

Annual Report on

# International Child Abduction

2017



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

**APRIL 2017**

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



**United States Department of State**

*Secretary of State*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

Dear Reader:

The protection of our citizens abroad is one of the oldest and most important roles of the Department of State. Every day, from our offices in Washington and our embassies and consulates around the globe, we work for the safety, security, and stability of U.S. citizens throughout the world. We have a special responsibility towards our most vulnerable citizens - our children. When a parent wrongfully abducts or retains a child across international borders, this act has substantial long-term consequences for both the child and the parents. Therefore, the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues is dedicated to preventing and resolving incidents of international parental child abduction (IPCA). The United States believes that abducted children should be promptly returned to their place of habitual residence, as appropriate, and that courts there are the right place to resolve any custody disputes.

I am pleased to submit the 2017 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (ICAPRA). This report explains the Department's efforts to prevent and resolve these cases. I trust this report will be a valuable resource on IPCA.

I am proud of our ongoing efforts to prevent abductions occurring through our work with foreign governments, law enforcement agencies, and airlines. A specialized group of professionals in the Office of Children's Issues focuses on preventing abductions. They administer the Child Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP), work with port authorities and law enforcement to help stop abductions in progress, and provide information and resources to the public on how to prevent abductions. Working together and with our global partners, we have reduced the number of children who have been reported abducted from the United States by 25 percent in the past two years. But there is still much work to be done.

When an abduction or wrongful retention is reported to the Office of Children's Issues, country officers provide information and resources to left-behind parents and collaborate with foreign government officials to encourage the prompt return of children to their country of habitual residence. For countries that have not joined the Hague Abduction Convention, consular professionals work with government officials to encourage countries to join the Convention and to resolve existing abduction cases. For our partners under the Convention, we actively promote compliance with all treaty obligations.

These efforts are bearing fruit. In 2016, Bolivia, Pakistan, and the Philippines acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of contracting States to 96. Moreover, many countries cited for patterns of noncompliance in earlier reports to Congress have become reliable partners in implementing the Convention. Despite continued progress, some countries demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as defined in the Act. This report cites 13 such countries. I am personally committed to pressing these countries to take more effective measures to resolve IPCA cases on behalf of children and their families.

Sincerely,

Rex W. Tillerson

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# INTRODUCTION

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

Parental child abduction affects some of society's most vulnerable individuals, and can place children at risk of serious emotional and psychological issues. That is why for more than 40 years, the Department of State (Department) has strived to protect children from the harmful effects of international parental child abduction. The Hague Convention is an agreement that has proved to be one of the most effective legal mechanisms for parents seeking the return of their children to the United States. Since ratifying the Convention, the Department has worked tirelessly to prevent abductions, to seek prompt resolution of IPCA cases, to encourage other countries to join the Convention.

The Office of Children's Issues is a leader in U.S. government efforts to prevent abductions and respond to parents when international abductions or wrongful retentions happen. In recognition of the impact that an abduction or retention can have on children and their families, we established a program to help to prevent IPCA cases before they occur. On a daily basis, prevention officers tell parents about the [Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program \(CPIAP\)](#), which is one of our strongest tools to prevent IPCA. Additionally, prevention officers regularly train law enforcement officers on the signs of IPCA and how to respond to these cases.

As appropriate to the circumstances of each case, the Office of Children's Issues may work with foreign governments, non-governmental organizations, other U.S. government agencies, and international organizations in efforts to resolve IPCA cases. We also actively encourage countries to become party to the Hague Abduction Convention, which is the best means to ensure that other countries have a process by which left-behind parents can seek the return of their abducted children. Once we have a treaty partnership, we collaborate with foreign officials to promote compliance with Convention obligations.

When a parent calls to report that their child has been abducted or retained outside of the United States, country officers give them information and provide resources to assist them. Parents may resolve the case through voluntary agreements, [mediation](#), or other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Depending on the arrangements that the parents agree to, sometimes the child will return to the United States and other times they will remain overseas. These agreements may help ensure that both parents have the opportunity to play a meaningful role in raising their child. The Office of Children's Issues provides information and resources to facilitate mediation in IPCA cases, but we are not directly involved in mediation.

If a parent files for return or access under the Convention, we

forward applications to our counterparts in the [foreign central authority \(FCA\)](#) in the country where the child is located. After the location of the child is confirmed, FCAs typically seek voluntary resolutions or offer to conduct mediation between the parents. If the parents cannot reach a mutual decision, then the case generally moves to the judicial phase. Some courts include other attempts at voluntary resolution in their proceedings, and if those fail, a judge will make a decision about whether or not the child will return to the country of habitual residence.

When the Convention is not an option, such as when children are located in countries with which the United States does not have reciprocal obligations (non-[Hague partner countries](#)), or a parent does not wish to pursue a Convention case, parents may wish to participate in [mediation](#), [pursue other options through foreign courts](#) or other relevant competent authorities, and/or file [criminal charges](#). While the Office of Children's Issues can provide a list of attorneys in the country where the child is located, we cannot act as a legal representative for any private party in an IPCA case. Parents who use the foreign civil justice system will likely need to retain an attorney in the country where the child is located.

When a child is to return to the United States as a result of a judicial order or voluntary arrangement, the Office of Children's Issues and our colleagues at U.S. embassies and consulates around the world can help to ensure that the child can travel as safely and expeditiously as possible. From issuing travel documents to providing contacts with victim assistance specialists, we provide options for resources to facilitate a safe return and reintegration.

Children and families may experience a difficult reunification process. Children may no longer remember the left-behind parent after prolonged separation or even share a common language. The reunification process is different for every family, and assistance may be beneficial soon after the initial return or months later. For information regarding this assistance, call the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) at 1-800-THE LOST (1-800-843-5678).

For IPCA cases involving children abducted from countries with which the United States has reciprocal obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention (Hague partners), or children retained in the United States, the Office of Children's Issues, as the United States Central Authority, locates children, provides an option for voluntary resolution, facilitates mediation when requested, and monitors Convention cases. In this same capacity, we also educate U.S. judges on our obligations under the Convention.

## Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues' Prevention Branch responds to

inquiries from parents, the legal community, all levels of law enforcement, foreign governments, and other relevant stakeholders about how to prevent a child from being removed from the United States in violation of a U.S. court order. In 2016, our office fielded 2,537 prevention related inquiries from the general public.

**The Prevention Branch's duty officer program provides 24/7 assistance by e-mail at [PreventAbduction1@state.gov](mailto:PreventAbduction1@state.gov) or by phone at 1-888-407-4747 to assist parents and/or law enforcement in thwarting an international parental child abduction.**

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) is one of the Department's most important tools for preventing IPCA. In 2016, the Prevention Branch enrolled 4,087 children into the CPIAP. 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 guardian(s) to verify whether the parental consent requirement for minors has been met. CPIAP does not apply only to children residing in the United States; parents of U.S. citizen children who reside outside of the United States are also welcome to enroll their children in CPIAP. They may do so by referring to our [Department's website](#).

When alerted to a possible abduction in progress, the Prevention Branch works with law enforcement officials to attempt to prevent the child's exit from the United States. In 2016, we helped enroll 131 children in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) program aimed at preventing international parental abduction when presented with an order from a court of competent jurisdiction that prohibits the child's removal from the United States.

Immediate steps that may help prevent an abduction:

**Obtain a Court Order:** A clear court order might be the most important preventative measure. We strongly encourage parents to consult with 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 Prevention Branch handles all cases of possible abduction, not only from the United States but also to the United States.

## Use of Airlines in Abductions

Many international parental child abductions take place via international airline flights, although the Department has no specific data on this issue. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) thoroughly reviewed commercial airline practices to prevent international parental child abduction in June 2011. The GAO report addressed the policies and measures airlines currently have in place, possible solutions, and the appropriate role of commercial airlines in preventing international parental child abductions. In addition to the recommendations of the GAO report, the Department also 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. Airlines are encouraged to contact the Office of Children's Issues if they encounter a child who is at risk for international parental child abduction.
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 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.

## Other Legal Issues regarding International Parental Child Abduction

**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.

Recognizing that some taking parents are also victims of domestic violence fleeing a dangerous situation, we encourage parents to seek appropriate resources and legal advice. In the United States, there are many resources to assist victims of domestic violence. U.S. federal and state law criminalizes domestic violence and provides civil protections for victims of domestic violence, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, ethnicity, national origin, or immigration or citizenship status.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline [(800) 799-SAFE or TTY (800) 787-3224] provides crisis assistance and local shelter referrals across the United States. U.S. government funding supports this non-profit organization. Services may include counseling, interpretation, safety planning, emergency housing in confidential shelters, and emergency financial assistance.

## Voluntary Agreements

**Voluntary agreements are an important mechanism through which international parental child abduction cases are resolved.** This is true in both the Convention and non-Convention context. Pursuing a return through the Hague Abduction Convention does not mean that parents cannot still reach a voluntary agreement about the return of their child. In fact, there are a variety of professionals who might be able to help parents settle their dispute, even while one parent is pursuing return under the Convention. For example, attorneys can help in this type of dispute resolution, as can trained mediators, parenting coordinators, and other professionals.

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

## Hague Abduction Convention

*What is the Hague Abduction Convention?*

The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Hague Abduction Convention or Convention) is an international treaty that provides a civil mechanism to promptly return children who have been taken 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.

Each country that is a party to the Convention must have a Central Authority, which is the main point of contact for parents and other governments involved in IPCA cases. The Central Authority must help to locate abducted children and process requests for return of 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, monitors and supports international implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention and certain other treaties. The Hague Permanent Bureau's website contains resources such as [Guides to Good Practice](#) and Country Profiles.

*What is the role of the State Department in Hague Abduction Convention cases?*

The Department of State's Office of Children's Issues leads U.S. government efforts within the Department and with other U.S. government agencies on IPCA. We work with our embassies and consulates abroad and also with our foreign counterparts to locate an abducted child, confirm the child's welfare, and facilitate the filing of an application for return under the Hague Abduction Convention, as appropriate.

The Office of Children's Issues serves as the U.S. Central Authority (USCA) for the Convention. In that capacity, country officers respond to parents who contact us and provide information about the Convention and other options and resources, regardless of citizenship or legal status of the parent or child. Additionally, country officers routinely work with attorneys, foreign central authorities, other branches of the U.S. government, law enforcement, and social services agencies, to facilitate the resolution of cases.

If a child was wrongfully removed or is being wrongfully retained in a country with which the United States is a Convention partner, a parent can file a Convention application requesting the child be returned to the United States, or access to the child in the country where the child is located. The USCA submits completed applications to the foreign central authority (FCA) in the country where the parent believes the child to be located. FCAs are responsible for locating children. In a case where the judicial or administrative authority determines that a child was wrongfully removed, the child should be promptly returned to the country of habitual residence unless one of the specific defenses to return applies.

*Does the Convention apply to all IPCA cases?*

No. The Convention does not apply to every IPCA case. The Convention must have been in force between the two countries



when the wrongful removal or retention occurred. [The United States is a Convention partner with 76 other countries.](#)

Further, 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](#), and was wrongfully removed to or retained in another Convention country; and
- The removal or retention of the child 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 be returned if a parent files a Convention case?*

Under the Convention, a country may refuse to return an abducted child to a country of habitual residence under specific exceptions enumerated in the Convention. Courts vary in how they interpret the defenses.

*Will a parent gain access to a child if he or she files a Convention case?*

Partners to the Convention have agreed to respect the rights of custody and access, or visitation, from other partner countries. The process for obtaining access to a child varies among Hague

partner countries.

*Why hasn't the United States partnered with all countries that joined the Convention?*

Under the Convention, partnership between countries is not automatic, with the exception of those countries who were Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the time the Convention was adopted.

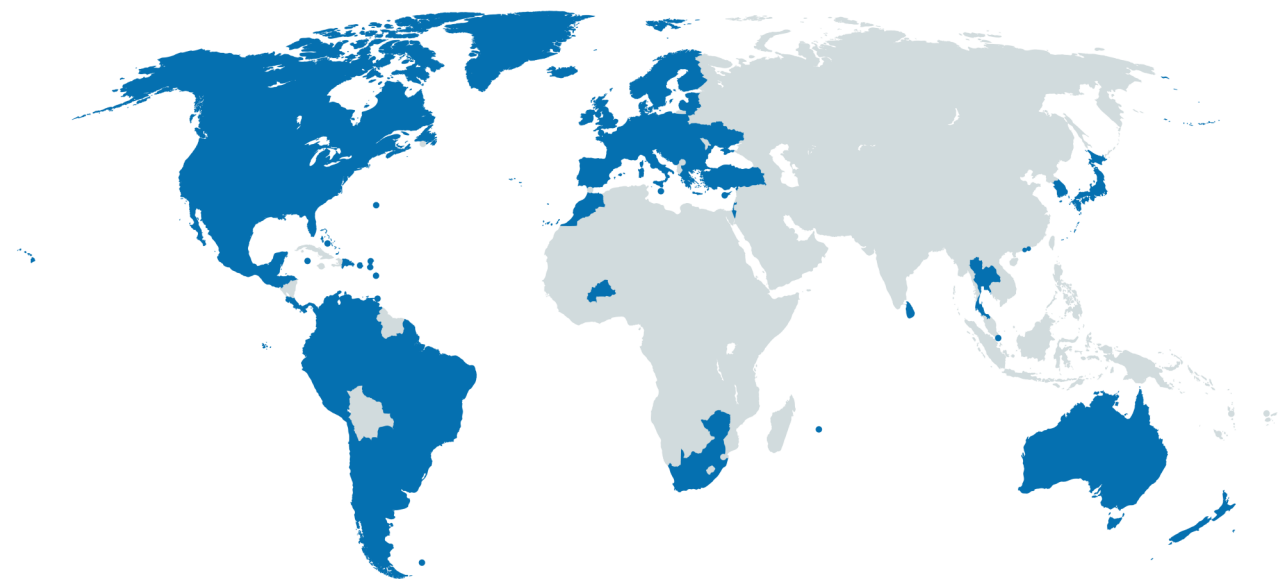
*If a parent already has a U.S. custody order, why should he or she consider pursuing a Convention case?*

Children are subject to the laws of the country where they are located. Each country is a sovereign nation, and sovereign nations cannot interfere with each other's legal systems, judiciaries, or law enforcement. For this reason, U.S. court orders may not be recognized in other countries.

Parents may wish to consult with 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 regarding [retaining a foreign attorney](#), and [U.S. embassies and consulates](#) 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.

## 2016 U.S. CONVENTION PARTNERS

U.S. Convention Partners





## The Role of the Department in Non-Hague Abduction Convention Cases

The Department assists families in cases of international parental child abduction to countries that are non-Hague Convention countries, or are not Hague partners with the United States. For U.S. citizen parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in countries that are not U.S. partners under the Hague Abduction Convention, the Department might be able to provide information and resources about country-specific options for pursuing the return of or access to an abducted child. The Department may also raise a case with foreign government authorities and coordinate with appropriate foreign and U.S. government officials to monitor the welfare of abducted U.S. citizen children, as appropriate. In addition, the Office of Children's Issues and the U.S. embassy may request that their local government contacts encourage a mediated or voluntary resolution. Finally, the Office of Children's Issues can provide a list of attorneys maintained by the U.S. embassy in the country where the child is located.

We encourage parents to consult with an attorney who specializes in family law in the country where the child is located and 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 assist by facilitating Convention applications, explaining options available to the parent, and informing military liaisons about options in abduction and access proceedings. We recognize that cases affecting 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 resolve abduction cases.

For example, in May 2016, Department officials provided training at the Pentagon for the Department of Defense's Office of Legal Policy and the Service Chiefs of Legal Assistance for all five branches of the military.

In October 2016, Department officials conducted a webinar for attorneys in the Military Spouse J.D. Network.

In November 2016, Department officials offered training via teleconference for officers from the Navy Legal Service, some of whom were stationed in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

At each of these trainings, the Office of Children's Issues and Department attorneys educated the military lawyers and others on measures for preventing IPCA and on available options for resolution.

Active-duty U.S. military members and their accompanying non-active duty dependents are subject to the foreign country's laws while residing overseas. 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 in certain legal circumstances. For more information, please see our [website](#).

The Department of Defense may have additional resources to assist in resolving IPCA cases.

In 2016, the Department worked on six abduction cases affecting military parents. Of these, one case has been unresolved for more than 12 months.

## Cooperation with Law Enforcement

Federal, state, and local law enforcement have an important role in the prevention and resolution of international parental child abduction. When law enforcement authorities encounter a child at risk for international parental child abduction, or who has been abducted internationally, they should contact the Office of Children's Issues right away. The Department engages regularly in outreach efforts to law enforcement regarding our role and the resources we have to assist them in abduction cases.

ICAPRA has increased the collaboration among federal agencies to prevent IPCA. ICAPRA mandates interagency meetings to improve coordination efforts with respect to preventing abductions. The Department routinely shares information with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Defense, as well as INTERPOL. This interagency cooperation has increased the effectiveness of a Department of State 24/7 duty officer program to assist parents whose children may be at risk for international parental child abduction, or who need assistance facilitating the safe return of their child from abroad. On-duty prevention officers from the Office of Children's Issues enlist the cooperation of relevant agencies, such as DHS Customs and Border Protection (DHS/CBP) and the FBI when there is a reported abduction in progress.

As part of ongoing collaboration between the Departments of State and Homeland Security, a Department of State prevention officer liaison is stationed full-time at DHS/CBP's National Targeting Center. This arrangement has allowed for enhanced communication, streamlined processing of emergent cases, and expedited responses from both Departments.

## Resources for U.S. Judges in the Application of the Hague Abduction Convention

In its role as the U.S. Central Authority, the Office of Children's Issues educates judges in the United States on the Convention.

[Judges hearing Convention cases](#) can access important resources including legal analysis, domestic custody statutes, and abduction prevention tools and information on our website.

We send letters to U.S. judges hearing Convention cases in the United States, highlighting important aspects of the Convention. The letters reference articles such as the requirement for these cases to be handled expeditiously and for the court to decide habitual residence and not custody. The letters also further explain our role as the Central Authority and provide additional resources, such as the United States' implementing legislation – the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. We notify judges that four U.S. Network Judges, who are experts in the Convention, are available for consultation on IPCA cases. Additionally, the International Hague Network of Judges is available to provide similar support for questions in other countries.

## Diplomatic Efforts for International Parental Child Abduction Cases

We work with both Hague partners as well as non-Hague countries to prevent and resolve IPCA cases and to promote the principles of the Convention in parental abduction cases. We undertake long-term efforts to elicit cooperation from foreign governments on abduction cases by encouraging countries to become party to the Convention, encouraging countries to provide meaningful assistance in cases not falling under the Convention, and for Hague partners to strengthen their IPCA compliance.

Each abduction is unique and each country has its own distinct judicial system, law enforcement entities, and cultural and family traditions. The Department tailors its strategy to deploy the most effective bilateral approach towards resolving IPCA cases.

Much of the routine diplomatic engagement on abduction matters is handled by country officers in the Office of Children's Issues. While based in Washington, our team seeks to be in routine direct contact with counterparts in foreign central authorities. On a regular basis, they also communicate with foreign missions in Washington, D.C. and with our U.S. diplomatic missions overseas.

The Special Advisor for Children's Issues, Ambassador Susan Jacobs, plays a unique and critical role as the highest ranking Department official in the Office of Children's Issues. During 2016, Ambassador Jacobs traveled to more than a dozen countries and held numerous high-level meetings in Washington D.C., including multiple engagements with Brazil, India, Japan, Mexico, and Tunisia, to engage on IPCA with foreign government officials at the highest levels and hold them accountable for proper implementation of the Convention or, in cases where a country is not a Convention partner, to urge them to accede. When in D.C., Ambassador Jacobs regularly meets

with foreign ambassadors and other foreign officials to press them on IPCA issues.

Throughout 2016, Ambassador Jacobs and other senior U.S. government officials continued to engage with foreign officials in countries around the world to promote the resolution of IPCA cases. The following are examples of such efforts:

- Former Secretary of State John Kerry raised the Department's concerns on the handling of IPCA cases in Argentina, Brazil, India, and Tunisia in a public statement.
- After Former President Barack Obama met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June, the leaders issued a Joint Statement committing to renew efforts to address a range of issues affecting their citizens, including issues related to child custody.
- Former Deputy Secretary Antony Blinken, Former Counselor Kristie Kenney, and Former Under Secretary Patrick Kennedy discussed IPCA with high-level Japanese officials in separate meetings.
- Ambassador Susan Jacobs traveled to Mexico City and met with the Mexican Central Authority to discuss ways in which our governments could work more productively to resolve cases.
- In addition to our annual bilateral engagements with Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and Russia, we leveraged opportunities to raise IPCA and discuss strategies to resolve cases with multiple countries at high level events. For example, Deputy Assistant Secretary Karen Christensen discussed IPCA when she participated in the U.S.-EU Consular Dialogue in Slovakia.
- Ambassador Jacobs participated in the Gulf Regional Seminar on Protecting the Best Interests of the Child in Cross-Border Family Disputes, and she promoted accession to the Hague Abduction Convention and discussed IPCA issues with countries in the Gulf region.

## Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2016, 230 abducted children whose habitual residence was in the United States returned to the United States.

The majority (170) returned from Convention countries, while 60 returned from countries adhering to no child abduction protocols, as defined in the Act. None were returned from [bilateral procedures countries](#) or countries having other procedures for resolving such abductions.

In 2016, the Department worked on 189 abduction cases that were resolved without the abducted children returning to the

United States. These include cases that were sent to foreign central authorities and later closed for one of the following reasons: the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Hague Abduction Convention; the parents reached a voluntary arrangement for the child to remain; the left-behind parent withdrew the application for return; the left-behind parent could not be located for more than one year; or the left-behind parent or child passed away.

Of the 189 cases, 132 involved Convention countries, and 56 involved non-Convention countries. None involved bilateral procedures countries or countries having other procedures for resolving abductions.

## How to Use This Report

This report provides Congress, parents, law enforcement, judges, and the general public with information regarding international parental child abduction. To that end, a data page is provided for every country with one or more abduction cases open with the Office of Children's Issues during 2016. These pages are organized into two sections. The first section consists of thirteen countries determined to have demonstrated a pattern of non-compliance as defined by section 101(b)(5) of the Sean and David Goldman Act (the Act). The second section consists of the remainder of countries with one or more cases. Countries that did not have an open abduction case in 2016 are not listed in this report.

Country data pages each include a country summary, a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children's Issues in 2015 and 2016, an evaluation of the central authority, and status reports on Department 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 with data required by the Act is provided.

## NONCOMPLIANT COUNTRIES

# Argentina

**Country Summary:** The United States and Argentina have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991. In 2016, Argentina demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance when judicial and law enforcement authorities in Argentina persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction 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 69 months. Argentina has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	5	3
New Reported Abductions	2	1
Total Abduction Cases	7	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	3	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The Department enjoyed a productive partnership with the Argentine Central Authority in 2016, and observed a commitment by the executive branch of the government to attempt to improve Hague performance in the country. That said, the United States is concerned that Argentina does not resolve cases in a timely manner, and urges the Argentine authorities to take appropriate steps to address this situation.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	3
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	33%	100%

**Location:** Argentina demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention as evidenced by the failure by the competent authorities to take appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 14 months and 15 days. As of December 31, 2016, there is one case where Argentine authorities remain unable to confirm the location of a child. Argentina has failed to locate this child since 2013. As a result, the Hague case remained stalled before the court.

**Judicial Authorities:** The Argentine judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in deciding Convention cases. Two open cases have been before the courts for seven and six years respectively, with final resolution still pending. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for over four years.

**Enforcement:** As a result of serious delays by the Argentine judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases, the United States is not aware of any instances where law enforcement was asked to enforce a return order in 2016.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Argentina. Both cases were filed with the Argentine Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one access case was resolved and one case remained open. This remaining case was pending with the Argentine authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue intensified engagement with Argentine authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Bahamas

**Country Summary:** The United States and The Bahamas have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1994. In 2016, The Bahamas demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Bahamian Central Authority and the judicial authorities in The Bahamas persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 42 months. The Bahamas have been cited as non-compliant since 2010.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	3	2
New Reported Abductions	0	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	4 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The Bahamian Central Authority demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention because of serious delays in the processing of cases and a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding the resolution of cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	100%	50%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was seven months and two days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention through a series of decisions in cases that were not consistent with the Convention and through serious delays in deciding Convention cases. The Bahamian authorities tended to treat Convention cases as custody cases. Bahamian judges routinely requested home study evaluations and apostilles for documents supporting the Convention application. These extra requirements impeded prompt resolutions and were inconsistent with The Bahamas' obligations under the Convention. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for more than six years.

**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 Bahamian authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.





# Brazil

**Country Summary:** The United States and Brazil have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2003. In 2016, Brazil demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities in Brazil persistently failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 68 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 49 months. Brazil has been cited as non-compliant since 2005.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	22	17
New Reported Abductions	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	25	20
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	6	2 (10%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	1 (5%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	17	17 (85%)

**Significant Developments:** In July 2016, the Brazilian Central Authority transitioned from the then-Ministry of Women, Human Rights, and Racial Equality to the Ministry of Justice and Citizenship, which included human rights. The Brazilian judiciary began consolidating appellate level jurisdictions for Convention cases to process cases faster and to improve judicial familiarity with the Convention. Despite these efforts, the United States is concerned that Brazil is unable to resolve cases in a timely manner and urges the Brazilian authorities to take appropriate steps to address this situation.

**Central Authority:** The relationship with the Brazilian Central Authority is strong and productive. The U.S. Central Authority is encouraged by initiatives taken by the Brazilian Central Authority and the Office of the Attorney General, including improved judicial outreach and electronic case processing.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	20	16
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	22	19
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	13	13
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	59%	68%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and 11 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The Brazilian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention through serious delays in deciding Convention cases. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for more than four years.

**Enforcement:** As a result of serious delays by the Brazilian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases, the United States is not aware of any abduction cases during the reporting period in which a judicial order needed to be enforced.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of six open Hague access cases in Brazil. All of these cases were filed with the Brazilian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (17 percent) had been resolved, leaving five access cases open, all of which were pending with Brazilian authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue intense engagement with the Brazilian authorities to address issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of Hague abduction and access cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.





# Dominican Republic

**Country Summary:** The United States and the Dominican Republic have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2007. In 2016, the Dominican Republic demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities in the Dominican Republic persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, 33 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 16 months. The Dominican Republic has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	6	3
New Reported Abductions	5	7
Total Abduction Cases	11	10
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	5	3 (30%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	7 (70%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Dominican Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication impacted the timely resolution of Convention cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	17%	33%

**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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The Dominican judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays at the appellate level in deciding Convention cases. Some cases have moved quickly through initial court proceedings. However, cases appealed to higher courts have taken more than four years to be resolved, including one case delayed for over four years because of the inaction of the Dominican Supreme Court. As of December 31, 2016, this case remained unresolved. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for more than 18 months.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in the Dominican Republic were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Dominican Republic. This case was filed with the Dominican Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) was resolved.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Dominican authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Ecuador

**Country Summary:** The United States and Ecuador have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1992. In 2016, Ecuador demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. While the Ecuadorian Central Authority improved its performance and responsiveness in 2016, the judicial and law enforcement authorities in Ecuador persistently failed to implement and abide by all of the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention as evidenced by delays of over nine months in locating abducted children and judicial delays. As a result of this failure, 11 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 13 months. Ecuador has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	6	4
New Reported Abductions	4	8
Total Abduction Cases	10	12
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	4 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	5	2 (17%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6 (50%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Ecuadorian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication impacted the timely resolution of Convention cases. In 2016, the Ecuadorian Central Authority improved its performance and responsiveness. However, the Department still encountered occasional delays in obtaining updates from the Authority.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	50%	11%

**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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** Ecuador demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention as a result of failure by the competent authorities to promptly locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was nine months and 23 days. As of December 31, 2016, there were three cases where the Ecuadorian authorities had taken a lengthy period of time to locate abducted children. In one of the three cases, authorities have been unable to successfully locate a child since in January 2013.

Ecuadorian authorities failed to conduct vigorous follow-up activities to locate children whose taking parents attempt to evade the police. In Ecuador, cases cannot proceed to court until the children's locations are confirmed.

**Judicial Authorities:** The Ecuadorian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in serving summons on alleged taking parents. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for more than 16 months.

**Enforcement:** Unless a parent voluntarily complied with a return order under the Convention, judicial decisions in Convention cases in Ecuador were generally not enforced. Moreover, there is one case (accounting for 11 percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) that has been pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement failed to locate the child.



**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Ecuadorian authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Guatemala

**Country Summary:** The United States and Guatemala have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2008. In 2016, Guatemala demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Guatemalan Central Authority and law enforcement authorities persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. The Guatemalan Central Authority has not sent Hague applications to the courts in a timely manner, and has provided some inaccurate updates to the U.S. Central Authority. These failures have resulted in serious delays in the processing of cases. Guatemala has been cited as non-compliant since 2011.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	7	7
New Reported Abductions	3	0
Total Abduction Cases	10	7
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	3	3 (43%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (14%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	7	3 (43%)

**Central Authority:** The Guatemalan Central Authority demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to poor handling of cases and a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding the resolution of cases. These failures have resulted in serious delays in the processing of cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** Guatemala demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention evidenced by failure of the competent authorities to take appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 18 months and 21 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Guatemalan judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Guatemala. This case was opened in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) was resolved.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Guatemalan authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# India

**Country Summary:** India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2016, India demonstrated 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, 66 percent of requests for the return of abducted children have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. India has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	74	83
New Reported Abductions	25	18
Total Abduction Cases	99	101
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	16 (16%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	16	6 (6%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	83	79 (78%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in India demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. The Indian authorities have not responded to applications for assistance with the return of children presented to them in 2016. Moreover, the competent authorities failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options. While the Indian government repeatedly met with U.S. officials to discuss abduction cases, it persistently failed to take concrete steps to resolve pending cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	46
New Cases Filed with the FCA	46	12
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	46	58
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	38
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	66%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means. Most returns of abducted children from India to the United States were the result of voluntary agreements between parents.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** Without the Hague Abduction Convention or any other protocols intended to resolve abduction cases, parents generally must pursue custody of abducted children in Indian courts. Judicial action in custody cases in India has been slow, and Indian courts tend to default to granting custody to the taking parent. Absent any clear legal procedures for specifically addressing abduction cases under Indian law, parents' efforts to resolve custody disputes in local courts were often unsuccessful.

**Enforcement:** While most left-behind parents faced significant delays and difficulties in obtaining favorable custody decisions in Indian courts, custody decisions were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify its efforts to persuade India to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# 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 consular access to abducted children. In 2016, Jordan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. The United States formally notified the Jordanian government of nine abduction cases in January of 2016. These cases have been open for an average of four and a half years, with the longest open for more than 12 years. Jordanian authorities have not responded to the U.S. request for assistance in resolving these abduction cases. Jordan has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	20	15
New Reported Abductions	6	5
Total Abduction Cases	26	20
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	8 (40%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	11	3 (15%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	15	9 (45%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Jordan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Jordanian authorities have not responded to applications for assistance with the return of children presented to them in 2016. Further, authorities have not discussed the larger issue of international parental child abduction nor addressed remedies for left-behind parents in general.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The Department is aware of three cases where left-behind parents sought remedies through Jordanian courts. In two cases, the left-behind parents sought and were granted temporary access orders while they worked to affect the return of their children to their habitual residences. In another case, the left-behind parent started custody proceedings in Jordanian courts, which are still ongoing.

**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 its efforts to persuade Jordan to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Nicaragua

**Country Summary:** Nicaragua acceded to the Convention in 2001. However, Nicaragua is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result, there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. In 2016, Nicaragua demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Nicaragua persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 33 percent of requests for the return of abducted children have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 24 months. Nicaragua has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	3
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	4	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	2 (67%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Nicaragua demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Specifically, the Nicaraguan government was not responsive to diplomatic communication requesting assistance for cases involving abducted children in 2016.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	100%	33%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. The average time to locate a child was 11 days. Although law enforcement has made serious efforts to locate a child in one case, the child was not located in 2016.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nicaraguan judiciary in 2016.

**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 Nicaraguan authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify its engagement with Nicaraguan government officials regarding potential partnership. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.





# Panama

**Country Summary:** The United States and Panama have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1994. In 2016, Panama demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities in Panama persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 45 months.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	2
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** While the relationship with the Panamanian Central Authority is strong and productive, the United States is concerned that Panama is unable to resolve cases in a timely manner, and urges the Panamanian authorities to take appropriate steps to address this situation.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The Panamanian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in deciding Convention cases. Panamanian judges frequently requested psychological and socio-economic evaluations, which impeded prompt resolutions in Convention cases. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for more than two years.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Panamanian authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



**Country Summary:** The United States and Peru have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2007. In 2016, Peru demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities in Peru persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, 28 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for 27 months. Peru has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	17	14
New Reported Abductions	6	6
Total Abduction Cases	23	20
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	5	7 (35%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	4	2 (10%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	14	11 (55%)

**Central Authority:** The Peruvian Central Authority gave the United States regular updates on all open cases, and conducted a bi-monthly conference call with the U.S. Central Authority. While the relationship with the Peruvian Central Authority is strong and productive, the United States is concerned that Peru is unable to resolve cases in a timely manner, and urges the Peruvian authorities to take appropriate steps to address this situation.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	13	11
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	7
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	17	18
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	7	5
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	41%	28%

**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 2016, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means. The Peruvian Central Authority began all cases with an appeal for the parties to resolve cases voluntarily.

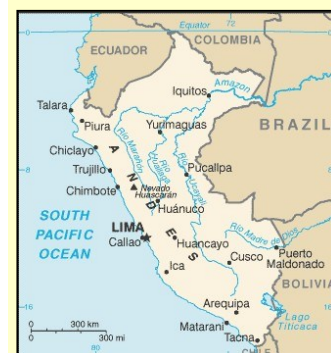
**Location:** In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 39 days. The location efforts of the Peruvian Central Authority generally improved throughout 2016.

**Judicial Authorities:** The Peruvian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention through serious delays in deciding Convention cases. Convention cases were not heard expeditiously but instead waited with all other civil cases for hearings. Cases are generally pending with the judiciary for almost three years. In addition, there was a strike in the judicial system in 2016 which further slowed the scheduling of hearings.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Peru. This case was opened in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. No cases were pending with the Peruvian authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Peruvian authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department will also encourage training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Romania

**Country Summary:** The United States and Romania have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1993. In 2016, Romania demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the law enforcement authorities in Romania persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. For example, in one case the authorities have failed to enforce a return order that was issued in 2011. Romania has been cited as non-compliant since 2015.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	1 (33%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Romanian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication impacted the timely resolution of Convention cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The competent authorities took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. In one case, however, the children disappeared after the initial location effort and it took the authorities several months to locate them.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Romania routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Judicial decisions in Convention cases in Romania were not enforced unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a return order. In addition, if the child expressed a desire to remain with the taking parent, authorities were not able to enforce judicial decisions in Convention cases.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Romanian authorities to address significant issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Tunisia

**Country Summary:** Tunisia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2016, Tunisia demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Tunisia failed to work with us to successfully resolve open cases. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children have remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases have been unresolved for more than 4 years. Tunisia has been cited as non-compliant since 2014.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	4
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	5
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5 (100%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Tunisia worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. Nonetheless, none of the pending abduction cases were able to reach resolution through the Tunisian legal system in 2016. Moreover, the competent authorities repeatedly failed to reply to requests from the Department of State to explain Tunisia's system of law regarding IPCA cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	50%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** While some abduction cases were adjudicated in favor of the U.S. citizen left-behind parent, the lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Tunisian law makes it very difficult for Tunisia to address these cases successfully.

**Enforcement:** Judicial decisions in IPCA cases in Tunisia were not enforced unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a local court order. Moreover, there were two cases (accounting for 100 percent of the cases filed with the FCA) where Tunisian law enforcement authorities have failed to enforce a court order for over two years.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue its efforts to persuade Tunisia to accede to the Convention. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



COUNTRIES WITH ONE  
OR MORE CASES

# Afghanistan

**Country Summary:** Afghanistan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The ability of the U.S. Embassy Kabul to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, throughout Afghanistan is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel warning carefully when contemplating travel to Afghanistan.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The Department of State sends applications to the Afghan government 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 2016, the United States did not inform the Afghan government of the reported abduction case.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Afghan judiciary in 2016.

**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 Afghan authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Afghanistan to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Albania

**Country Summary:** While Albania acceded to the Convention in 2007, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Albanian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Albania had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Albanian law. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Albanian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Albanian judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to engage with Albanian government officials regarding potential partnership under the Convention.





# Armenia

**Country Summary:** While Armenia acceded to the Convention in 2007, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Armenian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	3
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	2 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Armenia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Armenian law. Since Armenia and the United States are not partners under the Convention, parents must pursue their children's return through the Armenian court system.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	2
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** Acting in accordance with local laws, the Armenian judiciary decided the one abduction case brought before it in a timely manner.

**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 Armenian authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to engage with Armenian government officials regarding potential partnership under the Convention.



# Australia

**Country Summary:** The United States and Australia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	7	7
New Reported Abductions	6	13
Total Abduction Cases	13	20
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	4	9 (45%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	6 (30%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	7	5 (25%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	8
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	11
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child 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 in accordance with the Convention. In recent outgoing cases, Australian judges expressed concerns regarding issuing Hague return orders to the United States. We saw an increase in these judges' requests for information and clarification of U.S. judicial procedures from left-behind parents and the U.S. Central Authority. There seems to be an increasing concern from these judges regarding how the U.S. legal and criminal systems function regarding abduction matters.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Australia. Both of these cases were opened in 2016. One access case was filed with the Australian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (50 percent) was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons.

**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 United States and Austria have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988. While the United States had no new reported abductions to Austria in 2016, the Department is not aware of any changes to the procedures for resolving abduction cases in Austria, and therefore remains concerned that future cases may encounter similar challenges as in the past.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	3
New Reported Abductions	2	0
Total Abduction Cases	4	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	3 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	33%	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** Delays by the Austrian judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2016.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Austria. Both of these cases were opened in 2016. One access case was filed with the Austrian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, both cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Austrian authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Austrian authorities to address the areas of concern highlighted in this report.



# Azerbaijan

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Azerbaijan had productive discussions on the best ways to resolve abduction cases under Azerbaijani law.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

**Location:** The competent authorities took appropriate steps to help locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. It took the government one month to locate a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Azerbaijani judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Azerbaijan to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Bahrain

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Bahrain periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Bahraini law are limited. The Bahraini government did respond to a diplomatic request for assistance with the resolution of the single, long-standing case of wrongful retention in Bahrain. However, authorities have not discussed the larger issue of international parental child abduction nor addressed remedies for left-behind parents in general.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bahraini judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Bahrain to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Bangladesh

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	2
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2 (100%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year.

**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 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Bangladesh to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Barbados

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Barbados had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve abduction cases under Barbadian law, and the Barbadian government took steps to resolve such cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that had been unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Barbadian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Barbadian authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Barbados to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.





# Belgium

**Country Summary:** The United States and Belgium have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1999.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Belgium routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases under the Convention in Belgium. Of these, four cases were opened in 2016. One access case was filed with the Belgian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2016. While no cases were resolved by December 31, 2016, one was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, four access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Belgian authorities for more than 12 months.

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



**Country Summary:** The United States and Belize have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1989.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Belizean Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Belizean authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Belizean judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**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 FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Beninese authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Beninese judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Benin to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Bolivia

**Country Summary:** While Bolivia acceded to the Convention in 2016, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Bolivian government regarding partnering under the Convention. Bolivia was cited for non-compliance in the 2016 report.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	7	9
New Reported Abductions	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	9	11
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	5 (45%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (10%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	9	5 (45%)

**Significant Developments:** The Hague Abduction Convention entered into force in Bolivia on October 1, 2016. The United States and Bolivia are not partners under the Convention.

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Bolivia had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Bolivian law, and the Bolivian government took steps to resolve such cases. The Bolivian government has not notified the United States which government agency will be responsible as its Central Authority.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	50%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**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 under the Convention.



# Botswana

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction is part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Botswana. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases which were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Botswanan judiciary in 2016.

**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 Botswanan authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Botswana to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Bulgaria

**Country Summary:** The United States and Bulgaria have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2005.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Bulgarian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication impacted the timely resolution of Convention cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Bulgaria routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Bulgaria. This case was opened in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. No cases were pending with the Bulgarian authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Cambodia

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Cambodia were reluctant to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. The Ministry of Justice was slow to respond to inquiries from the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	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 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.





# Cameroon

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	3
New Reported Abductions	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	5
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (20%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	2 (40%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	2 (40%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Cameroon. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that had been unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, 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 the Cameroonian judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Cameroon to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



**Country Summary:** The United States and Canada have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	13	9
New Reported Abductions	17	10
Total Abduction Cases	30	19
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	13	11 (58%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	8	1 (5%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	9	7 (37%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	8	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	8	7
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	16	11
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	6%	9%

**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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was five months and seven days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Canada routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Canada. This case was opened in 2016. This case was filed with the Canadian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.

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



# Chile

**Country Summary:** The United States and Chile have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1994.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	5
New Reported Abductions	6	3
Total Abduction Cases	8	8
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	5 (63%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	5	3 (37%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	5	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	2
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	29%

**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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** Delays by the Chilean judicial authorities impacted cases during 2016.

**Enforcement:** While courts in Chile ordered returns under the Convention, in one case in 2016, there were significant delays in the enforcement of a return order.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the Chilean 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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	6	4
New Reported Abductions	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	7	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6 (100%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in China periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was slow to respond to a diplomatic request for assistance with the resolution of existing cases. Moreover, authorities did not discuss the larger issue of international parental child abduction nor address remedies for left-behind parents in general.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	4
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**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 2016.

**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 and expand diplomacy activities related to the Convention. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Colombia

**Country Summary:** The United States and Colombia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1996. Colombia was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	8	6
New Reported Abductions	10	13
Total Abduction Cases	18	19
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	4	4 (21%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	8	7 (37%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	6	8 (42%)

**Significant Developments:** As of January 1, 2016, a procedural change limited the number of times a Convention case can be appealed. Prior to this change, some cases were delayed by numerous appeals.

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	5	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** Judicial processes caused delays in some cases during 2016.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Colombia. Of these, one case was opened in 2016. While no cases were resolved by December 31, 2016, one was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, one access case remained open. No cases were pending with the Colombian authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Costa Rica

**Country Summary:** The United States and Costa Rica have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2008. Costa Rica was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports, but the United States did not observe the same judicial delays in 2016. The judicial authorities typically were not involved in 2016 because most children returned to the United States as a result of voluntary agreements.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	1
New Reported Abductions	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	3 (75%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** In 2016, abduction cases generally did not reach the courts, and the United States did not observe judicial delays. As mentioned in the 2014 report, first and second instance courts generally delivered verdicts that were consistent with the Convention; however, the Department is aware of a precedent-setting decision by the Constitutional Court, a division of the country’s Supreme Court, which ruled that courts should consider “the best interests of the child” rather than habitual residence when deciding Convention cases. The Constitutional Court reversed return orders in 2011 and 2013. This interpretation is inconsistent with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Costa Rica were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Costa Rica. This case was filed with the Costa Rican Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) was resolved.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will maintain engagement with the Costa Rican authorities to address the area of concern highlighted in this report.



# Cote d'Ivoire

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2 (67%)

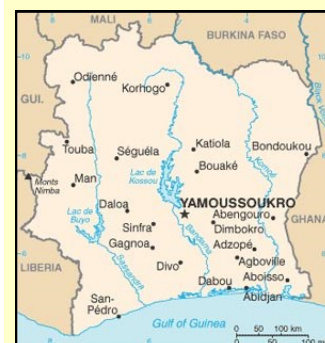
**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ivoirian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Ivoirian authorities.

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





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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Cuba. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Cuban authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cuban judiciary in 2016.

**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 Cuban authorities.

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



# Cyprus

**Country Summary:** The United States and the Republic of Cyprus have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1995.

**Abductions:** In 2016, there were no open abduction cases.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Republic of Cyprus. This case was filed with the Cypriot Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. It has been pending with the Cypriot authorities for more than 12 months.



# Czech Republic

**Country Summary:** The United States and the Czech Republic have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1998.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	4
Total Abduction Cases	0	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	2 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Czech Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

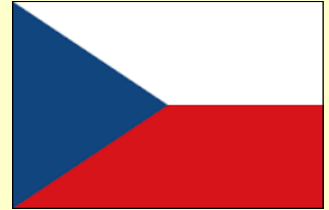
**Location:** The Department of State requested assistance with location in one case. However, the competent authorities delayed alerting the U. S. Central Authority when they had located the child.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Czech judiciary in 2016.

**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 Czech authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Czech Republic. This case was opened in 2016. This case was filed with the Czech Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. No cases were pending with the Czech authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Denmark

**Country Summary:** The United States and Denmark have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	5	1
Total Abduction Cases	7	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	4	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	3 (100%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Danish Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

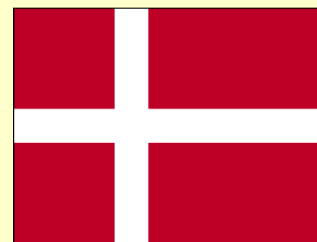
**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Denmark routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Denmark. This case was filed with the Danish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. No cases were pending with the Danish authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Egypt

**Country Summary:** Egypt does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, and left-behind parents of children abducted to Egypt have limited options to resolve their cases. Voluntary Agreements are the primary means for obtaining the return of children from Egypt. In 2003, the United States and Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. While Egypt was cited for non-compliance in the 2016 report, last year Egypt expanded its engagement with the United States under the existing MOU, and worked with the Department of State to resolve more abduction cases. During 2016, resolutions increased to four times the number of the previous year reflecting a pattern of improvement.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	16	20
New Reported Abductions	9	9
Total Abduction Cases	25	29
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	2	8 (27%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	2 (7%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	20	19 (66%)

**Significant Developments:** During 2016, Egyptian authorities engaged extensively with the United States to review methods for resolving cases, and expressed interest in expanding cooperation between our two countries. Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was an active interlocutor regarding abduction issues and pressed for creation of a new inter-ministerial committee to consider Egypt's possible ratification of the Hague Abduction Convention. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Justice Ministry met frequently with U.S. Embassy staff in Cairo to discuss individual abduction cases. Egyptian authorities successfully mediated in one case to facilitate a U.S. father's access to his sons in Egypt.

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Egypt worked closely with the United States to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Egyptian law are limited. Successful mediation by a subcommittee of the Ministry of Justice resulted in voluntary agreements in some cases. We believe this subcommittee has the capacity to expand its role in this regard and could play a greater role in providing left-behind parents with information regarding possible legal remedies in Egypt.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	16
New Cases Filed with the FCA	8	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	12	16
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	10	13
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	83%	81%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** While some abduction cases were resolved by the Egyptian courts, the lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Egyptian law made it very difficult for Egypt to address these cases.

**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 will continue to encourage Egypt to join the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# El Salvador

**Country Summary:** The United States and El Salvador have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1992.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	7	0
New Reported Abductions	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	10	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	6	3 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	4	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, 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 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Estonia

**Country Summary:** The United States and Estonia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2007.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly take appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application is filed. The average time to locate a child was 17 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Estonia routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**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 Estonian authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the Estonian 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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	1
New Reported Abductions	3	2
Total Abduction Cases	5	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	2	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2 (67%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Ethiopia.

	2015	2016
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
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

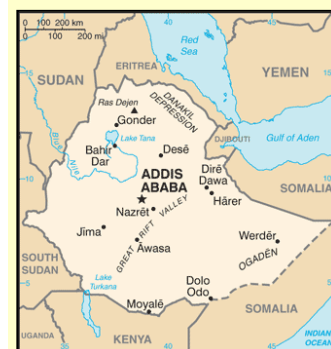
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



**Country Summary:** While Fiji acceded to the Convention in 1999, the United States and Fiji had not yet partnered under the Convention in 2016. As a result, there was no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention in 2016.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2 (100%)

**Significant Developments:** The United States accepted Fiji as a Convention partner on February 3, 2017, with entry into force on May 1, 2017.

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Fiji had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Fijian law.

**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 2016.

**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.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will engage with Fijian government officials to implement the partnership under the Convention between Fiji and the United States.



# Finland

**Country Summary:** The United States and Finland have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1994.

**Abductions:** In 2016, there were no open abduction cases.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases under the Convention in Finland. Of these, one case was opened in 2016. A total of three access cases were filed with the Finnish Central Authority, including one that was filed initially in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (25 percent) was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, two access cases remained open, including one that was pending with the Finnish authorities for more than 12 months.



# France

**Country Summary:** The United States and France have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	10	2
New Reported Abductions	2	7
Total Abduction Cases	12	9
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	7	3 (10%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	1 (5%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	5 (85%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	9	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. However, in some cases, the competent authorities delayed alerting the U.S. Central Authority when they had located a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of France routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases under the Convention in France. Of these, four cases were opened in 2016. A total of four access cases were filed with the French Central Authority, including three that were filed initially in 2016. While no cases were resolved by December 31, 2016, two were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, three access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the French authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the French authorities to address the areas of concern highlighted in this report.



# Gabon

**Country Summary:** While Gabon acceded to the Convention in 2011, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Gabonese government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	2
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Gabon. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Gabonese judiciary in 2016.

**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 Gabonese authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to engage with Gabonese government officials regarding potential partnership under the Convention.



# Germany

**Country Summary:** The United States and Germany have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1990.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	25	24
New Reported Abductions	32	17
Total Abduction Cases	57	41
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	10	17(41%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	23	16 (39%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	24	8 (20%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	7	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	8	11
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	15	15
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 12 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Germany routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 24 open access cases under the Convention in Germany. Of these, 15 cases were opened in 2016. A total of six access cases were filed with the German Central Authority, including two that were filed initially in 2016. By December 31, 2016, eight cases (33 percent) were resolved and ten cases were closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, two were as a result of voluntary agreements between the parents. By December 31, 2016, four access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the German authorities for more than 12 months.

**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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	5	3
New Reported Abductions	3	1
Total Abduction Cases	8	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	5	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	1 (25%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Ghana. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Ghana to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.





# Greece

**Country Summary:** The United States and Greece have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1993.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Greek Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Greek authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Greek judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Haiti

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Haiti had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve abduction cases under Haitian law. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for over 12 months.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Haitian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Haitian authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Haiti to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Honduras

**Country Summary:** The United States and Honduras have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1994. Honduras was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	5	4
New Reported Abductions	3	5
Total Abduction Cases	8	9
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	5 (56%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	1 (12%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	3 (32%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	25%	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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and 25 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Honduras routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**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 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Hong Kong

**Summary:** The United States and Hong Kong have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1997.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Hong Kong Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Hong Kong routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Hong Kong were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Hungary

**Country Summary:** The United States and Hungary have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Hungarian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Hungarian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Hungarian judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Iceland

**Country Summary:** The United States and Iceland have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1996.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Icelandic Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Icelandic judiciary in 2016.

**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 Icelandic authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Iceland. This case was filed with the Icelandic Central Authority. No new cases were reported or filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. It was pending with the Icelandic authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the Icelandic 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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	8	9
New Reported Abductions	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	10	12
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (8%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	9	11 (92%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Indonesia had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Indonesian law, and the Indonesian government indicated its willingness to take steps to resolve pending cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	8
New Cases Filed with the FCA	9	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	9	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	8
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**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 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Iran

**Country Summary:** Iran does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic relations with Iran and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Iran, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s travel warning carefully when contemplating travel to Iran.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	10	5
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	11	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	6	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	5	6 (100%)

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





**Country Summary:** While Iraq acceded to the Convention in 2014, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The ability of the U.S. Embassy to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, throughout Iraq is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel warning carefully when contemplating travel to Iraq. U.S. citizens should be aware that the United States and Iraq treat custody matters in very different ways.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	5
New Reported Abductions	7	8
Total Abduction Cases	8	13
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (15%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	7 (54%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	5	4 (31%)

**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. Therefore, in 2016, the United States did not inform the Iraqi government of reported abduction cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that had been unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, 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:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Iraqi judiciary in 2016.

**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 will continue its engagement with Iraqi government officials regarding potential partnership. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Ireland

**Country Summary:** The United States and Ireland have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	3	0
New Reported Abductions	2	5
Total Abduction Cases	5	5
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	4	2 (40%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	3 (60%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

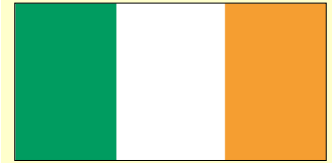
**Location:** The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Irish authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Ireland routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Ireland. Of these, two cases were opened in 2016. A total of three access cases were filed with the Irish Central Authority, including two that were filed initially in 2016. While no cases were resolved by December 31, 2016, one was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, two access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Irish authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Israel

**Country Summary:** The United States and Israel have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991. Information regarding abductions to the West Bank and Gaza are addressed in separate paragraphs at the end of this section.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	6	2
New Reported Abductions	3	6
Total Abduction Cases	9	8
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	5	5 (63%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	2 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	1 (12%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Israeli Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention. Communication by the Israel Central Authority with the United States is frequent, timely, and responsive. Israeli authorities have provided accurate and helpful information on the Hague process and Israeli procedures to left-behind parents and their legal representatives when requested.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means. Children were voluntarily returned to the United States from Israel after the taking parents learned of the initiation of a Hague process by the left-behind parent.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Israel routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Israel were generally enforced in a timely manner. Multiple layers of Israeli authorities often worked together to ensure seamless coordination and safe enforcement actions for all parties involved.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Israel. Of these, one case was opened in 2016. One access case was submitted to the Israeli Central Authority. No new cases were submitted in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (50 percent) was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons.

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



**Gaza:** There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in Gaza. The ability of the U.S. Consulate General to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, in Gaza is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel warning carefully when contemplating travel to Gaza. In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open abduction case in Gaza. By December 31, 2016, one abduction case remained open. This case was pending for more than 12 months. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

**The West Bank:** There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in the West Bank. The ability of the U.S. Consulate General to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, in the West Bank is limited. In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 14 open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, five were initially filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, seven cases (50 percent) were resolved and two cases were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, five cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

# Italy

**Country Summary:** The United States and Italy have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1995.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	8	4
New Reported Abductions	4	6
Total Abduction Cases	12	10
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	6	6 (60%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	4 (40%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Italian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication is an area of continuing concern.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	7	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	10	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	20%	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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. However, in some cases, the competent authorities delayed alerting the U.S. Central Authority when they had located a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** While the decisions of the Italian judicial authorities were timely and consistent with the requirements of the Convention, the Department is concerned about judicial delays at the appellate level.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Italy. Of these, one case was opened in 2016. While no cases were resolved by December 31, 2016, one was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, one access case remained open. No cases were pending with the Italian authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Jamaica

**Country Summary:** Jamaica did not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction in 2016.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	5	4
New Reported Abductions	6	2
Total Abduction Cases	11	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	3 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	7	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	3 (50%)

**Significant Developments:** On February 24, 2017, Jamaica acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention, and it will enter into force on May 1, 2017. Once the Convention enters into force for Jamaica, the U.S. and Jamaican governments will engage in discussions regarding potential partnership.

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Jamaica had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Jamaican law. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Jamaican judiciary in 2016.

**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.

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



# Japan

**Country Summary:** The United States and Japan have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2014. While Japan complied with its obligations under the Convention in 2016, the Department is concerned about Japan's ability to quickly and consistently enforce return orders. Six children in three cases were returned to the United States this year; however, Japanese authorities were unable to enforce a February 2016 court order for return by year's end. The Department continues to urge Japan to resolve the more than 30 pre-Convention abduction cases, all of which have been outstanding for many years.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	8
New Reported Abductions	11	10
Total Abduction Cases	15	18
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	3	8 (44%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	4	1 (6%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	8	9 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Japanese Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention. The Central Authority provides access to translation services, alternative dispute resolution, and lawyer referrals at no cost to left-behind parents.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	8
New Cases Filed with the FCA	9	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	10	14
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	10%	7%

**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 2016, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

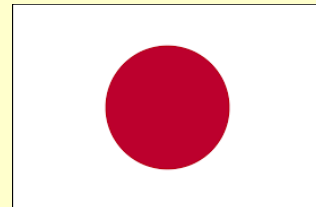
**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 14 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Japan routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention. Japanese courts routinely issued orders pursuant to the Convention for children's return.

**Enforcement:** While courts in Japan ordered returns under the Convention, the Japanese authorities were not regularly able to enforce these orders. As a result, there is one case (accounting for seven percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) that was pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement failed to enforce the return order.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 41 open access cases under the Convention in Japan. Of these, three cases were opened in 2016. A total of 40 access cases were filed with the Japanese Central Authority, including three that were filed initially in 2016. While no cases were resolved by December 31, 2016, six were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, 35 access cases remained open, including 29 that were pending with the Japanese authorities for more than 12 months.

**Pre-Convention Cases:** At the end of 2016, 34 pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Japan. In 2016, eight pre-Convention cases were closed. Expedient resolution of these cases is a top priority for the Department of State, and the Department regularly raises these cases with Japan to request assistance in their resolution.



**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue its engagement with relevant Japanese authorities to address the areas of concern highlighted in this report.



# Kenya

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	3
New Reported Abductions	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	7	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	4	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4 (67%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Kenya.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	2
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, 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 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Korea, Republic of

**Country Summary:** The United States and the Republic of Korea have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2013.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	3	3
New Reported Abductions	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	6	7
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	7 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Korean Central Authority had a strong and productive working level relationship.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 27 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** While the United States is aware of one abduction case brought before the Korean judiciary in 2016, a final judgment has not been issued.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Republic of Korea. This case was filed with the Korean Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) was resolved. This case was resolved by a voluntary agreement between the parents.

**Pre-Convention Cases:** At the end of 2016, two pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Korea. In 2016, one pre-Convention case was closed.

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



# Kuwait

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	2
New Reported Abductions	2	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2 (100%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Kuwaiti worked closely with the United States to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Kuwaiti law are limited. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kuwaiti judiciary in 2016.

**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 Kuwaiti authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Kuwait to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to 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 consular access to abducted children. In 2016, Lebanese authorities were cooperative with the Department and in several instances, facilitated the resolution of abduction cases. Lebanon was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	10	10
New Reported Abductions	4	6
Total Abduction Cases	14	16
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (13%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	4	4 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	10	10 (62%)

**Central Authority:** Options for resolving abduction cases under Lebanese law are limited. However, in 2016, Lebanese authorities expressed an interest in expanding cooperation and coordination on international parental child abduction cases. During the reporting period, the Department sent a diplomatic note to Lebanon with applications for return in six cases, and the Lebanese government promptly responded.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Lebanese judiciary in 2016.

**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 Lebanese authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Lebanon to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Liberia

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Liberia. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Liberian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Liberian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Liberian authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Liberia to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Lithuania

**Country Summary:** The United States and Lithuania have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2007.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	3
Total Abduction Cases	0	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (67%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	1 (33%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Lithuanian judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Macedonia

**Country Summary:** The United States and Macedonia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (50%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Macedonia reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Macedonia were enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the Macedonian 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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	4
New Reported Abductions	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	5
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (40%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	1 (20%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	2 (40%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Malaysia worked closely with the United States to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Malaysian law are limited.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	2
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	67%

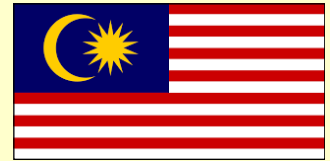
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.





# Mexico

**Country Summary:** The United States and Mexico have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991, and the United States has by far more abduction cases annually with Mexico than with any other country. Consequently, more cases have been resolved than with any other partner. In 2016, the Department noted serious concerns with a lack of communication from the Mexican Central Authority and identified shortcomings with respect to location efforts.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	165	138
New Reported Abductions	153	110
Total Abduction Cases	318	248
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	83	77 (31%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	97	51 (21%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	138	120 (48%)

**Central Authority:** The Mexican Central Authority communication with the U.S. Central Authority decreased significantly in 2016. Due to this lack of communication, left-behind parents were not always updated on the status of their applications in a timely manner. In light of the concerns about communication, both central authorities agreed to improve information exchanges in 2017.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	106	84
New Cases Filed with the FCA	61	35
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	167	119
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	35	37
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	21%	31%

**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 2016, 25 abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** In 2016, Mexican law enforcement improved on its efforts to locate missing children. In some cases, however, the competent authorities did not take swift action to locate a child after filing a Convention application. The inability to locate the children was the root cause of most unresolved applications. The average time to locate a child was 15 months and ten days. As of December 31, 2016, there are 41 cases where the Mexican authorities were seeking to locate abducted children.

**Judicial Authorities:** First-instance courts generally decided Convention cases in a manner that was timely and consistent with the Convention. 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, two cases were pending for more than 12 months and law enforcement was unable to execute the return orders. In total, there were eight cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months (accounting for seven percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) and law enforcement failed to locate a child or enforce a return order.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on 21 open access cases under the Convention in Mexico. Of these, 12 cases were opened in 2016. Ten access cases were filed with the Mexican Central Authority, including four that were filed initially in 2016. By December 31, 2016, five cases (24 percent) were resolved and seven cases were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, nine access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Mexican authorities for more than 12 months.



**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Mexican authorities to address issues of concern. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

# Micronesia

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Micronesia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

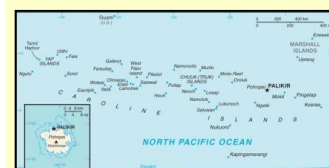
	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Micronesian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Micronesian authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Micronesia to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Moldova

**Country Summary:** While Moldova acceded to the Convention in 1998, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Moldovan government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Moldova had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Moldovan law, and the Moldovan government took steps to resolve such cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for over 12 months.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Moldovan judiciary in 2016.

**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 Moldovan authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to engage with Moldovan government officials regarding potential partnership under the Convention.



# Morocco

**Country Summary:** The United States and Morocco have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2012.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	3	7
New Reported Abductions	12	3
Total Abduction Cases	15	10
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (20%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	8	5 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	7	3 (30%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and 17 days. As of December 31, 2016, there was one case where the Moroccan authorities remained unable to initially locate a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** Delays by the Moroccan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2016.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Morocco. All of these cases were submitted to the Moroccan Central Authority. One new case was submitted in 2016. By December 31, 2016, two cases (67 percent) were resolved. By December 31, 2016, one access case remained open. No cases were pending with the Moroccan judicial authorities for more than 12 months.

**Pre-Convention Cases:** At the end of 2016, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Morocco.

**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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

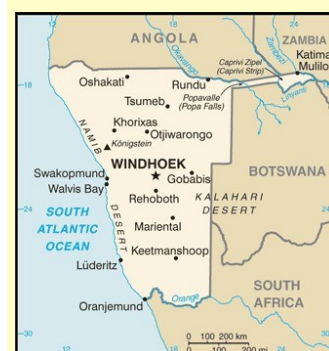
**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Namibia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State regarding international parental child abduction. There were no new cases filed with the Foreign Central Authority (FCA) in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Namibian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Namibian judiciary in 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Netherlands

**Country Summary:** The United States and The Netherlands have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1990.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	3
New Reported Abductions	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	3	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (23%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	3 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	1(17%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was five months and seven days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of the Netherlands routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in the Netherlands were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in the Netherlands. One access case was filed with the Dutch Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, both cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Dutch authorities for more than 12 months.

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

**Sint Maarten:** While a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sint Maarten does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2016, the United States acted on a total of one open case in Sint Maarten. Sint Maarten authorities cooperated fully, and this case was resolved in 2016.



# New Zealand

**Country Summary:** The United States and New Zealand have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	5	5
Total Abduction Cases	7	7
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	2	2 (29%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	5 (71%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of New Zealand routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in New Zealand were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in New Zealand. Both of these cases were opened in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (50 percent) was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons.

**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.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	6	6
New Reported Abductions	4	5
Total Abduction Cases	10	11
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	5 (45%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	4	1 (10%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	6	5 (45%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Nigeria. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year.

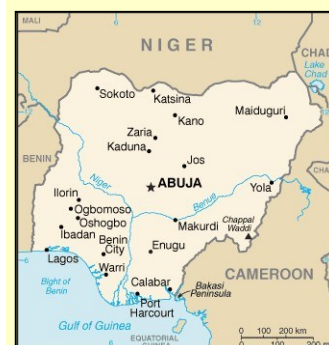
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nigerian judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Nigeria to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Norway

**Country Summary:** The United States and Norway have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1989.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	5	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	3	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	2 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Norwegian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 22 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Norway routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Norway. Of these, one case was opened in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (50 percent) was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons.

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



**Country Summary:** Oman does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Oman was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	3	2
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Oman periodically declined to discuss the larger issue of international parental child abduction with the Department of State, and to address remedies for left-behind parents to resolve pending abduction cases. However, Omani authorities did respond to all case specific communications, opening the door for broader discussions on resolving abduction cases under local law.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	100%

**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 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Oman to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Pakistan

**Country Summary:** During 2016, Pakistan did not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. While Pakistan acceded to the Convention in 2016, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result, there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. Pakistan was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	26	23
New Reported Abductions	6	7
Total Abduction Cases	32	30
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	6 (20%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	9	1 (3%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	23	23 (77%)

**Significant Developments:** In December 2016, Pakistan acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention, and the Convention entered into force on March 1, 2017. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Pakistan government regarding partnering under the Convention.

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Pakistan had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Pakistani law, and the Pakistani government took steps to resolve such cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	11
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	11
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

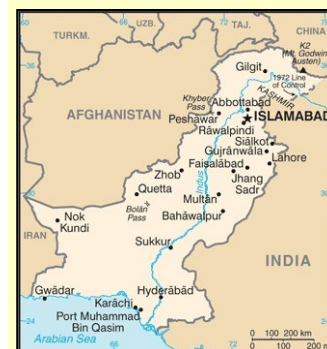
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**Enforcement:** Custody decisions made by Pakistani courts were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to engage with Pakistani government officials regarding potential partnership. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



# Philippines

**Country Summary:** While the Philippines acceded to the Convention in 2016, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Philippine government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	16	18
New Reported Abductions	7	6
Total Abduction Cases	23	24
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	5 (21%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	5	4 (17%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	18	15 (62%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in the Philippines had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Philippine law, and the Philippine government took steps to resolve such cases. The Department of Social Welfare and Development regularly assisted with welfare and whereabouts cases. The Philippine government indicated its willingness to take steps to resolve pending cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	13	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	13	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	7
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	54%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, three 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 lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Philippine law made it very difficult for the Philippines to address these cases successfully. The majority of left-behind parents did not file actions in Philippine courts.

**Enforcement:** While domestic court orders in the Philippines are generally enforced, in some cases the Philippine authorities faced challenges with enforcement. While some parents noted some access to their children after receiving access orders, getting consistent enforcement of access orders, has been difficult.

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



# Poland

**Country Summary:** The United States and Poland have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1992. Poland was cited for non-compliance in the 2015 report.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	4	9
Total Abduction Cases	6	11
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	2	3 (27%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	2 (18%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	6 (55%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	33%

**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 2016, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Poland routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Poland were generally enforced in a timely manner. However, in the unresolved case cited above, Polish authorities have been unable to locate a child who was ordered to be returned to the United States by a Polish appellate court.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases under the Convention in Poland. Of these, three cases were opened in 2016. One access case was filed with the Polish Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (25 percent) was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, two access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Polish authorities for more than 12 months.

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



# Portugal

**Country Summary:** The United States and Portugal have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1998. While Portugal was compliant with its obligations under the Convention in 2016, the Department has concerns about the timely processing of Convention cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Portuguese Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication impacted the timely resolution of Convention cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**Location:** The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 55 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Portugal routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention. However, delays by the Portuguese judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2016.

**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 Portuguese authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will intensify engagement with the Portuguese authorities to address the areas of concern highlighted in this report.





# Russia

**Country Summary:** While Russia acceded to the Convention in 2011, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Russian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	30	38
New Reported Abductions	18	12
Total Abduction Cases	48	50
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	9	6 (12%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	10 (20%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	38	34 (68%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Russia periodically declined to communicate or work with the U.S. Central Authority to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Russian law are limited.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	22
New Cases Filed with the FCA	22	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	22	22
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	21
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	95%

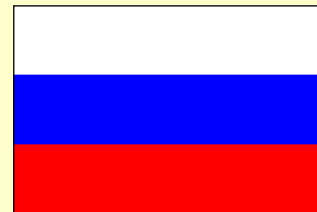
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to help locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. The average time to locate a child was 52 days. As of December 31, 2016, there were three cases where the Russian authorities remained unable to locate abducted children. Russian authorities responded to U.S. requests to locate children by directing parents to Russian law enforcement. The competent authorities also indicated that the United States could submit location requests to the Russian government, but that Russian law limited the amount of information authorities are able to provide.

**Judicial Authorities:** While some parents were able to resolve their abduction cases in the Russian courts, many parents were unsuccessful. Five parents with open abduction cases filed cases through Russian courts either in 2016 or in previous years. In 2016, one case pursued through Russian courts resulted in the return of a child to the United States.

**Enforcement:** While domestic court orders in Russia are sometimes enforced, they are often successfully ignored or evaded. Moreover, there is one case (accounting for four percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) that was pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement failed to locate a child or enforce a return order.

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





# Saint Kitts and Nevis

**Country Summary:** The United States and St. Kitts and Nevis have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1995.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Kittian and Nevisian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Kittian and Nevisian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kittian and Nevisian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Kittian and Nevisian authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# Saudi Arabia

**Country Summary:** Saudi Arabia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Saudi Arabia was cited for non-compliance in 2015.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	2
New Reported Abductions	3	2
Total Abduction Cases	7	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	5	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3 (75%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia worked closely with the United States to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Saudi law are limited. Saudi authorities assisted the United States to locate and gain access to children during the calendar year. However, resolutions to pending cases have not yet been achieved. Saudi authorities discussed the creation of a framework to address future cases of abduction and took initial steps to create a governmental sub-committee to work on the issue.

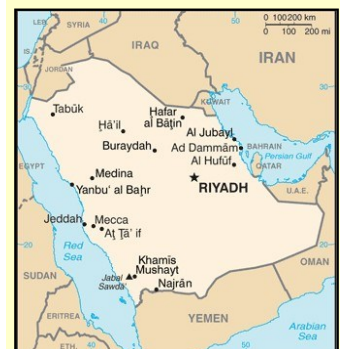
	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	50%

**Location:** The Department of State requested assistance from Saudi authorities with location in one case during the calendar year and Saudi authorities provided a timely response.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Saudi judiciary in 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention. The Department will further encourage the continued development of a governmental sub-committee to address children's issues and affect resolutions to abduction cases.



# Senegal

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	1	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	2 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (25%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Senegal. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Senegal to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Serbia

**Country Summary:** The United States and Serbia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1991.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Serbian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Serbian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Serbian judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**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 United States and Singapore have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2012.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Singaporean Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention. During 2016, the Government and courts of Singapore hosted a regional seminar to promote the Convention and encourage the adoption of best practices in the East Asia and Pacific region.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Singapore routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Pre-Convention Cases:** In 2016, one pre-Convention case was closed.

**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 United States and Slovakia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2001. Slovakia was cited for non-compliance in 2015.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Significant Developments:** In January 2016, Slovakia adopted new legislation that attempts to streamline the Convention process, limits the number of appeals, and provides for expeditious enforcement of Convention orders.

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

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Slovakia routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** While courts in Slovakia ordered returns under the Convention, the Slovak authorities were not always able to enforce these orders.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case under the Convention in Slovakia. This case was opened in 2016. While this case was not resolved, it was closed for other reasons by December 31, 2016.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the Slovak Central Authority should continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



# Slovenia

**Country Summary:** The United States and Slovenia have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1995.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1(100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Slovenia routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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



# South Africa

**Country Summary:** The United States and South Africa have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1999.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	2
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2 (67%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	33%

**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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** Delays by the judicial authorities impacted cases during 2016. Judges consistently issued orders consistent with the Hague Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in South Africa were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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





# South Sudan

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	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. Therefore, in 2016, the United States did not inform the South Sudanese government of reported abduction cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

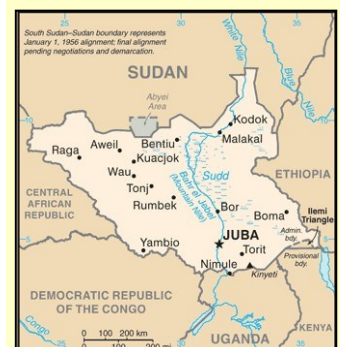
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the South Sudanese judiciary in 2016.

**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 South Sudanese authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage South Sudan to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Spain

**Country Summary:** The United States and Spain have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988. While Spain was fully compliant with its obligations under the Convention in 2016, the Department is concerned that the Spanish Central Authority at times experienced difficulties with locating missing children in a timely manner.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	5	2
New Reported Abductions	4	4
Total Abduction Cases	9	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	4	1 (17%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	5 (83%)

**Central Authority:** While the United States and the Spanish Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, periodic delays in the processing of cases and inconsistent communication impacted the timely resolution of Convention cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** In some cases, the competent authorities were unable to expeditiously locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was five months and 22 days. As of December 31, 2016, there was one case where the Spanish authorities remained unable to locate a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Spain routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** While courts in Spain ordered returns under the Convention, the Spanish authorities were not always able to enforce these orders.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case under the Convention in Spain. This case was filed with the Spanish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case remained open. No cases were pending with the Spanish authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue engagement with the Spanish authorities to address the areas of concern highlighted in this report.



# Sudan

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	5	3
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	5	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	3 (100%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	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. Therefore, in 2016, the United States did not inform the Sudanese government of reported abduction cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Sudanese authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Sudanese judiciary in 2016.

**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 continue to encourage Sudan to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Sweden

**Country Summary:** The United States and Sweden have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1989.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0 (0%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Sweden routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case under the Convention in Sweden. This case was filed with the Swedish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) was resolved. This case was resolved by a voluntary agreement between the parents.

**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 United States and Switzerland have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	2
New Reported Abductions	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	1 (25%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	1 (25%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

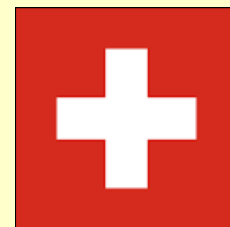
**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was two months and one day.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Switzerland routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

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

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases under the Convention in Switzerland. Of these, three cases were opened in 2016. A total of three access cases were filed with the Swiss Central Authority, including two that were filed initially in 2016. By December 31, 2016, two cases (40 percent) were resolved and one case was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, two access cases remained open. No cases were 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. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic relations with Syria and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Syria, including children abducted by their parents to Syria. Parents should consider the Department’s travel warning carefully when contemplating travel to Syria.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	2 (100%)

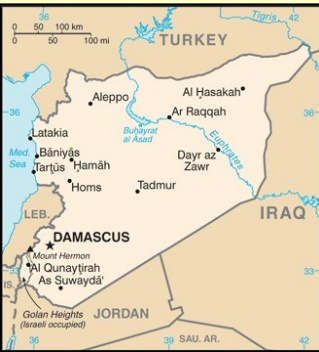
**Central Authority:** The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. Therefore, in 2016, the United States did not inform the Syrian government of reported abduction cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 Syrian authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Syrian judiciary in 2016.

**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

**Summary:** Taiwan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	2
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3 (100%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Taiwan worked closely with the United States to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Taiwan law are limited. In 2016, the Taiwan authorities engaged in discussions regarding the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Taiwan law. The Taiwan Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) expressed interest in future discussions on a bilateral arrangement to resolve abduction issues.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	3
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**Location:** The Department of State 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 2016.

**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:** To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Taiwan, the Department recommends continued engagement with Taiwan authorities. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions. In the absence of treaty accession, Taiwan's alignment with the principles and policies reflected in the Convention may facilitate expeditious resolution of parental child abductions to Taiwan.



# Tanzania

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	2
New Reported Abductions	3	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	3
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	2 (67%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Tanzania. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

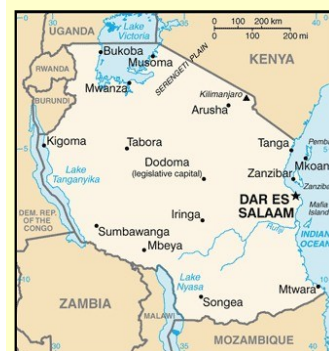
**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Tanzanian judiciary in 2016.

**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 Tanzanian authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage Tanzania to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.





# Thailand

**Country Summary:** The United States and Thailand have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2016. While Thailand was compliant with its obligations under the Convention in 2016, the Department notes that the judicial and law enforcement authorities in Thailand have limited experience in implementing the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Thai Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Thai judiciary in 2016.

**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.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue its engagement with the Thai authorities and provide, as appropriate, requested technical expertise to the appropriate Thai authorities.



# Trinidad and Tobago

**Country Summary:** The United States and Trinidad and Tobago have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2013.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	2	3
New Reported Abductions	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	4	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	1	2 (33%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4 (67%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	17%

**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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 11 days.

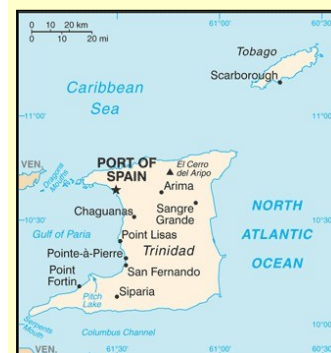
**Judicial Authorities:** Delays by the Trinidad and Tobago judicial authorities impacted cases during 2016. Cases typically took several hearings over many months to be resolved.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Trinidad and Tobago were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Pre-Convention Cases:** At the end of 2016, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Trinidad and Tobago. The Department is deeply concerned about this protracted pre-Convention case. The Department took every opportunity to raise our concerns about this case with senior officials in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

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



# Turkey

**Country Summary:** The United States and Turkey have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2000. In 2016, the Department noted concern with Turkish authorities in the areas of location and enforcement.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	13	12
New Reported Abductions	3	5
Total Abduction Cases	16	17
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	3	10 (59%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	1	2 (12%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	12	5 (29%)

**Significant Developments:** In 2016, Turkey adopted new measures that attempt to streamline the Convention process by establishing a two-level appellate court system consisting of regional courts and the existing Supreme Court. The intention is to decrease the amount of time in the appeal process in Convention cases.

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	12	11
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	14	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	21%	8%

**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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was nine months and two days. As of December 31, 2016, there were four cases where the Turkish authorities remained unable to locate abducted children. There is evidence that taking-parents are evading Turkish authorities by further crossing international borders.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Turkey routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention. However, delays by the Turkish judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted at least two cases during 2016. In July 2016, the Turkish government established regional courts to hear appeals, creating a two-level appellate court system consisting of the regional courts and the existing Supreme Court. The newly created courts are expected to decrease the length of the appeal process.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in Turkey were generally enforced in a timely manner. However, there were two cases (accounting for 15 percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) that were pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement failed to locate a child or enforce return orders.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Turkey. All of these cases were opened in 2016. By December 31, 2016, all of these cases remained open. No cases were pending with the Turkish authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the Turkish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention. The Department will intensify engagement with the Turkish authorities to address the areas of concern highlighted in this report.



# Uganda

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	2
New Reported Abductions	2	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	2	1 (50%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in Uganda periodically declined to work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Ugandan law are limited.

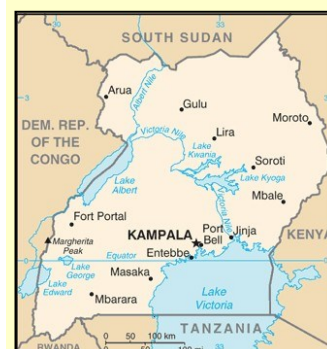
	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	50%

**Location:** The Department of State requested, but did not receive, assistance with location from the Ugandan authorities.

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ugandan judiciary in 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Ukraine

**Country Summary:** The United States and Ukraine have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2007.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	5
New Reported Abductions	6	6
Total Abduction Cases	10	11
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	2	2 (18%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	3	3 (27%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	5	6 (55%)

**Significant Developments:** In 2016, the Ukrainian Central Authority began drafting reforms that address the country's enforcement issues.

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took one month to locate a child.

**Judicial Authorities:** There were delays in judicial authorities deciding cases and their decisions were not consistently rendered in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** While domestic court orders in Ukraine are sometimes enforced, they are often successfully ignored or evaded.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will increase engagement with the Ukrainian Central Authority to promote the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



# United Arab Emirates

**Country Summary:** The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	4	5
New Reported Abductions	3	2
Total Abduction Cases	7	7
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (14%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	2	1 (14%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	5	5 (72%)

**Central Authority:** In 2016, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates worked closely with the United States to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Emirati law are limited.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	3
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** While some abduction cases were resolved by the Emirati courts, the lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Emirati law made it very difficult for the United Arab Emirates to address these cases successfully.

**Enforcement:** Custody decisions made by Emirati courts are generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to encourage United Arab Emirates to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# United Kingdom

**Country Summary:** The United States and the United Kingdom have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1988. The statistics below include cases in the British Dependencies of Anguilla and Bermuda.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	11	14
New Reported Abductions	26	19
Total Abduction Cases	37	33
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	18	15 (46%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	5	6 (18%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	14	12 (36%)

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	7	9
New Cases Filed with the FCA	21	13
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	28	22
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of the United Kingdom routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** Decisions in Convention cases in the United Kingdom were generally enforced in a timely manner.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of ten open access cases under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Of these, seven cases were opened in 2016. A total of six access cases were filed with the British Central Authorities, including three that were filed initially in 2016. By December 31, 2016, three cases (30 percent) were resolved and two cases were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2016, five access cases remained open. No cases were pending with the British authorities for more than 12 months.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department and the British Central Authorities will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.

**Anguilla:** The British dependency of Anguilla has its own Central Authority. In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open case under the Convention in Anguilla. This case was initially filed in 2016 and submitted to the Anguillan Central Authority. As of December 31, 2016, the case remained open.

**Bermuda:** The British dependency of Bermuda has its own Central Authority. The Department is concerned that the Bermudian Central Authority delayed filing Hague applications with the Bermudian courts in the past. In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open case under the Convention in Bermuda. This case was initially filed in 2016 with the Bermudian Central Authority. As of December 31, 2016, the case remained open.





# Uruguay

**Country Summary:** The United States and Uruguay have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 2004.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Uruguayan Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	1
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**Location:** The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to help locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 26 days.

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Uruguay routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**Enforcement:** While courts in Uruguay ordered returns under the Convention, the Uruguayan authorities were not always able to enforce these orders. As a result, there was one case (accounting for 100 percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) that was pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement failed to enforce the return order. Specifically, Uruguay has not located a child who was hidden by the taking parent following a return order 2013. Despite efforts by the Uruguayan Central Authority and Interpol, who continue to search for the child, no progress on locating the child was made in many months.

**Access:** In 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Uruguay. Both cases were filed with the Uruguayan Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, one case (50 percent) was resolved.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue engagement with the Uruguayan Central Authority to promote the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.





# Uzbekistan

**Country Summary:** While Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention in 1999, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result, there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Uzbek government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	3	4
New Reported Abductions	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	4	6
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (17%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5 (83%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Uzbekistan had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Uzbek law.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	2
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	100%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uzbek judiciary in 2016.

**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 Uzbek authorities.

**Department Recommendations:** The Department will continue to engage with Uzbek government officials regarding potential partnership under the Convention.



# Venezuela

**Country Summary:** The United States and Venezuela have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1997.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	0
New Reported Abductions	0	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	2
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	0	2 (100%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the Venezuelan Central Authority have a productive relationship that facilitates the implementation of the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	N/A	0%

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The judicial authorities of Venezuela routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention.

**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 2016, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case under the Convention in Venezuela. This case was filed with the Venezuelan Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2016. By December 31, 2016, this case (100 percent) was resolved.

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



# Vietnam

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

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	0	1
New Reported Abductions	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	1	4
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	2 (50%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2 (50%)

**Central Authority:** The United States and the competent authorities in Vietnam had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Vietnamese law, and the Vietnamese government took steps to resolve such cases.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	0%	0%

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

**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 2016.

**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 and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Yemen

**Country Summary:** Yemen does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2015, the Department closed the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa. The Department has no ability to provide consular assistance to U.S. citizens in Yemen, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department's travel warning carefully when contemplating travel to Yemen.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	10	4
New Reported Abductions	0	6
Total Abduction Cases	10	10
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	3 (30%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	6	1 (10%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6 (60%)

**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. Therefore, in 2016, the United States did not inform the Yemeni government of reported abduction cases. There were no new cases filed with the FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

**Voluntary Resolution:** In 2016, one abduction case was 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 the Yemeni judiciary in 2016.

**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 will continue to encourage Yemen to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



# Zambia

**Country Summary:** While Zambia acceded to the Convention in 2014, it is not a treaty partner with the United States. As a result there is no formal mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Zambian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1 (100%)

**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 FCA in 2016, nor were there any cases on file with the FCA 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 the Zambian judiciary in 2016.

**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 government officials regarding potential partnership under the Convention.



# Zimbabwe

**Country Summary:** The United States and Zimbabwe have been partners under the Hague Abduction Convention since 1995.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Open at the start of the year	1	1
New Reported Abductions	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1
Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year	0	1 (100%)
Reported Abductions Closed During the Year	0	0 (0%)
Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year	1	0 (0%)

**Central Authority:** International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Zimbabwe.

	2015	2016
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0
Percent of Total Caseload Processed by the FCA	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 2016, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

**Judicial Authorities:** The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Zimbabwean judiciary in 2016.

**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 Zimbabwean authorities.

**Access:** In 2016, there were no open access cases.

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





# 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.

#### 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.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Abduction Cases Filed with FCA at the start of the year</b>	Any abduction case pending with the Foreign Central Authority on January 1, 2016.
<b>Access</b>	Refers to cases where the parent seeks access to the child or children.
<b>Bilateral Procedures Country</b>	A country with which the United States has entered into bilateral procedures, including Memoranda of Understanding, with respect to child abductions.
<b>Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months</b>	Any case that has been unresolved according to the above definition, for more than 12 months.
<b>Enforcement</b>	Refers to the ability to implement judicial orders ruling on abduction or access cases
<b>Foreign Central Authority (FCA)</b>	Office designated by a foreign country that is party to the Convention (“Convention country”) to discharge the duties of a Central Authority as defined by the Convention.
<b>Hague Convention Country</b>	A country which has acceded to the 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.
<b>Hague Partner Country</b>	A country where the Convention has entered into force between that country and the United States, “i.e., a country with which the United States has reciprocal obligations under the Convention.”
<b>Judicial or Administrative Authority</b>	A court or other competent body with adjudicative authority to hear and decide upon an abduction or access case.
<b>Location</b>	In a Convention country, refers to the phase of a case after the U.S. Central Authority has sent the case to the FCA when the child must be located. In a non-Convention country, refers to requests made by the Department of State to the competent authorities to locate a child.
<b>Military Case</b>	An abduction or access case opened at the request of a left-behind parent who is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.
<b>New Cases Filed with the FCA</b>	Abduction cases the U.S. Central Authority sent to the Foreign Central Authority from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.
<b>New Reported Abductions</b>	Any new abduction matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.
<b>Pre-Convention Case</b>	A case where a child was abducted from the United States to a current Convention partner prior to the date when the Hague Abduction Convention entered into force between that country and the United States.
<b>Reported Abductions Closed During the Year</b>	Any reported abduction closed during 2016 for any reason prior being sent to the Foreign Central Authority, or for reasons other than those listed in the definition of Resolved Abduction Case.
<b>Reported Abductions Open at the Start of the Year</b>	Any abduction matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority prior to January 1, 2016 that had not been resolved or closed by that date.
<b>Reported Abductions Resolved During the Year</b>	Any Resolved Abduction Case, according to the above definition, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.
<b>Reported Abductions Still Open at the End of the Year</b>	Reported abductions still open on December 31, 2016
<b>Resolved Abduction Case</b>	Any abduction case sent to the Foreign Central Authority that was resolved for one of the following reasons: 1) the child is returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority is complying with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reach a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdraws the application for return; 5) the left-behind parent cannot be located for one year despite documented efforts by the Department of State to locate the parent; or 6) the death of the left-behind parent or child.

<b>Total Cases On File With the FCA During the Year</b>	The sum of abduction cases filed with the Foreign Central Authority at the start of the year and the new cases filed with the FCA.
<b>Total Reported Abductions</b>	The sum of abduction matters open at the start of the year and new reported abductions.
<b>Unresolved Abduction Case</b>	In a Convention country, an abduction case that was not resolved within 12 months after the application for return of the child was submitted to the foreign judicial or administrative authority. In a non-Convention country, cases that were not resolved within 12 months after the application for return or access to the child was submitted to the foreign ministry or other appropriate authority of such country.
<b>Unresolved due to Law Enforcement</b>	The number of unresolved cases where foreign law enforcement authorities have: 1) not located the child; 2) failed to undertake serious efforts to locate the abducted child; or 3) failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of such country.

# INFORMATIVE LINKS FOR PARENTS

American Bar Association

[www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)

Department of Justice  
Office of Violence Against Women

[www.justice.gov/ovw](http://www.justice.gov/ovw)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac>  
<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us>

Hague Conference Permanent Bureau  
Child Abduction Section

[www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction](http://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction)

International Social Service (ISS-USA)

[www.iss-usa.org/](http://www.iss-usa.org/)

National Center for Missing &  
Exploited Children

[www.missingkids.com/](http://www.missingkids.com/)

The Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Administration for Children and  
Families

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/)

Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/)


U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services—Resources for Families

[www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/domviolence/resources](http://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](http://www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/en.html)

## 2016 IPCA CASES BY U.S. STATE

	<b>Alabama</b>			Honduras	1		Cameroon	1		<b>Georgia</b>	
	Haiti	1		India	21		Russia	1		Barbados	1
	Italy	1		Indonesia	3		<b>Delaware</b>			Canada	1
	Kenya	1		Iran	2		Hong Kong	1		Colombia	1
	Mexico	3		Iraq	1		Mexico	1		France	1
	Micronesia	1		Ireland	1		Poland	1		Gabon	1
	<b>Alaska</b>			Israel	2					Germany	4
	Philippines	1		Italy	1		<b>Florida</b>			Ghana	1
	Russia	1		Japan	6		Argentina	1		India	4
	<b>Arizona</b>			Korea, Rep. of	2		Australia	1		Indonesia	1
	Australia	1		Mexico	75		Bahamas	3		Israel	2
	Ethiopia	1		Morocco	1		Bangladesh	1		Italy	1
	France	1		Netherlands	1		Belgium	1		Japan	1
	Germany	1		Nigeria	1		Bermuda	1		Mexico	11
	India	2		Pakistan	3		Bolivia	1		Morocco	1
	Indonesia	1		Panama	1		Brazil	5		Netherlands	1
	Iraq	1		Peru	6		Bulgaria	1		Pakistan	1
	Jamaica	1		Philippines	9		Canada	3		Russia	2
	Japan	2		Poland	2		Chile	3		Senegal	1
	Lebanon	2		Russia	7		Colombia	5		Sint Maarten	1
	Mexico	9		Singapore	2		Cuba	1		Turkey	1
	New Zealand	1		Sweden	1		Czech Republic	1		<b>Guam</b>	
	Nigeria	1		Switzerland	2		Dominican Rep.	5		Korea, Rep. of	1
	Norway	1		Taiwan	1		Ecuador	5		<b>Hawaii</b>	
	Peru	2		Tunisia	1		Germany	2		Australia	1
	Philippines	1		Turkey	3		Guatemala	2		Turkey	1
	Poland	1		Uganda	1		Honduras	2		United Kingdom	1
	Romania	1		Ukraine	3		Hungary	2		<b>Idaho</b>	
	Russia	1		United Kingdom	4		India	1		France	1
	Sudan	1		Uzbekistan	2		Iraq	1		Mexico	2
	Vietnam	1		West Bank	1		Israel	2		Norway	1
				Yemen	1		Italy	2			
	<b>Arkansas</b>			<b>Colorado</b>			Jamaica	3		<b>Illinois</b>	
	Germany	1		Australia	2		Japan	1		Albania	1
	Mexico	2		Brazil	1		Jordan	3		Benin	1
	Nigeria	1		Canada	1		Macedonia	1		Brazil	1
	<b>California</b>			Chile	1		Mexico	8		Bulgaria	1
	Armenia	2		Ethiopia	1		Moldova	1		Cameroon	1
	Australia	2		Germany	1		Morocco	2		Canada	1
	Austria	1		India	2		Netherlands	1		Colombia	2
	Belgium	1		Malaysia	1		Nicaragua	2		France	1
	Brazil	1		Mexico	5		Peru	3		India	9
	Canada	3		Philippines	2		Philippines	1		Indonesia	1
	Chile	1		West Bank	1		Poland	3		Iraq	1
	Colombia	1		<b>Connecticut</b>			Portugal	1		Ireland	1
	Cote d'Ivoire	1		Australia	1		Russia	3		Jordan	2
	Czech Republic	1		Belize	1		Spain	3		Lithuania	2
	Ecuador	2		Chile	1		St. Kitts and Nevis	1		Mexico	10
	Egypt	4		India	2		Syria	1		Nigeria	1
	Fiji	1		Mexico	1		Trinidad & Tobago	1		Pakistan	4
	France	1		Pakistan	2		Turkey	1		Philippines	1
	Germany	6		Thailand	1		UAE	2		Poland	1</



	Ukraine	1		Iraq	1		Yemen	1		UAE	3
	Uzbekistan	1		Japan	1					United Kingdom	1
	West Bank	4		Jordan	1		<b>Missouri</b>			West Bank	1
	<b>Indiana</b>			Kenya	2		Afghanistan	1		<b>New Mexico</b>	
	Ireland	1		Mexico	2		Germany	2		Mexico	1
	Macedonia	1		Moldova	1		India	3		Pakistan	1
	Mexico	6		Namibia	1		Italy	1		Poland	1
	Philippines	2		New Zealand	1		Mexico	5			
	United Kingdom	1		Pakistan	2		Saudi Arabia	1		<b>New York</b>	
	<b>Iowa</b>			Poland	1		West Bank	1		Argentina	1
	Jordan	1		Tunisia	2		<b>Montana</b>			Australia	1
	Korea, Rep. of	1		Turkey	1		Russia	1		Bolivia	1
	Lebanon	1		<b>Massachusetts</b>			South Africa	1		Brazil	2
	Slovenia	1		Albania	1		<b>Nebraska</b>			Cambodia	1
	<b>Kansas</b>			Brazil	2		Germany	1		Chile	2
	Dominican Rep.	1		Egypt	3		Mexico	5		China	2
	Gaza	1		El Salvador	1		South Sudan	1		Colombia	4
	Germany	1		India	1		<b>Nevada</b>			Costa Rica	1
	Mexico	4		Japan	1		Dominican Rep.	1		Dominican Rep.	2
	New Zealand	1		Jordan	1		Germany	1		Ecuador	4
	Nigeria	1		Lebanon	1		Honduras	1		Egypt	4
	Pakistan	1		New Zealand	2		Malaysia	1		France	2
	Russia	2		Norway	1		Mexico	7		Germany	1
	Tanzania	1		Russia	2		Morocco	1		Ghana	1
	<b>Kentucky</b>			Venezuela	1		Netherlands	1		Honduras	1
	Colombia	1		Vietnam	1		Philippines	3		India	6
	Italy	1		Yemen	1		<b>Michigan</b>			Iran	1
	Mexico	3					Australia	2		Ireland	1
	Russia	1		India	5		<b>New Hampshire</b>			Jamaica	3
	South Sudan	1		Iraq	2		India	1		Japan	3
	Turkey	1		Jordan	1		South Africa	1		Jordan	1
	<b>Louisiana</b>			Lebanon	5		Switzerland	2		Malaysia	2
	China	1		Malaysia	1		Turkey	1		Mexico	5
	Costa Rica	1		Mexico	4		<b>New Jersey</b>			Morocco	1
	Japan	1		Pakistan	3		Brazil	1		New Zealand	1
	Sweden	1		Peru	1		Dominican Rep.	1		Nigeria	2
	Taiwan	1		Russia	1		Egypt	4		Pakistan	2
	Vietnam	1		Serbia	1		El Salvador	1		Peru	1
	<b>Maine</b>			Taiwan	1		Estonia	1		Romania	1
	Italy	1		West Bank	1		Guatemala	1		Russia	5
				Yemen	1		India	5		Senegal	1
	<b>Maryland</b>			<b>Minnesota</b>			Indonesia	1		Spain	1
	Bolivia	2		Australia	1		Jordan	2		Trinidad & Tobago	3
	Cameroon	2		Germany	1		Lebanon	1		Turkey	1
	Canada	2		Iraq	1		Mexico	2		Uganda	1
	Cote d'Ivoire	1		Japan	1		Pakistan	4		Ukraine	2
	Czech Republic	1		Liberia	1		Peru	3		UAE	1
	Dominican Rep.	2		Mexico	1		Philippines	1		United Kingdom	5
	Ecuador	1		Pakistan	1		Poland	1		Uruguay	1
	Egypt	3		Russia	1		Russia	2		<b>North Carolina</b>	
	Germany	1		<b>Mississippi</b>			Saudi Arabia	1		Australia	1
	India	3		India	1		Turkey	1		Bangladesh	1
							Ukraine	1		Brazil	2



Canada	1		<b>Oregon</b>		India	1		<b>Vermont</b>			
China	1		Germany	1	Iraq	1		Nicaragua	1		
Costa Rica	1		Israel	1	Jamaica	1					
Czech Republic	1		Japan	1	Russia	1		<b>Virginia</b>			
Denmark	1		Mexico	4	United Kingdom	1		Argentina	1		
Egypt	3		Romania	1	Vietnam	1		Australia	1		
Germany	1		Turkey	1	Yemen	1		Bolivia	3		
Guatemala	1		United Kingdom	1				China	1		
India	4					<b>Texas</b>		Colombia	1		
Iraq	1		<b>Pennsylvania</b>		Australia	3		Denmark	1		
Israel	1		Australia	1	Azerbaijan	1		Dominican Rep.	1		
Jordan	1		Austria	1	Bahamas	1		Egypt	2		
Kuwait	1		Canada	2	Bolivia	4		Germany	5		
Mexico	3		Colombia	1	Botswana	1		Ghana	1		
Morocco	1		Dominican Rep.	2	Brazil	4		Guatemala	1		
Peru	2		Egypt	1	Denmark	1		Honduras	1		
Russia	1		France	2	Dominican Rep.	1		India	6		
Senegal	1		Germany	1	Egypt	1		Indonesia	1		
Syria	1		India	4	El Salvador	1		Italy	1		
Tanzania	1		Indonesia	1	Gabon	1		Jordan	1		
West Bank	1		Ireland	1	Germany	3		Korea, Rep. of	1		
			Jordan	1	Ghana	1		Mexico	1		
			Lebanon	1	Honduras	1		Pakistan	3		
	<b>North Dakota</b>		Mexico	4	India	6		Peru	1		
	Armenia	1	Nigeria	1	Iran	2		Sudan	1		
	India	1	Norway	1	Iraq	1		Trinidad & Tobago	1		
	United Kingdom	2	Pakistan	1	Jordan	3		Tunisia	1		
	<b>Ohio</b>		Peru	1	Kenya	2		Turkey	1		
	Austria	1	Russia	2	Korea, Rep.	1		UAE	1		
	Cameroon	1	Saudi Arabia	1	Kuwait	1					
	Canada	1	Slovakia	1	Lebanon	2		<b>Washington</b>			
	Chad	1	Tunisia	1	Mexico	44		Anguilla	2		
	Colombia	1	Ukraine	1	Morocco	1		Australia	1		
	Costa Rica	1	Uzbekistan	1	Netherlands	1		Bahrain	1		
	Egypt	1	Zimbabwe	1	New Zealand	1		Canada	1		
	Germany	2			Nigeria	3		Egypt	2		
	India	3		<b>Puerto Rico</b>	Pakistan	2		Ethiopia	1		
	Indonesia	1		Argentina	1	Panama	1	Fiji	1		
	Lebanon	2		<b>Rhode Island</b>	Peru	2		Germany	2		
	Mexico	5		Dominican Rep.	1	Philippines	2	Iceland	1		
	Morocco	2		Senegal	1	Russia	3	India	7		
	Oman	1		<b>South Carolina</b>	Sudan	1		Indonesia	2		
	Russia	4		Egypt	1	Tanzania	1	Iraq	1		
	United Kingdom	2		Germany	1	Trinidad & Tobago	1	Korea, Rep. of	1		
	West Bank	3		India	3	Ukraine	3	Mexico	8		
	Yemen	1		Italy	1	United Kingdom	1	Philippines	1		
	<b>Oklahoma</b>			Lithuania	1	Venezuela	1	Russia	2		
	Colombia	1		Saudi Arabia	1	West Bank	1	United Kingdom	1		
	Iran	1		<b>South Dakota</b>		Zambia	1		<b>Wisconsin</b>		
	Iraq	1		Russia	2		<b>Utah</b>		Germany	1	
	Kenya	1		<b>Tennessee</b>			Chile	1	Jordan	1	
	Lebanon	1		Australia	1		China	1	Mexico	4	
	Mexico	1		Canada	2		Mexico	1	Spain	1	
	Russia	1					Russia	1		<b>Wyoming</b>	
	South Africa	1							Mexico	1	

# UNRESOLVED ABDUCTION CASES

## **Argentina**

#1 pending 73 months  
#2 pending 43 months  
#3 pending 92 months

## **Armenia**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months

## **Bahamas**

#1 pending 89 months  
#2 pending 63 months

## **Bolivia**

#1 pending 12 months

## **Brazil**

#1 pending 47 months  
#2 pending 28 months  
#3 pending 121 months  
#4 pending 38 months  
#5 pending 59 months  
#6 pending 93 months  
#7 pending 42 months  
#8 pending 47 months  
#9 pending 82 months  
#10 pending 60 months  
#11 pending 39 months  
#12 pending 59 months  
#13 pending 84 months

## **Cambodia**

#1 pending 12 months

## **Canada**

#1 pending 16 months

## **Chile**

#1 pending 16 months  
#2 pending 21 months

## **China**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months  
#4 pending 12 months

## **Dominican Republic**

#1 pending 70 months

## **Ecuador**

#1 pending 47 months

## **Egypt**

#1 pending 32 months  
#2 pending 32 months  
#3 pending 14 months  
#4 pending 14 months  
#5 pending 32 months  
#6 pending 14 months  
#7 pending 14 months  
#8 pending 14 months  
#9 pending 32 months  
#10 pending 32 months  
#11 pending 14 months  
#12 pending 32 months

#13 pending 32 months

## **India**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months  
#4 pending 12 months  
#5 pending 12 months  
#6 pending 12 months  
#7 pending 12 months  
#8 pending 12 months  
#9 pending 12 months  
#10 pending 12 months  
#11 pending 12 months  
#12 pending 12 months  
#13 pending 12 months  
#14 pending 12 months  
#15 pending 12 months  
#16 pending 12 months  
#17 pending 12 months  
#18 pending 12 months  
#19 pending 12 months  
#20 pending 12 months  
#21 pending 12 months  
#22 pending 12 months  
#23 pending 12 months  
#24 pending 12 months  
#25 pending 12 months  
#26 pending 12 months  
#27 pending 12 months  
#28 pending 12 months  
#29 pending 12 months  
#30 pending 12 months  
#31 pending 12 months  
#32 pending 12 months  
#33 pending 12 months  
#34 pending 12 months  
#35 pending 12 months  
#36 pending 12 months  
#37 pending 12 months  
#38 pending 12 months

## **Indonesia**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months  
#4 pending 12 months  
#5 pending 12 months  
#6 pending 12 months  
#7 pending 12 months  
#8 pending 12 months

## **Italy**

#1 pending 44 months

## **Japan**

#1 pending 16 months

## **Kenya**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months

## **Malaysia**

#1 pending 12 months

#2 pending 12 months

## **Mexico**

#1 pending 102 months  
#2 pending 14 months  
#3 pending 103 months  
#4 pending 14 months  
#5 pending 21 months  
#6 pending 64 months  
#7 pending 15 months  
#8 pending 68 months  
#9 pending 86 months  
#10 pending 12 months  
#11 pending 47 months  
#12 pending 26 months  
#13 pending 41 months  
#14 pending 68 months  
#15 pending 25 months  
#16 pending 45 months  
#17 pending 20 months  
#18 pending 31 months  
#19 pending 37 months  
#20 pending 62 months  
#21 pending 33 months  
#22 pending 173 months  
#23 pending 30 months  
#24 pending 53 months  
#25 pending 61 months  
#26 pending 45 months  
#27 pending 58 months  
#28 pending 108 months  
#29 pending 31 months  
#30 pending 99 months  
#31 pending 22 months  
#32 pending 28 months  
#33 pending 27 months  
#34 pending 53 months  
#35 pending 54 months  
#36 pending 25 months  
#37 pending 127 months

## **Nicaragua**

#1 pending 39 months

## **Oman**

#1 pending 12 months

## **Panama**

#1 pending 13 months

## **Peru**

#1 pending 18 months  
#2 pending 55 months  
#3 pending 25 months  
#4 pending 45 months  
#5 pending 67 months

## **Philippines**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months  
#4 pending 12 months  
#5 pending 12 months  
#6 pending 12 months

#7 pending 12 months

## **Poland**

#1 pending 21 months

## **Portugal**

#1 pending 24 months

## **Russia**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months  
#4 pending 12 months  
#5 pending 12 months  
#6 pending 12 months  
#7 pending 12 months  
#8 pending 12 months  
#9 pending 12 months  
#10 pending 12 months  
#11 pending 12 months  
#12 pending 12 months  
#13 pending 12 months  
#14 pending 12 months  
#15 pending 12 months  
#16 pending 12 months  
#17 pending 12 months  
#18 pending 12 months  
#19 pending 12 months  
#20 pending 12 months  
#21 pending 12 months  
#22 pending 12 months

## **Saudi Arabia**

#1 pending 12 months

## **South Africa**

#1 pending 28 months

## **Taiwan**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months

## **Trinidad and Tobago**

#1 pending 25 months

## **Tunisia**

#1 pending 58 months

## **Turkey**

#1 pending 28 months

## **Uganda**

#1 pending 12 months

## **Ukraine**

#1 pending 21 months

## **United Arab Emirates**

#1 pending 12 months  
#2 pending 12 months  
#3 pending 12 months

## **Uruguay**

#1 pending 42 months

# UNRESOLVED ACCESS CASES

**Argentina**  
#1 pending 28 months

**Brazil**  
#1 pending 45 months  
#2 pending 69 months  
#3 pending 81 months  
#4 pending 50 months  
#5 pending 42 months

**Cyprus**  
#1 pending 26 months

**Finland**  
#1 pending 23 months

**Iceland**  
#1 pending 17 months

**Japan**  
#1 pending 33 months

# ABDUCTION CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

## **Anguilla**

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

## **Australia**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

## **Bahamas**

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

## **Belgium**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Czech Republic**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Canada**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Ecuador**

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

## **France**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Germany**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Guatemala**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

#3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Japan**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Korea, Republic of**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#5 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#6 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Mexico**

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

#2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#3 Administrative processing by the FCA

#4 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#5 Administrative processing by the FCA

#6 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#7 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#8 Administrative processing by the FCA

#9 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#10 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Morocco**

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

#2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

## **Spain**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

## **Trinidad and Tobago**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

## **Turkey**

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

#4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Ukraine**

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

#3 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

#4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Venezuela**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

# ACCESS CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

## **Czech Republic**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

## **Finland**

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

## **Japan**

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

# COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN ONE ABDUCTION CASE IN 2016

Afghanistan	No Protocol	Ghana	No Protocol
Albania	No Protocol	Greece	Convention
Argentina	Convention	Guatemala	Convention
Armenia	No Protocol	Haiti	No Protocol
Australia	Convention	Honduras	Convention
Austria	Convention	Hong Kong	Convention
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	Hungary	Convention
Bahrain	No Protocol	Iceland	Convention
Bangladesh	No Protocol	India	No Protocol
Barbados	No Protocol	Indonesia	No Protocol
Belgium	Convention	Iran	No Protocol
Belize	Convention	Iraq	No Protocol
Benin	No Protocol	Ireland	Convention
Bolivia	No Protocol	Israel	Convention
Botswana	No Protocol	Italy	Convention
Brazil	Convention	Jamaica	No Protocol
Bulgaria	Convention	Japan	Convention
Cambodia	No Protocol	Jordan	No Protocol
Cameroon	No Protocol	Kenya	No Protocol
Canada	Convention	Kuwait	No Protocol
Chile	Convention	Lebanon	No Protocol
China	No Protocol	Liberia	No Protocol
Colombia	Convention	Lithuania	Convention
Costa Rica	Convention	Macedonia	Convention
Cote d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Malaysia	No Protocol
Cyprus	Convention	Mexico	Convention
Czech Republic	Convention	Micronesia	No Protocol
Denmark	Convention	Moldova	No Protocol
Dominican Republic	Convention	Morocco	Convention
Ecuador	Convention	Namibia	No Protocol
Egypt	No Protocol	New Zealand	Convention
El Salvador	Convention	Nicaragua	No Protocol
Estonia	Convention	Nigeria	No Protocol
Ethiopia	No Protocol	Norway	Convention
Fiji	No Protocol	Oman	No Protocol
Finland	Convention	Pakistan	No Protocol
France	Convention	Panama	Convention
Gabon	No Protocol	Peru	Convention
Germany	Convention	Philippines	No Protocol

Poland	Convention
Portugal	Convention
Romania	Convention
Russia	No Protocol
Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Senegal	No Protocol
Serbia	Convention
Singapore	Convention
Slovakia	Convention
Slovenia	Convention
South Africa	Convention
South Korea	Convention
South Sudan	No Protocol
Spain	Convention
St. Kitts and Nevis	Convention
Sudan	No Protocol
Sweden	Convention
Switzerland	Convention
Syria	No Protocol
Taiwan	No Protocol
Tanzania	No Protocol
Thailand	Convention
The Bahamas	Convention
The Netherlands	Convention
Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Tunisia	No Protocol
Turkey	Convention
Uganda	No Protocol
Ukraine	Convention
United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
United Kingdom	Convention
Uruguay	Convention
Uzbekistan	No Protocol
Venezuela	Convention
Vietnam	No Protocol
Yemen	No Protocol
Zambia	No Protocol
Zimbabwe	Convention