Mexico	9		Indonesia	1	Syria	2
	Peru	1		Mexico	3	Trinidad and Tobago	1
				Philippines	2	Turkey	1
				Slovakia	1	United Arab Emirates	1
 Arkansas			 Connecticut		United Kingdom	2	
	India	1		Albania	1	West Bank	1
	Japan	1		Costa Rica	1	 Georgia	
	United Kingdom	1		Germany	1	Cote d'Ivoire	1
				India	1	France	1
 California				Lebanon	1	India	2
	Australia	1		Pakistan	2	Ireland	1
	Austria	1		Turkey	1	Mexico	2
	Bahrain	1	 Delaware		Montenegro	1	
	Bangladesh	1		Egypt	1	Pakistan	1
	Belarus	1		India	1	Panama	1
	Belgium	1		Israel	1	Philippines	1
	Belize	1				Senegal	1
	Brazil	1		 District of Columbia		 Hawaii	
	Canada	1		Colombia	2	Greece	1
	Costa Rica	1		Panama	1	Japan	1
	Cyprus	1		Venezuela	1	Singapore	1
	DR Congo	1	 Florida		Thailand	1	
	Egypt	2		Argentina	2	 Idaho	
	El Salvador	1		Bangladesh	1	France	1
	Georgia	1		Belize	1	Germany	1
	India	26		Brazil	1	Mexico	1
	Indonesia	3		Bulgaria	1	Turkey	1
	Iran	3		Canada	1	 Illinois	
	Iraq	1		China	1	Brazil	2
	Israel	2		Colombia	11	Canada	2
	Italy	1		Dominica	1	China	4
	Japan	10		Ecuador	2	Bulgaria	1
	Jordan	1		France	1	Ecuador	1
	Lebanon	2		Ghana	1	India	8
	Mexico	43		Hungary	1	Jordan	2
	Morocco	1		India	1	Kenya	1
	Netherlands	1		Ireland	1	Mexico	3
	Nigeria	1		Israel	1	Pakistan	1
	Pakistan	2		Italy	2	Poland	1
	Peru	1		Japan	2	South Africa	1
	Philippines	4		Jamaica	1	Turkey	1
	Russia	4		Lebanon	2	Uganda	1
	South Africa	1		Mexico	3	United Kingdom	2
	Korea, Republic of	2		Netherlands	1	Vietnam	1
	Sweden	2		New Zealand	1	West Bank	3
	Tunisia	1		Palau	1	Zambia	1
	Uganda	1					
	Ukraine	1					

	Indiana			Vietnam	1	Pakistan	4	
	Mexico	1		Yemen	1	Peru	1	
	Pakistan	1		Michigan		Poland	2	
	Philippines	1		Australia	1	United Arab Emirates	1	
	Switzerland	1		Canada	3		New Mexico	
	Iowa			India	3		Egypt	1
	Egypt	1		Iraq	1		Mexico	1
	Germany	1		Japan	1		Spain	1
	Lebanon	1		Jordan	3		Taiwan	1
				Lebanon	2		New York	
	Kansas			Mexico	2		Brazil	1
	Mexico	2		Saudi Arabia	1		Cambodia	1
	Pakistan	1		Taiwan	1		Canada	2
	Philippines	1		Yemen	2		China	1
	Russia	1		Minnesota			Colombia	2
	United Kingdom	1		Ghana	1		Costa Rica	1
	Louisiana			Kenya	1		Cyprus	1
	Peru	1		Russia	1		Dominican Republic	1
	Taiwan	1		Thailand	1		Egypt	2
	Thailand	1		Ukraine	1		France	1
	Maine			Mississippi			Germany	1
	Russia	1		Denmark	1		India	6
	United Kingdom	1		Russia	1		Indonesia	1
	Maryland			Missouri			Iran	1
	Cameroon	1		India	1		Ireland	1
	Czech Republic	1		Jerusalem	1		Israel	2
	Egypt	1		Jordan	1		Italy	2
	Honduras	1		Mexico	1		Japan	1
	India	4		West Bank	1		Jordan	1
	Iran	2		Nebraska			Kenya	1
	Japan	1		Mexico	1		Malaysia	1
	Korea, Republic of	1					Malta	1
	Libya	1		Nevada			Mexico	4
	Mexico	1		Japan	1		Nigeria	1
	Morocco	1		Mexico	7		Pakistan	3
	Namibia	1		Russia	1		Peru	1
	Pakistan	2		Spain	1		Romania	1
	Paraguay	1					Senegal	1
	Senegal	1		New Hampshire			Slovakia	1
	United Kingdom	2		India	2		Sri Lanka	1
	Massachusetts			United Kingdom	2		Sudan	1
	Algeria	1		New Jersey			Sweden	1
	Brazil	1		China	1		Syria	1
	Canada	2		Costa Rica	1		Taiwan	1
	Dominican Republic	1		Egypt	2		Trinidad And Tobago	2
	Jordan	1		France	1		Turkey	1
	Lebanon	1		Ghana	1		United Arab Emirates	1
	Trinidad And Tobago	1		India	8		North Carolina	
	Uganda	1		Japan	2		Belgium	1
	United Kingdom	1		Mexico	1		Brazil	1

Egypt	2				Utah		
Ghana	1		Rhode Island		China	1	
Guatemala	1		Dominican Republic	1	India	1	
India	7				Mexico	2	
					Somalia	1	
Iraq	1		South Carolina	1			
Japan	1		Australia	1		Virgin Islands	
Mexico	2		India	2	France (Guadeloupe)	1	
West Bank	1		Jordan	1			
			Saudi Arabia	1			
			Zambia	1			
			South Dakota			Virginia	
India	1		Canada	1	Bolivia	1	
			Japan	1	Canada	1	
					China	1	
Canada	1			Tennessee	Cote d'Ivoire	1	
Egypt	1		Canada	2	Dominican Republic	1	
India	2		Japan	1	Egypt	3	
Indonesia	1		Mexico	1	Germany	1	
Japan	1				Ghana	1	
Korea, Republic of	1			Texas	India	9	
Mexico	1		Azerbaijan	1	Japan	1	
Morocco	1		Benin	1	Korea, Republic of	1	
Qatar	1		Bolivia	3	Lebanon	1	
Russia	1		Brazil	4	Libya	1	
South Africa	1		Bulgaria	1	Pakistan	3	
West Bank	1		Cameroon	1	Peru	1	
			Canada	6	Sudan	2	
			Colombia	1	Taiwan	1	
Iran	1		Costa Rica	1	Trinidad And Tobago	1	
Lebanon	1		El Salvador	1	Turkey	1	
South Africa	1		Gaza	1	United Arab Emirates	1	
			Greece	1	United Kingdom	3	
			Guyana	1	Uzbekistan	1	
Dominican Republic	1		India	5			
Mexico	3		Iran	2		Washington	
			Iraq	1	Canada	2	
			Italy	1	Egypt	1	
Australia	1		Kenya	2	Fiji	1	
Brazil	1		Korea, Republic of	1	Germany	1	
Bulgaria	1		Lithuania	1	India	4	
Canada	1		Malta	1	Iraq	1	
Egypt	3		Mexico	29	Italy	1	
India	3		Morocco	3	Japan	1	
Indonesia	2		Nigeria	1	Korea, Republic of	2	
Iraq	1		Pakistan	1	Mexico	1	
Ireland	1		Peru	1	Pakistan	2	
Lebanon	1		Russia	3	Peru	1	
Mexico	1		Sudan	1	Philippines	1	
Oman	1		Sweden	1	Saudi Arabia	1	
Russia	1		Turkey	2	United Kingdom	1	
Ukraine	1		United Kingdom	4			
Vietnam	1		Vietnam	1		West Virginia	
			West Bank	1	Colombia	1	
					Philippines	1	
Peru	1						



Wisconsin

India	1
Indonesia	1
Israel	1
Mexico	



Wyoming

Canada	1
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UNRESOLVED ABDUCTION CASES

Argentina

#1 Pending 19 Months
#2 Pending 128 Months

Azerbaijan

#1 pending 45 months

Bolivia

#1 pending 48 months

Brazil

#1 pending 74 months
#2 pending 129 months
#3 pending 13 months
#4 pending 51 months
#5 pending 83 months
#6 pending 45 months

Cambodia

#1 pending 48 months

China

#1 pending 48 months
#2 pending 48 months

Costa Rica

#1 pending 16 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 29 months

Egypt

#1 pending 68 months
#2 pending 50 months
#3 pending 36 months
#4 pending 36 months
#5 pending 50 months
#6 pending 68 months

Greece

#1 pending 25 months

Guatemala

#1 pending 77 months

India

#1 pending 17 months
#2 pending 48 months
#3 pending 48 months
#4 pending 43 months
#5 pending 48 months
#6 pending 36 months
#7 pending 48 months
#8 pending 48 months
#9 pending 48 months

#10 pending 43 months

#11 pending 48 months

#12 pending 48 months

#13 pending 48 months

#14 pending 48 months

#15 pending 48 months

#16 pending 43 months

#17 pending 48 months

#18 pending 48 months

#19 pending 48 months

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#35 pending 48 months

#36 pending 17 months

Indonesia

#1 pending 35 months

#2 pending 48 months

#3 pending 48 months

#4 pending 48 months

#5 pending 48 months

#6 pending 48 months

Italy

#1 pending 14 months

Jordan

#1 pending 47 months

Kenya

#1 pending 48 months

Lebanon

#1 pending 36 months

#2 pending 36 months

Malaysia

#1 pending 48 months

Mexico

#1 pending 89 months

#2 pending 24 months

#3 pending 14 months

#4 pending 63 months

#5 pending 139 months

#6 pending 50 months

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#14 pending 62 months

#15 pending 17 months

#16 pending 16 months

#17 pending 104 months

#18 pending 73 months

#19 pending 28 months

#20 pending 22 months

#21 pending 18 months

Montenegro

#1 pending 20 months

Namibia

#1 pending 49 months

Pakistan

#1 pending 43 months

#2 pending 43 months

#3 pending 43 months

#4 pending 43 months

#5 pending 43 months

#6 pending 43 months

#7 pending 14 months

Panama

#1 pending 18 months

Peru

#1 pending 44 months

#2 pending 32 months

#3 pending 61 months

#4 pending 40 months

#5 pending 30 months

Philippines

#1 pending 48 months

#2 pending 38 months

#3 pending 35 months

#4 pending 48 months

#5 pending 48 months

#6 pending 35 months

#7 pending 48 months

Romania

#1 pending 14 months

Russia

#1 pending 48 months

Saudi Arabia

#1 pending 21 months

#2 pending 21 months

South Africa

#1 pending 22 months

Taiwan

#1 pending 48 months

#2 pending 48 months

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 pending 48 months

#2 pending 61 months

Turkey

#1 pending 18 months

#2 pending 20 months

Uganda

#1 pending 15 months

United Arab Emirates

#1 pending 48 months

#2 pending 34 months

UNRESOLVED ACCESS CASES

Argentina

#1 pending 15 months

Brazil

#1 pending 55 months

Canada

#1 pending 21 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 25 months

Mexico

#1 pending 18 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 23 months

Venezuela

#1 pending 16 months

ABDUCTION CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN 2019

Belize

#1 Other

#3 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

#4 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Brazil

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Mexico

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

#2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking

#3 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#4 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#5 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#6 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#7 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#8 FCA was awaiting requested information from

the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#9 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#10 Unable to locate the child and/or taking

parent

#11 Other

Canada

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#5 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#6 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#7 Case sent to court, not recorded by country officer at time of report

#8 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#9 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#10 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Morocco

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Panama

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Paraguay

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

France (Guadeloupe)

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Serbia

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Greece

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, Pending Information Requests, and Other

Sri Lanka

#1 Other

Honduras

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Sweden

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Italy

#1 Other

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Jamaica

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Thailand

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Japan

#1 Other

#2 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

#3 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

#4 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#5 Mediation, Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Korea, Republic of

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Turkey

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

ACCESS CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN 2019

Australia

#1 Mediation

Canada

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#2 Pending Information Request

#3 Pending Information Request

#4 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Colombia

#1 Pending Information Request

Honduras

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA, Mediation

Israel

#1 Other

Jamaica

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Japan

#1 Other

#2 Other

#3 Mediation

#4 Mediation

#5 Other

#6 Other

#7 Mediation

#8 Other

#9 Mediation, Other, Pending Information Requests

#10 Mediation

#11 Other

#12 Mediation

#13 Mediation

Netherlands

#1 Pending Information Request

Norway

#1 Other, Pending Information Requests

Singapore

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, Pending Information Requests, or Other

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 Pending Information Request

United Kingdom

#1 Other

#2 Mediation

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH ONE OR MORE ABDUCTION CASE IN 2019

Albania	No Protocol	Kenya	No Protocol
Algeria	No Protocol	Korea, Republic of	Convention
Argentina	Convention	Lebanon	No Protocol
Australia	Convention	Libya	No Protocol
Austria	Convention	Lithuania	Convention
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	Malaysia	No Protocol
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Malta	Convention
Bahrain	No Protocol	Mexico	Convention
Belgium	Convention	Montenegro	Convention
Belize	Convention	Morocco	Convention
Benin	No Protocol	Namibia	No Protocol
Bolivia	No Protocol	New Zealand	Convention
Brazil	Convention	Nigeria	No Protocol
Bulgaria	Convention	Oman	No Protocol
Cambodia	No Protocol	Pakistan	No Protocol
Cameroon	No Protocol	Palau	No Protocol
Canada	Convention	Panama	Convention
China	No Protocol	Paraguay	Convention
Colombia	Convention	Peru	Convention
Cote d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Philippines	No Protocol
DR Congo	No Protocol	Poland	Convention
Costa Rica	Convention	Qatar	No Protocol
Cyprus	Convention	Romania	Convention
Czech Republic	Convention	Russia	No Protocol
Denmark	Convention	Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Dominican Republic	Convention	Senegal	No Protocol
Ecuador	Convention	Serbia	Convention
Egypt	No Protocol	Singapore	Convention
El Salvador	Convention	Slovakia	Convention
Ethiopia	No Protocol	South Africa	Convention
Fiji	Convention	Spain	Convention
France	Convention	Sri Lanka	Convention
Gaza	No Protocol	Sudan	No Protocol
Georgia	No Protocol	Sweden	Convention
Germany	Convention	Switzerland	Convention
Ghana	No Protocol	Syria	No Protocol
Greece	Convention	Taiwan	No Protocol
Guadeloupe (France)	No Protocol	Thailand	Convention
Guatemala	Convention	Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Guyana	No Protocol	Tunisia	No Protocol
Honduras	Convention	Turkey	Convention
Hungary	Convention	Uganda	No Protocol
India	No Protocol	Ukraine	Convention
Indonesia	No Protocol	United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
Iran	No Protocol	United Kingdom	Convention
Iraq	No Protocol	Uzbekistan	No Protocol
Ireland	Convention	Venezuela	Convention
Israel	Convention	Vietnam	No Protocol
Italy	Convention	West Bank	No Protocol
Jamaica	No Protocol	Yemen	No Protocol
Japan	Convention	Zambia	No Protocol
Jordan	No Protocol		