

**Annual Report on
International Child Abduction
2022**



REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
MAY 2022

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



United States Department of State

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Dear Reader,

The Department of State is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of U.S. citizens overseas, especially our most vulnerable citizens – children. We take seriously our responsibilities to lead U.S. efforts to resolve and prevent cases of international parental child abduction, and to meet our treaty obligations under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Convention). Within the Department, the Office of Children’s Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs serves as the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention. The Office’s dedicated staff works closely with other offices in the Department, our interagency partners, foreign counterparts, and other stakeholders in pursuit of our common goals of preventing and resolving cases of international parental child abduction.

We strongly believe that the Convention, when properly implemented, provides a critical legal mechanism for resolving cases of international parental child abduction. The Convention operates on a straightforward premise: that a child involved in an international parental abduction should generally be returned promptly to his or her country of habitual residence, where a competent authority is best able to decide custody matters. Working with our Embassies and Consulates overseas, we actively engage with foreign governments to encourage them to join the Convention, and then to fulfill their treaty obligations. In 2021, we welcomed the Seychelles as our newest treaty partner, and began ongoing discussions with the Seychelles’ Central Authority about both preventing and resolving international child abductions between our countries. Unfortunately, there are countries that are reluctant to join the Convention and others which, although treaty partners, fail to live up to their commitments for various reasons. While we seek to support and assist these countries in meeting their treaty obligations through technical assistance, training, and information sharing, we also hold them accountable, as evidenced in this report.

The ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic continues to make our efforts especially challenging. Every country included in this report and every family with an abduction or access case experienced to some degree the effects of this pandemic and the measures imposed by countries to prevent its spread. Parents risking their health to travel overseas for court proceedings or access to their children often faced not only health risks but also administrative delays, court closures, cancelled flights, travel restrictions, and quarantine requirements upon arrival. Many countries’ central authorities conducted this important work on behalf of children in a virtual environment for a second year. Court hearings also sometimes took place virtually rather than in-person. Our evaluation of country performance, including our citation of countries for patterns of noncompliance, uses the standards defined in the Sean and David Goldman

International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (the Act), and seeks to separate the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 from that country's performance measures. Despite some progress, during 2021 some countries demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as defined in the Act. This report cites 15 such countries.

We owe it to the children and families involved to strengthen our efforts to resolve and prevent international parental child abduction. I am committed, as are my colleagues in the Office of Children's Issues and embassies and consulates around the world, to encouraging these countries to take more effective measures to resolve cases of international parental child abduction and, in the cases of treaty partners, to live up to their legal obligations. I trust that this report will be a valuable resource for Congress, parents, attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

The Office of Children's Issues also works with interagency partners to prevent abductions before they occur. On a daily basis, country officers inform parents of the [Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program \(CPIAP\)](#), which is one of our strongest tools to prevent IPCA. Additionally, country officers regularly liaise with law enforcement officers and discuss best practices for identifying and responding to IPCA.

When parents report that their children have been abducted or retained outside of the United States ("outgoing abduction cases"), the Office of Children's Issues informs them of potential options and provides resources to help them seek the return of, or access to, their children. In 2021, 105 cases were resolved with the return of 147 abducted children to the United States, and an additional 126 cases were resolved in other ways. During 2021, the Office of Children's Issues was responsible for handling a total of 679 active abduction cases involving 904 children and 95 access cases involving 136 children. Of those 679 cases, 246 were opened in 2021. In addition, the Office of Children's Issues responded to 197 total initial inquiries in which parents sought information and resources regarding abductions, but did not proceed with providing complete documentation.

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

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

in the country where the child is located.

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

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

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

Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues has a dedicated prevention team which responds to inquiries from parents, the legal community, law enforcement, foreign governments, and other stakeholders about how to prevent international parental child abduction. We also assist in preventing third-country abductions transiting through the United States. In 2021, the Office of Children's Issues fielded over 4,800 prevention-related inquiries, a 14 percent increase from 2020.

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) is one of the Department of State's most important tools for preventing international parental child abduction. In 2021, we enrolled over 3,900 children into the CPIAP, an increase of 30 percent from 2020. If a passport application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in the CPIAP, the program allows the Office of Children's Issues to contact the enrolling parent(s) or legal guardians(s) to verify whether the parental consent requirement for issuance of a passport to a minor has been met. Parents can access the enrollment forms through the Department of State's [website](#) or by contacting the Office of Children's Issues.

When alerted to a possible abduction in progress, the Office of Children's Issues liaises with law enforcement officials to seek to prevent a child from departing from the United States if a parent or legal guardian of the child presents an order from a court of competent jurisdiction prohibiting the removal of the child from the United States. In 2021, we helped enroll 261 children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) [Prevent Abduction Program](#), an increase of 31 percent from 2020. More information on this program is available on [CBP's website](#).

Immediate Steps that May Help Prevent an Abduction:

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

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

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

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

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

Cooperation with Law Enforcement

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

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

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Department of State and DHS, the Office of Children’s Issues has placed three prevention officers at CBP’s National Targeting Center as liaisons. This arrangement has enhanced communication, streamlined processing of time-

sensitive cases, expedited responses from both Departments, and expanded the Department of State's relationships with law enforcement entities.

Diplomatic Efforts to Combat International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues engages with both Convention partners and non-partners to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions. The Office of Children's Issues conducts long-term advocacy to improve cooperation with foreign governments on abduction matters by encouraging countries to become a party to the Convention, to provide meaningful assistance in abductions not falling under the Convention, and to strengthen compliance with the Convention where applicable. In 2021, we welcomed the Seychelles as a new treaty partner and began ongoing discussions with the Seychelles' Central Authority about both preventing and resolving international child abductions between our countries.

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

The Office of Children's Issues leverages the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) to further diplomatic engagement with foreign leaders and improve understanding and implementation of the Convention. IVLP participants are emerging leaders who travel through the United States to engage with U.S. counterparts in public and private sector organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Country officers from the Office of Children's Issues with regional expertise in prevention and abduction regularly meet with IVLP participants to provide an overview of the U.S. Central Authority's role in preventing and resolving international parental child abductions. IVLP delegations often include judges and attorneys, government officials, and civil society leaders. In 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Children's Issues was not able to host or engage in-person with IVLP participants. The Office of Children's Issues virtually hosted and engaged with IVLP participants from Moldova and Brazil.

Throughout 2021, senior U.S. government officials continued to engage, both virtually and in-person, with foreign officials around the world to promote the prevention and resolution of international parental child abductions, to encourage countries to become a party to the Convention and to address pending abduction and access cases, including the resolution of pre-Convention abduction cases. They also used these opportunities to raise concerns regarding individual cases with foreign officials.

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

What is the Convention?

The *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention) is an international treaty that establishes a civil mechanism to promptly return

children who have been removed from or retained outside of their country of habitual residence in violation of custodial rights. Parents can also seek access to their children across international borders under the Convention. The Convention is 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 designate a Central Authority, which serves as the main point of contact for parents and other governments involved in IPCA cases. The Central Authority helps to locate abducted children and processes requests for the return of, or access to, these children.

What is the Hague Permanent Bureau?

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

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

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

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

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

Does the Convention apply to all international parental abductions?

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

Convention must have been in force between the two countries when the wrongful removal or retention occurred between Contracting States. The Convention is in force between the United States and 81 Contracting States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Office of Children's Issues also leads the U.S. government response to international parental child abduction to countries that are not Convention partners with the United States. For parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in countries that are not Convention partners with the United States, the Office of Children's Issues can provide information and resources about country-specific options for pursuing the return of or access to an abducted child. The Department may also coordinate with appropriate foreign and U.S. government authorities to monitor the welfare of abducted U.S. citizen children and encourage voluntary resolutions, as appropriate. The Office of Children's Issues or a U.S. embassy can also provide a

[list of attorneys](#) who have expressed their willingness to represent U.S. citizen clients in the country where the child is located.

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

Assistance to U.S. Military Personnel and Their Families

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

The Department of State is engaged with the Department of Defense's Office of Legal Policy and the Service Chiefs of Legal Assistance for all branches of the military on IPCA issues that may impact military service members and their families. The Office of Children's Issues and Department of State attorneys regularly provide training to educate military lawyers and others on measures for preventing and resolving international parental child abductions. For example, in 2021, a team from the Office of Children's Issues provided virtual trainings for judge advocates and staff of legal assistance offices at U.S. military bases in East Asia and the Pacific and Europe, in the continental United States, and Hawaii. Participants joined from U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine bases in Japan, South Korea, Guam, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

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

In 2021, the Office of Children's Issues responded to one initial inquiry from a military parent regarding a possible abduction for which no completed application was submitted to the Department. The Office of Children's Issues also worked on five abduction cases affecting military parents. Of these, one case was resolved and the other four cases remained open at the end of the year. None were unresolved for 12 months or longer.

Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2021, 147 abducted children returned to the United States.

The majority, 118 children, returned from Convention countries, while 29 children returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction, as defined in the Act.

Last year, the Department worked on 126 abduction cases, involving 163 children, that were resolved without the abducted children returning to the United States. These include cases that were closed for the following reasons: (1) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Convention and determined not to return the child under the provisions of the Convention; (2) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement for the child to remain; (3) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; (4) the left-behind parent could not be located by the Office of Children's Issues for more than one year; and (5) the left-behind parent or child passed away.

Of the 126 cases noted above, 92 cases and 118 children involved Convention member countries, and 34 cases and 45 children involved non-Convention countries.

Other Issues Regarding International Parental Child Abduction

Voluntary Agreements

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

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

Domestic Violence Resources Available in IPCA cases

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

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

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

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

In 1996, the U.S. government launched the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24-hour, toll-free service that provides crisis assistance and local shelter referral for callers across the country. The telephone number is (800) 799-SAFE (800) 799-7233). The TTY number for the hearing impaired is (800) 787-3224.

Criminal Laws and Remedies

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

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

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

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

As the U.S. Central Authority, the Office of Children’s Issues helps to educate judges in the United States on the Convention. Judges hearing Convention cases can access important resources including legal analysis and abduction prevention tools and information on our [website](#).

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

Use of Airlines in Abductions

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

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

How to Use This Report

This report provides Congress with information regarding international parental child abduction. To that end, readers may find a data page for every country with one or more open abduction cases during 2021 that were reported to the Office of Children's Issues for a child whose reported habitual residence is the United States. These pages are organized into two sections. The first section consists of countries determined to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance during 2021 as defined by the Act. The second section consists of the remainder of countries with one or more abduction or access cases for a child whose reported habitual residence is the United States. Countries that did not have an open abduction or access case in 2021 are not listed in this report.

Each country data page includes a country summary and a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children's Issues in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, readers will find status reports on the Department's relationship with the foreign central authority, requests for governments to locate children, rulings by foreign judicial authorities, actions taken to enforce judicial orders, and Department recommendations. For those countries where the Department submitted cases to a foreign central authority, an additional table appears under the central authority section with data required by the Act.

This report presents a snapshot of abduction and access cases in a country during calendar year 2021. The volume of cases over this period may not be sufficient to indicate major trends in a particular country. Therefore, the Office of Children's Issues recommends considering the information presented in this report along with the information presented in [previous annual](#)

[reports on IPCA](#) and the other topical annual reports and [country information](#) the Department of State publishes.

During 2021, many abduction and access cases experienced impacts of the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to administrative delays, court closures, travel restrictions, and quarantine requirements. Many foreign central authorities continued working virtually. Our evaluation of country performance, including our citation of countries for patterns of noncompliance, does not rely on the impacts of COVID-19, but rather on that country’s performance measures as defined by the Act.

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

Abduction and access cases are dynamic and require coordinating information among several parties. Each year, the report is based on the information available at the time of publication; for some countries, there may be minor discrepancies in the data between the end of one year and start of another as a result of various factors, such as information obtained after the reporting period. Therefore, some information from the prior year’s report may be amended in this year’s report.

Understanding the Country Pages

Country Summary: This section indicates whether the country is a party to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention), and whether the Convention is in force between the country and the United States. For countries not party to the Convention, if the Office of Children’s Issues has established bilateral procedures with the country, that will also be indicated in the summary. This section will also state if a country is being cited for a “pattern of noncompliance” as defined in the Act. All commentary on this page refers to the country’s performance during calendar year 2021. If appropriate, previous citations will also be included here.

Initial Inquiries: The number of inquiries for which U.S. Central Authority staff provided information and resources, but no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

Table 1: Abduction Cases reported to the U.S. Central Authority	2020 Cases	2020 Children	2021 Cases	2021 Children
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year includes any abduction case reported to the U.S. Central Authority prior to January 1 that had not been resolved or closed by that date. An abduction case is any abduction matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority for which a parent or legal guardian has submitted sufficient documentation to meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.				
New Abduction Cases reflects reported abduction cases received by the U.S. Central Authority from January 1 through December 31, which meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.				

Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year reflects the number of reported abduction cases resolved from January 1 through December 31. A resolved abduction case is defined as any reported abduction that was resolved for one of the following reasons: 1) the child was returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; 5) the left-behind parent could not be located for one year despite documented efforts by the U.S. Central Authority to locate the parent; or 6) the death of the child or left-behind parent.				
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year includes abduction cases closed for reasons other than those listed in the definition of a resolved abduction case. Also includes children who turn age 16 whose case remains open because there is at least one other active sibling.				
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year counts abduction cases still open on December 31.				

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

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

Table 2: Abduction cases conveyed to the country by the U.S. Central Authority	2020 Cases	2020 Children	2021 Cases	2021 Children
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year reflects any abduction case pending with the foreign central authority on January 1.				
New Cases Filed with the FCA reflects abduction cases the U.S. Central Authority transmitted to the foreign central authority from January 1 through December 31.				
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year reflects the total number of abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority at any time during the year.				
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months. In a Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the completed application for return of the child is submitted for determination to the judicial or administrative authority, as applicable, in the country in which the child is located. In a non-Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the request for return of the child was submitted to the foreign				

ministry or other appropriate authority in the country in which the child is located.				
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year is the percent of the abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority or relevant foreign government office that were unresolved on December 31.				

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

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

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

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

Access: This section describes any access cases and the number of children involved in these cases with the country during 2021. In an access case, a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children living in a foreign country through the Convention.

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

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

**COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATING A PATTERN OF
NONCOMPLIANCE**

Argentina

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2021, Argentina continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Argentine judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. The sole abduction case still open at the end of 2021 has been unresolved for 11 years and six months. Argentina was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	3	3	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	1 (50%)	1

Significant Developments: Delays persisted within the Argentine judiciary in 2021, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. The sole abduction case still open at the end of 2021 has been unresolved in the Argentine judiciary for 11 years and six months, the Department’s longest-running open unresolved abduction case in the world. The other abduction case open during 2021 resolved this year, after being unresolved for just under two years, mostly due to delays in the judiciary. Argentina’s legislature failed to enact national procedural legislation designed to address Argentina’s judicial delays in early 2021 after interlocutors reported it lost “parliamentary status,” and officials did not reintroduce a draft bill for the remainder of the year.

Central Authority: The U.S. and Argentine Central Authorities have a productive relationship.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	67%		50%	

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

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

Enforcement: In one case unresolved for almost 12 years, Argentine courts have suspended a return order. Additionally, Argentina's legal system allows multiple appeals both on the merits of the decision and on the manner in which the decisions are enforced, thereby creating excessive delays which contribute to a pattern of noncompliance.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Argentina. This was opened in 2018. This case has been filed with the Argentine Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Argentine authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Austria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Austria since 1988. In 2021, Austria demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention, and law enforcement regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 33 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and three months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	3	3
Total abduction cases	1	1	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (50%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	2 (50%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	3	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed in 2021. It took eight days to locate this child. The competent authorities

of Austria failed to take appropriate and expeditious steps to locate another child after an enforcement order was issued for the return of the child. It took 53 days to locate this child, which led to delays in the enforcement and return of the child.

Judicial Authorities: Judicial authorities rendered decisions that were not consistently in accordance with the Convention and there were delays in judicial authorities deciding on a case. In one case, after multiple appeals, the Austrian Supreme Court ordered a lower court to enforce a return order; however, the lower court instead dismissed the Convention case and made a custody decision. While the lower court's order was eventually overturned, these problems in the performance of judicial authorities contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: While the Supreme Court of Austria ordered the enforcement of a Convention return order in 2021, the lower court and Austrian authorities charged with the enforcement responsibility declined to enforce the order, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. After the Supreme Court overruled the lower court's dismissal of its return order, enforcement actions were initiated in December 2021; the child was returned to the United States in January 2022. There was one case (one hundred percent of the unresolved cases) that was pending for more than 12 months in which the competent authorities and law enforcement failed to enforce a return order.

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

Belize

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belize since 1989. In 2021, Belize demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	1	3
New abduction cases	2	2	1	1
Total abduction cases	5	7	2	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	3	2 (100%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	5	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	2	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	3	1	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		50%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 31 days. As of December 31, 2021, there were no cases where the Belizean authorities remained unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Belizean judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021. As a result of these delays, one case has been pending with the judiciary for over two years, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

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

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

Brazil

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2021, Brazil continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, judicial authorities continued to fail to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. Additionally, the competent authorities continued to fail to take appropriate steps to locate children in an abduction case, contributing to Brazil’s persistent failure to implement and abide by the provisions of the Convention. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006-2021 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Brazil for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	9	14	12	17
New abduction cases	4	5	5	8
Total abduction cases	13	19	17	25
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	8 (47%)	11
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	12	17	9 (53%)	13

Significant Developments: In 2021, Brazil named six new members to the International Hague Network of Judges, expanding from a previous single active Network judge. Additionally, Brazil’s Federal Justice Council published a manual to guide federal judges when hearing Convention cases.

The Department has cited Brazil for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention for 17 consecutive years. However, by the end of 2021, a significant number of abduction cases were resolved, and less than 30 percent of cases remained unresolved for more than 12 months. While these resolutions are encouraging, other cases continue to experience lengthy judicial delays, contributing to Brazil’s persistent failure to implement and abide by the provisions of the Convention. The Department continues to call on Brazil to expedite the resolution of Convention cases.

Central Authority: The U.S. and Brazilian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	9	14	12	17

New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	5	8
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	12	17	17	25
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	9	14	4	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	75%		24%	

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 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: Brazil demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention as a result of failure by the competent authorities to take appropriate steps to locate children in one case after a Convention application was filed. During the reporting period the competent authorities continued to fail to take appropriate steps to locate two children in an abduction case (accounting for 25 percent of the unresolved cases). During this delay, the Convention ceased to apply to one of the children because of the child’s age. The average time to locate a child was 11 months and 13 days.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Brazilian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. Delays at the first instance, the appellate, and the enforcement stages persisted during the reporting year. As a result, the Department remains concerned with the Brazilian judiciary’s repeated failure to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. Moreover, the U.S. Central Authority is concerned by some language that was non-compliant with the Convention in one judicial decision.

Enforcement: While courts in Brazil ordered returns under the Convention, in some cases the Brazilian authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with Brazilian authorities to address issues of concern and will consider actions to encourage better Brazilian compliance with the Convention.

Costa Rica

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Costa Rica since 2008. In 2021, Costa Rica continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Costa Rica was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2011-2016, 2020, and 2021 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Costa Rica for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	5	2	2
New abduction cases	3	3	1	1
Total abduction cases	7	8	3	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	3 (100%)	3

Significant developments: Costa Rica's Supreme Court, with the support of the Department and U.S. Embassy San Jose, successfully hosted a series of virtual seminars on Convention best practices. The seminars brought together Costa Rican Supreme Court judges, Department representatives, as well as legal experts and judges from Costa Rica, Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Canada, and the United States. Presenters offered legal analyses to raise awareness of the Convention and its core governing principles, and shared best practices for implementing Convention protocols. In September 2021, the Department organized an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) for members of Costa Rica's judicial and legal community. The IVLP focused on how Convention issues are approached in the U.S. legal system.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Costa Rican Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	5	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	1	1

Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	8	3	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	2	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	29%		67%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one month to locate a child. As of December 31, 2021, there was one case in which the Costa Rican authorities remained unable to locate one child, representing 50 percent of unresolved cases for 2021.

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

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

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

Ecuador

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2021, Ecuador continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Ecuadorian authorities persistently failed to take all appropriate measures to locate children in a timely manner. As a result of this failure, 14 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and three months. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	4	4
New abduction cases	5	6	4	4
Total abduction cases	7	8	8	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	4	3 (38%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	5 (63%)	5

Significant Developments: On July 28, 2021, the National Court of Justice passed a resolution requiring Ecuador’s courts to use a summary process for Convention cases. This is Ecuador’s first concrete action to improve Convention compliance since 2015. Shortly after the passage of the resolution, the Department received the first court-ordered return from Ecuador since 2018. Additionally, throughout 2021, the National Assembly Special Commission on Children’s Issues led a review of Ecuador’s Children’s Code. These Children’s Code reforms presented an opportunity for Ecuador to legislatively implement its obligations under the Convention; however, the legislation remains stalled in the National Assembly.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	4	4
New cases filed with the FCA	4	4	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	6	7	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	17%		14%	

Location: The competent authorities of Ecuador failed to take appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed, which contributed to a pattern of

noncompliance. The average time to locate a child was 9 months and 3 days. As of December 31, 2021, there is one case in which the Ecuadorian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child (accounting for 100% of the unresolved cases).

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Ecuadorian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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

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

Egypt

Country Summary: Egypt does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2003, the United States and Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. In 2021, Egypt continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Egypt persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 85 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years. Egypt was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Egypt for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	14	25	13	22
New abduction cases	3	3	3	6
Total abduction cases	17	28	16	28
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	6	2 (13%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	13	22	14 (87%)	25

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Egypt worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	8	13	13	22
New cases filed with the FCA	9	15	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	17	28	13	22
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	4	7	11	19
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	24%		85%	

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

authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Egyptian law and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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 encourage Egypt to ratify the Convention and create the legal infrastructure needed for effective implementation of the Convention.

Honduras

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. In 2021, Honduras demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Honduran Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention. Additionally, Honduran law enforcement regularly failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial authority in an abduction case. As a result of this failure, 20 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. The sole case affected was unresolved for over one year. Honduras was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of non-compliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Honduras for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New abduction cases	2	2	3	7
Total abduction cases	3	3	6	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (33%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	4 (67%)	8

Central Authority: There have been delays in the processing of cases by the Honduran Central Authority, which contributed to a pattern of non-compliance. In the majority of cases pending in 2021, the Honduran Central Authority failed to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the institution of judicial proceedings in a timely manner, which resulted in significant delays.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	2	6
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	5	9
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		20%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 42 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Honduran judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

Enforcement: Judicial decisions in Convention cases in Honduras were generally not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. One case (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) has been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement failed to enforce a return order.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Honduras. This case was opened in 2019 and has been filed with the Honduran Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, this case had been resolved.

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

India

Country Summary: India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2021, India continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in India persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 61 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and five months. The Mediation Cell was established in 2018 by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights with the objective of mediating custody disputes. However, the Mediation Cell has yet to resolve any abduction cases between the United States and India. India was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to India for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	89	103	81	91
New abduction cases	10	10	21	29
Total abduction cases	99	113	102	120
Abduction cases resolved during the year	15	17	15 (15%)	15
Abduction cases closed during the year	3	5	0 (0%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	81	91	87 (85%)	103

Significant Developments: The Government of India formally refused the proposal for a U.S.-India Joint Committee on IPCA in June 2021. In subsequent months, senior Department officials continued to underscore to Indian counterparts that the status quo on IPCA is unacceptable. In December 2021, following the U.S.-India Consular Dialogue and at the request of the Indian government, the Department presented an additional proposal to create a bilateral dialogue on IPCA. As of December 31, 2021, the Department had not yet received a response.

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in India regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	82	94	74	84
New cases filed with the FCA	8	10	27	35
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	90	104	101	119
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	66	74	62	70
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	73%		61%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Indian law, and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts. Some left-behind parents reported difficulty with serving taking parents in India which caused delays in court proceedings. Additionally, judicial action in custody cases in India has been slow. The Indian government's Mediation Cell, which was set up to resolve international custody disputes, has proved ineffective as the Department is not aware of the Mediation Cell resolving any abduction cases between the United States and India since its inception in 2018.

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

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

Jordan

Country Summary: Jordan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2006, the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate parental access to abducted children. In 2021, Jordan continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Jordan persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and 11 months. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jordan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	6	9	5	7
New abduction cases	1	2	2	3
Total abduction cases	7	11	7	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	4	2 (29%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	7	5 (71%)	7

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Jordan worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In 2018, the Government of Jordan began offering mediation services to parents involved in international parental child abductions through the Family Mediation Directorate. In 2021, the Government of Jordan reformed and expanded the mediation service to offer accessible services for parents abroad. However, the United States is not aware of any cases filed by a parent with the Family Mediation Directorate and is not aware of any abduction cases that were resolved through this service.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	8	4	5
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	9	6	8
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	3	4	4	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, three abduction matters were resolved through voluntary means with the assistance of Jordanian officials.

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Jordanian law and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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

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

Korea, Republic of

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea since 2013. In 2021, the Republic of Korea demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Korean law enforcement authorities regularly failed to enforce return orders in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and seven months.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Republic of Korea for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	5	7
New abduction cases	3	5	1	1
Total abduction cases	7	9	6	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	3 (50%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	7	3 (50%)	5

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Republic of Korea Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	4	5	7
New cases filed with the FCA	2	4	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	8	6	8
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	3	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the Republic of Korea routinely ordered the return of children in Convention cases; however, cases were generally pending with the Korean judiciary authorities for over one year. Additionally, while courts in the Republic of Korea ordered the return of children in Convention cases, the need for multiple enforcement proceedings resulted in delays.

Enforcement: While courts in the Republic of Korea ordered the return of children under the Convention, decisions for return were generally not enforced, including one case that was pending for more than two years as of December 31, 2021. There was one case (accounting for 33 percent of the unresolved cases) that has been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement has failed to enforce a return order. Additionally, left-behind parents can spend months in legal proceedings seeking to enforce the return order resulting in delays to return. Unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a return order under the Convention, judicial decisions in Convention cases were not enforced in 2021, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

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

Peru

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2021, Peru continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention, and judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 75 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 over three years. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2021 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Peru for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	9	13	10	14
New abduction cases	2	2	3	3
Total abduction cases	11	15	13	17
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	3 (23%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	10	14	10 (77%)	12

Significant Developments: In 2021, there was significant turnover in leadership positions in Peru this year, including two new ministers for the Central Authority and a new president for the judiciary. Peru also named a new Hague Network Judge.

Central Authority: The Peruvian Central Authority's delay in processing cases, and their lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority, contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In addition, they also refused to participate in safe return planning related to the voluntary return of children to the United States.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	9	13	10	14
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	11	15	12	16
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	9	13	9	12
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	82%		75%	

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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

Enforcement: While a court in Peru ordered a return under the Convention, Peruvian authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Peru. This case was opened in 2021. This case was filed with the Peruvian Central Authority in 2021. By December 31, 2021, one case involving one child remained open. No cases have been pending with the Peruvian authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Romania

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. In 2021, Romania continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance.

Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention, and law enforcement continued to fail to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial authority in an abduction case. 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. The case has been unresolved for three years and one month. Romania was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017, 2020, and 2021 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	3	1	3
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	3	1	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	3	1 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The U.S. and Romanian Central Authorities have a productive relationship.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	3	1	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	3	1	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Romanian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

Enforcement: In one case, the taking parent did not voluntarily comply with a return order issued pursuant to the Convention, and the judicial decision has not been enforced by law enforcement, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. This case (accounting for 100% of unresolved cases) has been pending for three years and two months.

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

Trinidad and Tobago

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago since 2013. In 2021, Trinidad and Tobago continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Trinbagonian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 14 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and 11 months. Trinidad and Tobago was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2021 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Trinidad and Tobago for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	6	6	10
New abduction cases	4	6	4	7
Total abduction cases	7	12	10	17
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	7 (70%)	13
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	6	10	3 (30%)	4

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. Previously noted delays in case processing were effectively addressed by the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority, resulting in the successful resolution of a long-standing case.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	6	6	10
New cases filed with the FCA	4	6	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	12	7	11
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	2	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	14%		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 2021, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 30 days.

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

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

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2021, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Trinidad and Tobago.

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

United Arab Emirates

Country Summary: The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2021, the United Arab Emirates continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for four years and five months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	3	3
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	3	3	4	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	4 (100%)	5

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	3	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		67%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Emirati judiciary in 2021.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order

relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Emirati authorities.

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

COUNTRIES WITH ONE OR MORE ABDUCTION CASES

Albania

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Albania for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	2 (100%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 new abduction cases brought before the Albanian judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Algeria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		100%	

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

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

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

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

Armenia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Armenia since 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Armenian Central Authority have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Armenian judiciary in 2021.

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 and the Armenian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.

Australia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Australia for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	4	5
New abduction cases	8	11	1	2
Total abduction cases	8	11	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	6	3 (60%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	5	2 (40%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	4	5
New cases filed with the FCA	8	11	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	8	11	5	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving four children under the Convention in Australia. Both cases have been filed with the Australian

Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, one case involving one child (50 percent) has been resolved as a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2021, one case involving three children remained open. No cases have been pending with the Australian authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Azerbaijan

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Azerbaijan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	0	0
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Azerbaijani law and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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

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

Bangladesh

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	1	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Bangladesh worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Bangladeshi law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bangladeshi judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Belarus

Country Summary: While Belarus became a party to the Convention in 1998, the Convention is not in force between Belarus and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Belarus have had discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Belarusian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Belarusian judiciary in 2021.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Belarusian government officials as appropriate regarding potential partnership.

Belgium

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (100%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Belgium, and received one initial inquiry on access involving one child.

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

Bolivia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	5	3	4
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	4	5	4	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	4 (100%)	4

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Bolivia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Bolivian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bolivian judiciary in 2021.

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 engage with Bolivian government officials regarding potential partnership.

Bulgaria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Bulgaria since 2005.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	4	4
New abduction cases	3	3	2	3
Total abduction cases	5	6	6	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	3 (50%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	3 (50%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	4	4
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	6	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		17%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Bulgarian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

Enforcement: While a court in Bulgaria ordered a return under the Convention, the Bulgarian authorities faced challenges with enforcement. Decisions in Bulgaria must be enforced by private bailiffs. This case (accounting for 100% of unresolved cases) has been pending for 16 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Bulgarian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention. The Department will engage with Bulgarian officials over concerns about enforcement of orders.

Cambodia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cambodian judiciary in 2021.

Enforcement: The United State 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.

Canada

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Canada for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	11	15	11	15
New abduction cases	19	25	13	19
Total abduction cases	30	40	24	34
Abduction cases resolved during the year	19	25	15 (65%)	22
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (4%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	11	15	8 (30%)	10

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	11	15	11	15
New cases filed with the FCA	17	22	12	18
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	28	37	23	33
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	2	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	4%		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 2021, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took 11 days to locate a child. As of December 31, 2021, there were no open cases in which the authorities remained unable to initially locate a child.

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

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order

relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Canadian authorities.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of ten open access cases involving 13 children under the Convention in Canada. One case involving two children was filed in 2019 and one case involving two children was filed in 2020. By December 31, 2021, seven of the ten cases (70 percent) involving 10 children had been resolved. By December 31, 2021, three (30 percent) involving 3 children remained open. One case has been pending with the Canadian Central Authority for more than 12 months.

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

Chile

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Chile since 1994.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	3
New abduction cases	1	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	3	1	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Chilean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	3	1	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to 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 Chile reached a timely decision.

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

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

China, People’s Republic of

Country Summary: The People’s Republic of China (PRC) does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The PRC was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	7	9	11	13
New abduction cases	4	4	3	4
Total abduction cases	11	13	14	17
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (14%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (7%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	11	13	11 (79%)	13

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2021, however, previously filed cases remained unresolved with the competent authorities during the year.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	5	10	12
New cases filed with the FCA	6	7	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	10	12	10	12
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	4	5	9	11
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	40%		90%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the PRC judicial authorities resolved abduction cases 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 PRC authorities.

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

Colombia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Colombia since 1996.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Colombia for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	8	10	3	4
New abduction cases	2	2	1	1
Total abduction cases	10	12	4	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	7	8	4 (100%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	0 (0%)	0

Significant Developments: For the first time since 2015, a child who was abducted to Colombia returned to the United States pursuant to a court order.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	8	10	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	9	11	4	5
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	3	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	22%		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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

Enforcement: While a court in Colombia ordered a return to the United States, the Colombian authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving four children under the Convention in Colombia. All of these cases were opened in 2021. A total of three cases involving four children have been filed with the Colombian Central Authority. By December 31, 2021, all of these three cases remained open.

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

Côte d'Ivoire

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	1	2
New abduction cases	0	0	3	5
Total abduction cases	1	2	4	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (50%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	2	2 (50%)	4

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Côte d'Ivoire have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ivorian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	2	2	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Ivorian judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Croatia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (50%)	2

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Croatian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Croatian judiciary in 2021.

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 Croatian authorities.

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

Cyprus

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Cypriot Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Cypriot judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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

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

Denmark

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Danish judiciary in 2021.

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 Danish authorities.

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	1	2
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	2	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	2	2 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Congolese judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Dominican Republic

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Dominican Republic for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New abduction cases	6	8	3	3
Total abduction cases	8	10	5	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	6	8	4 (80%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	1 (20%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	3	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	5	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	20%		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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 15 days.

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

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in the Dominican Republic were generally

enforced in a timely manner.

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

El Salvador

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to El Salvador where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	2	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	2 (100%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 16 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Salvadoran judiciary in 2021.

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 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in El Salvador. This case involving one child was filed with the Salvadoran Central Authority in 2020. By December 31, 2021, this case involving one child (100 percent) was resolved.

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

France

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to France for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	3	5
New abduction cases	5	8	4	6
Total abduction cases	5	8	7	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	3 (43%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	4 (57%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	3	5
New cases filed with the FCA	3	5	4	6
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	5	7	11
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving two children under the Convention in France. Both cases were opened in 2021 and were filed with the French Central Authority in 2021. By December 31, 2021, no cases were resolved, but

one case was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2021, one case remained open. No cases have been pending with the French authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Gabon

Country Summary: While Gabon became a party to the Convention in 2010, the Convention is not in force between Gabon and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, 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 2021.

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 engage with Gabonese government officials regarding potential partnership.

The Gambia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to The Gambia for which no additional assistance was requested, or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Gambian judiciary in 2021.

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 Gambian authorities.

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

Germany

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Germany for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	7	3	5
New abduction cases	7	10	5	8
Total abduction cases	11	17	8	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	8	12	5(63%)	9
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	3 (38%)	4

Central Authority: The U.S. and the German Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	6	3	5
New cases filed with the FCA	5	8	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	8	14	5	8
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	2	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	13%		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 2021, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application for return was ordered in one case. As of December 31, 2021, there was one case in which the German authorities remained unable to locate two children.

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

Enforcement: While a court in Germany ordered a return under the Convention, the German authorities faced challenges with enforcement. There was one case (accounting for 100 percent

of the unresolved cases) that has been pending for more than 17 months in which law enforcement has not located the abducted child after a return order was issued and failed to enforce a return order.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving four children under the Convention in Germany. Of these, one case involving one child was opened in 2021. No new cases were filed in 2021. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2021, all of these cases involving four children were closed for other reasons.

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.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	10	4	8
New abduction cases	0	0	3	5
Total abduction cases	5	10	7	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	2 (29%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (14%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	8	4 (57%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	4	8
New cases filed with the FCA	3	7	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	8	6	11
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		17%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the Ghanaian judicial authorities resolved one abduction case 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 Ghanaian authorities.

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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Greece for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	3	4
New abduction cases	1	2	3	7
Total abduction cases	3	4	6	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (33%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (17%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	3 (50%)	5

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	2	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	4	5	8
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Greek judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Greek Central Authority will



continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.

Guatemala

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Guatemala since 2008. While the Department is not citing Guatemala for demonstrating patterns of noncompliance in 2021, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process. Guatemala was cited consecutively from 2012 to 2017.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Guatemala for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	2	3
New abduction cases	4	8	1	3
Total abduction cases	5	9	3	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	6	3 (100%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	4	8	2	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	9	3	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		33%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Guatemalan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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

authorities.

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

Iceland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Iceland since 1996.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Iceland for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Icelandic Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Icelandic judiciary in 2021.

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 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving three children under the Convention in Iceland. Both of these cases were opened in 2021. Both cases have been filed with the Icelandic Central Authority. By December 31, 2021, both of these cases remained open.

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.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	8	9	8	8
New abduction cases	3	4	0	0
Total abduction cases	11	13	8	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	4	3 (38%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	8	8	5 (63%)	5

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	6	5	5
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	6	5	5
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	5	5	3	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	83%		60%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department 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 2021.

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

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

Iran

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	6	8	4	6
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	8	11	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	2	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	6	4 (100%)	6

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

Iraq

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Iraq for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	5	2	3
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	4	5	3	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	1 (33%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	2 (67%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2021, the United States did not inform the Iraqi government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Ireland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	3	3	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	2 (100%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		0%	

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

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Ireland. This case was opened in 2019. This case has been filed with the Irish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, this case remained open.

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

Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Israel since 1991. Statistics below are for Israel. See separate notes for the West Bank and Gaza.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	3	5
New abduction cases	4	6	1	3
Total abduction cases	5	7	4	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	3 (75%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	1 (25%)	3

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Israel Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	3	5
New cases filed with the FCA	4	6	1	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	7	4	8
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

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

West Bank: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in the West Bank. While the U.S. Embassy is able to provide limited consular services to U.S. citizens in the West Bank, including those related to international parental child

abduction, fluctuating security conditions can make this difficult. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to the West Bank. In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, one was initially opened with the U.S. Central Authority in 2021. As of December 31, 2021, one case was resolved. By December 31, 2021, four cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Gaza: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in Gaza. The U.S. Embassy is unable to provide consular services to U.S. citizens in Gaza, including services related to international parental child abduction, given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Gaza. In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open abduction case in Gaza. As of December 31, 2021, one case remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Italy

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Italy for which no completed application were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	3	3
New abduction cases	1	1	1	3
Total abduction cases	5	5	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	3 (75%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	1 (25%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	4	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	5	4	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	20%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 20 days.

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

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

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

Jamaica

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Jamaica since April 1, 2019.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jamaica for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New abduction cases	4	4	11	13
Total abduction cases	5	5	11	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	5	5	8 (73%)	10
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	3 (27%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	4	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	4	5
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, seven abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Jamaican judiciary in 2021.

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.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases involving five children under the Convention in Jamaica. All of these cases were opened in 2021. A total of one case involving one child has been filed with the Jamaican Central Authority. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2021, three cases involving three children were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2021, two cases involving two children remained open. No cases have been pending with the Jamaican authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Japan

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Japan since 2014. Japan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2016 and 2018 Annual Reports .

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Japan for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	9	6	10
New abduction cases	7	9	9	11
Total abduction cases	12	18	15	21
Abduction cases resolved during the year	6	8	4 (27%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	6	10	11 (73%)	16

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Japanese Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	9	6	10
New cases filed with the FCA	6	8	9	11
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	11	17	15	21
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 18 open access cases involving 28 children under the Convention in Japan. Of these, one case involving one child was opened in 2021. A total of 13 cases involving 21 children have been filed with the Japanese Central Authority. One case was filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, six cases involving eight children (33 percent) have been resolved and four cases have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, two cases involving two children have been resolved by a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2021, eight cases involving 13 children remained open. No cases have been pending with the Japanese authorities for more than 12 months.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2021, seven pre-Convention abduction cases involving 10 children remained open in Japan. In 2021, two pre-Convention cases involving three children were resolved.

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

Kenya

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Kenya for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	4	4
New abduction cases	3	4	1	2
Total abduction cases	6	7	5	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	5 (100%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	4	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	3	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		60%	

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 2021.

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 encourage Kenya to accede to the Convention.

Kuwait

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. The Department of State requested location assistance but the Kuwaiti authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Kuwaiti judiciary in 2021.

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 encourage Kuwait to accede to the Convention.

Latvia

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

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Latvian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Latvian judiciary in 2021.

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 Latvian authorities.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving three children under the Convention in Latvia. This case was opened in 2020. No new cases were filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, this case involving three children (100 percent) had been resolved. No cases have been pending with the Latvian authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Lebanon

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Lebanon for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	10	11	10	11
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	12	13	10	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	3 (30%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	10	11	7 (70%)	8

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	7	10	11
New cases filed with the FCA	4	4	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	10	11	10	11
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	6	7	7	8
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	60%		70%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Libya

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	2	3
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2021, the United States did not inform the Libyan government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Libyan judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Malaysia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Malaysia worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Malaysian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State requested location assistance in one case in 2021. Although the Malaysian authorities were cooperative and made efforts to assist, they have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Malaysian judiciary in 2021.

Enforcement: The United State 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.

Mexico

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received 24 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Mexico where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	48	61	67	90
New abduction cases	52	83	62	90
Total abduction cases	100	144	129	180
Abduction cases resolved during the year	32	52	58 (45%)	82
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	3 (2%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	67	90	68 (53%)	95

Significant Developments: In 2021, the U.S., Mexican, and Californian authorities had meetings to work toward the development of a pilot mediation program for access cases.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	48	61	67	90
New cases filed with the FCA	36	55	45	66
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	84	116	112	156
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	23	30	16	25
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	27%		15%	

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 2021, 37 abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 137 days. The median time to locate a child was 36 days. As of December 31, 2021, there were 27 cases

in which the Mexican authorities remained unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Mexico routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Mexican judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2021. 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.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 12 open access cases involving 20 children under the Convention in Mexico. Of these, five cases involving 11 children were opened in 2021. A total of eight cases involving 11 children have been filed with the Mexican Central Authority. Three of these cases involving five children were filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, one case involving one child (eight percent) has been resolved and two cases involving four children have been closed for other reasons. The one resolved case involving one child was by a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2021, nine cases involving 15 children remained open. Five of these cases involving six children have been pending with the Mexican authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Montenegro

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Montenegro since 2006.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Montenegrin judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Montenegrin Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention and will work to address areas of concern.

Morocco

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Morocco since 2012. Morocco was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report. While the Department did not cite Morocco for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2021, the Department is concerned about the lack of a timely response from the Moroccan Central Authority to the requests of the U.S. Central Authority.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	1	4	3	3
Total abduction cases	2	5	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	4	2 (50%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	2 (50%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	4	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		25%	

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 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The Department of State requested location assistance but the Moroccan authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Moroccan judiciary in 2021.

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had two open access cases under the Convention in Morocco. Of these, one case involving one child was opened in 2021. This case has been filed with the Moroccan Central Authority. By December 31, 2021, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Moroccan authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Nepal

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

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

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nepalese judiciary in 2021.

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 Nepalese authorities.

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

Netherlands

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible access case in the Netherlands for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	1	2
New abduction cases	1	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	3	6	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	4	1 (100%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	4	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	6	1	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: 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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Dutch judiciary in 2021.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order

relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Dutch authorities.

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

Nicaragua

Country Summary: While Nicaragua became a party to the Convention in 2000, the Convention is not in force between Nicaragua and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Nicaragua periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nicaraguan judiciary in 2021.

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 continue to engage with the Nicaraguan government officials regarding potential partnership.

Nigeria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	8	1	4
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	4	9	2	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	1 (50%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	4	1 (50%)	2

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in Nigeria periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	4	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	4	1	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is aware of one abduction case brought before the Nigerian judiciary in 2021. While some abduction cases are resolved by the Nigerian courts, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Nigerian law makes it difficult for Nigeria to resolve 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 Nigerian authorities.

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

North Macedonia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of North Macedonia since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and North Macedonian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: 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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by North Macedonian judiciary in 2021.

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 North Macedonian authorities.

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

Norway

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Norway for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	0 (%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Norwegian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Norwegian judiciary in 2021.

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Norway. This case was opened in 2021. This case was filed with the

Norwegian Central Authority. By December 31, 2021, this case remained open.

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

Pakistan

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Pakistan since 2020. The Department continues to work with Pakistan to resolve the nine pre-Convention abduction cases that remained open at the end of the year.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Pakistan for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	3	6
Total abduction cases	0	0	3	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (67%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (33%)	1

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Pakistani Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The Department of State requested location assistance but the Pakistani authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Pakistani judiciary in 2021.

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

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2021, nine pre-Convention abduction cases involving 12 children remained open in Pakistan. In 2021, zero pre-Convention cases were resolved. In 2021, six pre-Convention cases involving seven children were closed for other reasons.

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

Paraguay

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

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Paraguay Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Paraguayan judiciary in 2021.

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Paraguay.

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

Philippines

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Philippines for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	11	14	12	16
New abduction cases	4	7	3	4
Total abduction cases	15	21	15	20
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	5 (33%)	6
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	12	16	10 (67%)	13

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in the Philippines worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Philippine law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	7	9	6	7
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	9	6	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	6	7	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	86%		33%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Philippine judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Poland

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Poland for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	1	3
New abduction cases	1	3	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	2	2	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	1 (50%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	3	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Polish Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	2	0	0
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Polish judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2021.

Enforcement: While a court in Poland ordered a return under the Convention, the Polish authorities faced challenges with enforcement. This one case (accounting for 100% of the

unresolved cases) has been pending for 13 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 Convention has been in force between the United States and Portugal since 1988.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Portuguese Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 20 days to locate this child.

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

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

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

Qatar

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Qatari judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Russia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Russia for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	8	10	14	18
New abduction cases	8	11	6	6
Total abduction cases	16	21	20	24
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	7 (35%)	10
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	14	18	13 (65%)	14

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: While one abduction case was resolved by the Russian courts, the lack of clear legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Russian law makes it difficult for parents to resolve these cases.

Enforcement: In the one abduction case that was resolved by the Russian courts, the decision was enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: Partnership with Russia is not under consideration at this time.

Saudi Arabia

Country Summary: Saudi Arabia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. Saudi Arabia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	3	4
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	4	6	4	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	1 (25%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	3 (75%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		100%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. As of December 31, 2021, there is one case where the Saudi authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Saudi judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Senegal

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Senegal for which no additional assistance was requested, or necessary documentation was not received, as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	2	4
New abduction cases	0	0	2	2
Total abduction cases	3	5	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	1 (25%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (25%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	2 (50%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	2	4
New cases filed with the FCA	3	5	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	5	4	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		25%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one 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 2021.

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

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

Serbia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Serbia for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Serbian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Serbian judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2021.

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

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

Singapore

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Singapore since 2012.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Singaporean judiciary in 2021.

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Singapore. This case was opened in 2018 and has been resolved by a voluntary agreement between the parents.

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

Slovenia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Slovenian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 15 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: A case was brought before the Slovenian judiciary in 2021. A judicial decision was not made on this case because it was resolved through voluntary means.

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 Slovenian authorities.

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

Somalia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Somalia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2021, the United States did not inform the Somali government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Somali judiciary in 2021.

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

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

South Africa

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and South Africa since 1997.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to South Africa for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	6	9
Total abduction cases	1	1	7	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (29%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	5 (71%)	8

Central Authority: The U.S. and the South African Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	6	9
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	7	10
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 91 days. As of December 31, 2021, there were two cases in which the South African authorities were unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Judicial authorities rendered decisions that were not consistently in accordance with the Convention and there were delays in judicial authorities deciding cases.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in South Africa were generally enforced in a

timely manner.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention involving one child in South Africa. This case was opened in 2020. This case has been filed with the South African Central Authority. By December 31, 2021, this case involving one child remained open. This case has been pending with the South African authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Spain

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and since 1988. While the Department did not cite Spain for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2021, the Department is concerned that the Spanish Central Authority's rejection of an application for return from the U.S. Central Authority was not consistent with Article 27 of the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Spain for which no completed application was submitted to the Department. The Department received another initial inquiry about a possible abduction that did not meet the requirements for an abduction case.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	2	3
New abduction cases	1	1	3	4
Total abduction cases	2	3	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1(20%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	4 (80%)	5

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Spanish Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern. Spain attributes these delays to staffing constraints on their end.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	3	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	5	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

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

St. Kitts and Nevis

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the St. Kitts and Nevis Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the St. Kitts and Nevis judiciary in 2021.

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 St. Kitts and Nevis authorities.

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

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Country Summary: St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for which no additional assistance was requested nor necessary documentation was received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: In 2021, the competent authorities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under St. Vincent and the Grenadines law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the St. Vincent and the Grenadines judiciary in 2021.

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 St. Vincent and the Grenadines authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage St. Vincent and the Grenadines to accede to the Convention.

Sudan

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	1	3
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	5	8	1	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	5	1 (100%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	3	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	3	1	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, one case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Sudanese judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Sweden

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Sweden for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	1	1
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	5	6	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Swedish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	4	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	5	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Swedish judiciary in 2021.

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 Swedish authorities.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Sweden. This case was opened in 2021. This case has been filed with

the Swedish Central Authority. This case was filed in 2021. By December 31, 2021, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Swedish authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Switzerland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	2	2
Total abduction cases	0	0	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Swiss Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving two children under the Convention in Switzerland. Both of these cases were opened in 2021. Both cases have been filed with the Swiss Central Authority. Both cases were filed in 2021. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2021, one case involving one child was closed for other reasons. No cases have been pending with the Swiss authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Syria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	3	4
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	3	4	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (33%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	2 (67%)	2

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2021, the United States did not inform the Syrian government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Syrian judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Taiwan

Country Summary: Due to its unique status, Taiwan cannot become a party to the Convention. Therefore, the remedies available under the Convention are not available with respect to Taiwan. The American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States cooperate to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and to facilitate consular access to abducted children under a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	5	5	6
New abduction cases	1	1	4	6
Total abduction cases	5	6	9	12
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (22%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (11%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	6	6 (67%)	9

Central Authority: The American Institute in Taiwan and the competent authorities in Taiwan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Taiwan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	5	6
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	3	3	4
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	40%		60%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2021, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The American Institute in Taiwan 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 2021.

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

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

Tanzania

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Tanzania for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

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

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 2021.

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 encourage Tanzania to accede to the Convention.

Thailand

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Thailand since 2016.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Thailand for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	3	3
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	4	3	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	2 (67%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	1 (33%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took six months and six days to locate this child. The Thai authorities were unable to locate the child, and the location was completed through private means.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the

Thai judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Tonga

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Tonga have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Tongan law. International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Tonga. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2021, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Tongan judiciary in 2021.

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 Tongan authorities.

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

Tunisia

Country Summary: While Tunisia became a party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Tunisia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	2	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Tunisia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2021, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The Department of State is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Tunisian judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Turkey

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Turkey since 2000. While the Department did not cite Turkey for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2021, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Turkey for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	7	4	6
New abduction cases	2	2	1	1
Total abduction cases	7	9	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	3	3	1 (20%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	6	3 (60%)	3

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Turkish Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	7	4	6
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	9	5	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	3	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	14%		20%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 30 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Turkish judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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 Turkish authorities.

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

Uganda

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Uganda for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2021.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	2	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	3	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	3 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		50%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ugandan judiciary in 2021.

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 encourage Uganda to accede to the Convention.

Ukraine

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ukraine for which no completed application was submitted to the Department by the end of the year.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	2	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	3	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	3 (100%)	3

Significant Developments: On March 15, 2022, the Ukrainian government notified The Hague pursuant to Article 45 of the Convention that Ukraine might not be able to meet its obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention due to the ongoing Russian invasion.

Central Authority: The U.S. and Ukrainian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	3	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		33%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by Ukrainian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2021.

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 Ukrainian authorities.

Department Recommendations: To the extent possible, given the ongoing Russian invasion, the Department and the Ukrainian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention .

United Kingdom

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the United Kingdom since 1988. The statistics below include cases in the British Overseas Territories. There were no new cases for any of the British Overseas Territories in 2021.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Kingdom for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	7	5	5
New abduction cases	12	17	9	11
Total abduction cases	17	24	14	16
Abduction cases resolved during the year	13	20	8 (57%)	10
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (7%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	5 (36%)	5

Central Authority: The U.S. and the U.K. Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	7	5	5
New cases filed with the FCA	8	11	9	11
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	13	18	14	16
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	8%		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 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 65 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the U.K. routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in the U.K. were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 20 open access cases involving 29 children under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Of these, eight cases involving twelve children were opened in 2021. A total of six cases involving ten children has been filed with the U.K. Central Authority. By December 31, 2021, eight cases involving ten children (40 percent) have been resolved and four cases have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, two cases involving two children were a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2021, eight cases involving fourteen children remained open. Three cases involving five children have been pending with the U.K. authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Uzbekistan

Country Summary: While Uzbekistan became a party to the Convention in 1999, the Convention is not in force between Uzbekistan and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	2	3
New abduction cases	1	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	1 (50%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	2	1	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Uzbekistani judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Venezuela

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Venezuela since 1997. On March 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of State announced the withdrawal of diplomatic personnel from the U.S. Embassy Caracas. All consular services, routine and emergency, were suspended until further notice at that time. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Venezuela.

Initial Inquiries: In 2021, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Venezuela. The inquiry was resolved by a voluntary return before a Convention application was sent to the Foreign Central Authority.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	2	3
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Central Authority in Venezuela have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2021, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Central Authority regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 45 days.

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

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

Access: In 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Venezuela. This case was opened in 2018. This case was filed with the Central Authority in Venezuela in 2018 and as of December 31, 2021, this case remained open. This case has been pending with Venezuela for more than 12 months.

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

Vietnam

Country Summary: Vietnam does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abductions.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	5	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

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

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Vietnamese judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Yemen

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	2	4
New abduction cases	1	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	4	2	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	2 (100%)	4

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2021, the United States did not inform the Yemeni government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Yemeni judiciary in 2021.

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

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

Zambia

Country Summary: While Zambia became a party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Zambia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	2 (100%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	0	0	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

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 2021.

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.

Zimbabwe

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

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Zimbabwean Central Authority have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Zimbabwean judiciary in 2021.

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 2021, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case, opened in 2021, involving two children under the Convention. The U.S. Central Authority filed this case with the Zimbabwean Central Authority in 2021. By December 31, 2021, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Zimbabwean authorities for more than 12 months.

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

APPENDICES

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.

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Informative Links

American Bar Association	www.americanbar.org/
Department of Justice	www.justice.gov/ovw
Office of Violence Against Women	www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac
Federal Bureau of Investigation	www.fbi.gov/contact-us
Hague Conference Permanent Bureau Child Abduction Section	www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction
International Social Service (ISS-USA)	www.iss-usa.org/
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	www.missingkids.com/
The Office of the Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families	www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction
Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)	www.ovc.gov/
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Resources for Families	www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/domviolence/resources
U.S. Department of State Office of Children’s Issues	www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/en.html

2021 IPCA Cases by U.S. State

Alabama		Sweden	1	Greece	1
Germany	1	Taiwan	2	Guatemala	1
Mexico	1	Tanzania	1	Honduras	1
Qatar	1	Thailand	1	India	1
		Tonga	1	Italy	1
Alaska		Turkey	1	Jamaica	4
Canada	1	Ukraine	2	Japan	2
		United Kingdom	2	Lebanon	1
Arizona		Yemen	1	Mexico	3
India	3	Colorado		Norway	1
Indonesia	1	Argentina	1	Peru	2
Kuwait	1	Austria	1	Philippines	3
Mexico	4	Colombia	1	Russia	3
Peru	1	France	1	Serbia	1
United Kingdom	1	India	1	Spain	2
		Korea, Republic of	1	Switzerland	1
Arkansas		Mexico	5	Syria	2
India	1	Philippines	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1
Mexico	1	Taiwan	1	Tunisia	1
Montenegro	1	Connecticut		West Bank	2
		Albania	1	Georgia	
California		Canada	1	Canada	2
Armenia	1	China	1	China	1
Australia	5	China	1	Costa Rica	1
Austria	2	Germany	2	India	2
Belarus	1	India	2	Indonesia	1
Belgium	1	Jamaica	2	Mexico	2
Brazil	3	Lebanon	1	Montenegro	1
Canada	3	North Macedonia	1	Pakistan	1
China	1	Pakistan	1	St. Vincent, Grenadines	1
Croatia	1	South Africa	1	Hawaii	
DRC	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1	Greece	1
Ecuador	1	West Bank	1	Singapore	1
Egypt	3	Delaware		Idaho	
El Salvador	1	Egypt	1	Mexico	1
France	2	India	1	Turkey	1
Ghana	2	District of Columbia		Illinois	
Guatemala	1	Canada	1	Brazil	1
India	25	Philippines	2	Bulgaria	5
Indonesia	4	Russia	1	China	3
Iran	2	United Kingdom	1	Ecuador	1
Israel	1	Florida		Greece	1
Japan	6	Argentina	1	India	10
Jordan	1	Bangladesh	1	Kenya	1
Korea, Republic of	3	Belize	1	Mexico	5
Lebanon	1	Brazil	3	Uganda	1
Mexico	43	Bulgaria	1	United Kingdom	1
Nicaragua	1	Canada	2	Zambia	1
Nigeria	1	Chile	1	Indiana	
Pakistan	3	Colombia	2	India	1
Peru	3	Ecuador	2	Mexico	1
Philippines	5	France	1	Philippines	1
Poland	1	Gabon	1		
Russia	7	Germany	1		
Saudi Arabia	1	Ghana	1		

Iowa		Minnesota		Japan	1
Egypt	1	Canada	1	Mexico	3
Lebanon	2	DRC	1	Taiwan	1
Thailand	1	Ghana	1		
		Kenya	1	New York	
Kansas		Portugal	1	Brazil	1
Gambia	1	Somalia	1	Cambodia	1
Pakistan	1	South Africa	1	Canada	1
Russia	1	Thailand	1	China	1
		Turkey	1	Croatia	1
Kentucky		Uzbekistan	1	Cyprus	1
Canada	1	Venezuela	1	Dominican Republic	2
Germany	1			Ecuador	3
Spain	1	Mississippi		Greece	1
Taiwan	1	Russia	1	India	3
				Iran	1
Louisiana		Missouri		Israel	2
Mexico	1	Canada	1	Italy	1
Peru	1	India	1	Jamaica	2
Taiwan	1	Jordan	1	Japan	3
		Peru	1	Jordan	1
Maryland		Senegal	1	Kenya	2
China	1	Vietnam	1	Malaysia	1
El Salvador	1	West Bank	1	Mexico	5
Honduras	2			Morocco	3
India	3	Montana		Nepal	1
Iran	1	Peru	1	Pakistan	3
Ireland	1			Peru	1
Cote D'Ivoire	1	Nebraska		Romania	1
Jamaica	1	Mexico	2	Russia	2
Japan	1			Senegal	1
Libya	1	Nevada		Serbia	1
Mexico	1	Canada	1	South Africa	2
Pakistan	2	Japan	2	Spain	
Senegal	1	Mexico	4		1S
Spain	1			udan	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	New Hampshire		Syria	1
United Kingdom	1	Honduras	1	Taiwan	1
		India	1	Trinidad and Tobago	2
Massachusetts		United Kingdom	1	Ukraine	1
Algeria	1			United Arab Emirates	2
Canada	1	New Jersey		United Kingdom	3
Dominican Republic	1	China	1		
Germany	1	Costa Rica	1	North Carolina	
Pakistan	1	Egypt	1	Belgium	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	Indonesia	1	Brazil	1
		India	7	China	1
Michigan		Japan	3	Egypt	2
Austria	1	Jordan	1	Ghana	1
Brazil	1	Mexico	2	Guatemala	1
India	4	Pakistan	1	Honduras	1
Iraq	2	Peru	1	India	6
Japan	1	Slovenia	1	Jamaica	1
Kenya	1	Trinidad and Tobago	3	Japan	1
Lebanon	2	United Arab Emirates	1	Mexico	1
Mexico	3	United Kingdom	1	West Bank	1
Saudi Arabia	2				
Taiwan	1	New Mexico		North Dakota	
Yemen	1	Egypt	1	India	1

Ohio		Ecuador	1	Wisconsin	
India	2	France	2	Canada	1
Japan	1	Gaza Strip	1	India	1
Pakistan	1	Germany	1	Indonesia	1
Qatar	1	Greece	2	Japan	1
South Africa	1	Honduras	1		
Switzerland	1	India	9		
		Israel	1		
Oklahoma		Italy	1		
Lebanon	1	Mexico	32		
		Pakistan	3		
Oregon		Russia	5		
China	1	South Africa	1		
Mexico	3				
		Turkey	1		
Pennsylvania		United Kingdom	1		
Albania	1	Venezuela	1		
Brazil	2	West Bank	1		
Denmark	1				
Egypt	3	Utah			
France	1	China	1		
India	1	Mexico	2		
Iraq	1				
Ireland	1	U.S. Virgin Islands			
Israel	1	St. Kitts and Nevis	1		
Jamaica	1				
Lebanon	1	Virginia			
Netherlands	1	Bolivia	1		
		China	1		
Puerto Rico		Cote D'Ivoire	2		
Peru	1	Egypt	2		
		Germany	1		
Rhode Island		Ghana	1		
Canada	1	India	9		
		Lebanon	1		
South Carolina		Libya	1		
Belize	1	Morocco	1		
India	2	Pakistan	2		
Italy	1	Philippines	1		
Jordan	2	Taiwan	1		
Senegal	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1		
Zambia	1	Turkey	1		
		United Kingdom	2		
South Dakota		Uzbekistan	1		
South Africa	1				
		Washington			
Tennessee		Egypt	1		
Canada	1	India	5		
Egypt	2	Japan	2		
Ghana	1	Korea, Republic of	2		
Mexico	2	Pakistan	1		
Trinidad and Tobago	1	Peru	1		
		Philippines	1		
Texas		Poland	1		
Azerbaijan	1	Saudi Arabia	1		
Bolivia	3	Uganda	2		
Brazil	5				
Canada	5	West Virginia			
China	1	Colombia	1		
Costa Rica	1	Mexico	1		
Dominican Republic	2	Philippines	1		

Unresolved Abduction Cases

Algeria

#1 pending 43 Months

Argentina

#1 pending 152 months

Austria

#1 pending 26 months

Azerbaijan

#1 pending 69 months

Bangladesh

#1 pending 21 months

Belarus

#1 pending 18 months

Belize

#1 pending 27 months

Bolivia

#1 pending 72 months

Brazil

#1 pending 98 months

#2 pending 40 months

#3 pending 26 months

#4 pending 23 months

Bulgaria

#1 pending 16 months

Cambodia

#1 pending 72 months

China

#1 pending 72 months

#2 pending 72 months

#3 pending 33 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

Costa Rica

#1 pending 27 months

#2 pending 21 months

Côte d'Ivoire #1 pending 17 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 38 months

Egypt

#1 pending 92 months

#2 pending 92 months

#3 pending 74 months

#4 pending 23 months

#5 pending 23 months

#6 pending 23 months

#7 pending 23 months

#8 pending 12 months

#9 pending 12 months

#10 pending 12 months

#11 pending 12 months

Germany

#1 pending 29 months

Ghana

#1 pending 34 months

Greece

#1 pending 24 months

Guatemala

#1 pending 101 months

Honduras

#1 pending 26 months

India

#1 pending 72 months

#2 pending 72 months

#3 pending 72 months

#4 pending 72 months

#5 pending 72 months

#6 pending 72 months

#7 pending 72 months

#8 pending 72 months

#9 pending 72 months

#10 pending 72 months

#11 pending 72 months

#12 pending 72 months

#13 pending 72 months

#14 pending 72 months

#15 pending 72 months

#16 pending 67 months

#17 pending 67 months

#18 pending 67 months

#19 pending 67 months

#20 pending 60 months

#21 pending 60 months

#22 pending 60 months

#23 pending 41 months

#24 pending 41 months

#25 pending 41 months

#26 pending 24 months

#27 pending 24 months

#28 pending 24 months

#29 pending 24 months

#30 pending 24 months

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#33 pending 24 months

#34 pending 24 months

#35 pending 24 months

#36 pending 24 months

#37 pending 24 months

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#49 pending 24 months

#50 pending 24 months

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#53 pending 24 months

#54 pending 24 months

#55 pending 24 months

#56 pending 23 months

#57 pending 19 months

#58 pending 19 months

#59 pending 19 months

#60 pending 19 months

#61 pending 19 months

#62 pending 19 months

Indonesia

#1 pending 72 months

#2 pending 72 months

#3 pending 59 months

Jordan

#1 pending 71 months

#2 pending 25 months

#3 pending 25 months

#4 pending 17 months

Kenya

#1 pending 14 months

#2 pending 14 months

#3 pending 14 months

Korea, Republic of

#1 pending 29 months

#2 pending 13 months

#3 pending 13 months

Kuwait

#1 pending 13 months

Lebanon

#1 pending 60 months

#2 pending 60 months

#3 pending 31 months

#4 pending 31 months

#5 pending 31 months

#6 pending 31 months
#7 pending 12 months

Malaysia

#1 pending 72 months

Mexico

#1 pending 163 months
#2 pending 128 months
#3 pending 113 months
#4 pending 97 months
#5 pending 74 months
#6 pending 74 months
#7 pending 56 months
#8 pending 52 months
#9 pending 48 months
#10 pending 40 months
#11 pending 32 months
#12 pending 31 months
#13 pending 29 months
#14 pending 28 months
#15 pending 26 months
#16 pending 19 months
#17 pending 18 months

Nicaragua

#1 pending 21 months

Peru

#1 pending 85 months
#2 pending 68 months
#3 pending 64 months
#4 pending 56 months
#5 pending 54 months
#6 pending 41 months
#7 pending 32 months
#8 pending 20 months

Philippines

#1 pending 59 months
#2 pending 59 months

Poland

#1 pending 13 months

Romania

#1 pending 38 months

Russia

#1 pending 72 months
#2 pending 72 months

Saudi Arabia

#1 pending 45 months
#2 pending 23 months

Senegal

#1 pending 19 months

Serbia

#1 pending 36 months

X

Taiwan

#1 pending 72 months
#2 pending 13 months
#3 pending 13 months

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 pending 12 months

Turkey

#1 pending 15 months

Uganda

#1 pending 39 months

United Arab Emirates

#1 pending 72 months
#2 pending 58 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 38 months

Uzbekistan

#1 pending 20 months

Zambia

#1 pending 22 months
#2 pending 22 months

Unresolved Access Cases

Argentina

#1 pending 39 months

Mexico

#1 pending 42 months

#2 pending 33 months

#3 pending 31 months

#4 pending 29 months

Norway

#1 pending 13 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 22 months

Venezuela

#1 pending 40 months

Abduction Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authorities in 2021

Brazil

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #2 Pending information requests

Bulgaria

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Canada

- #1 Other
- #2 Pending information requests
- #3 Pending information requests
- #4 Pending information requests
- #5 Pending information requests
- #6 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Ecuador

- #1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

El Salvador

- #1 Pending information requests
- #2 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

France

- #1 Other

Guatemala

- #1 Judicial Delays
- #2 Judicial Delays

Honduras

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #2 Mediation

Jamaica

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Japan

- #1 Mediation
- #2 Mediation
- #3 Mediation
- #4 Mediation
- #5 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #6 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #7 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #8 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #9 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Mexico

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #2 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #3 Judicial Delays
- #4 Pending information requests
- #5 Pending information requests

- #6 Pending information requests
- #7 Pending information requests
- #8 Pending information requests
- #9 Pending information requests
- #10 Pending information requests
- #11 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #12 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #13 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #14 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #15 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #16 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #17 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #18 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #19 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #20 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #21 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #22 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #23 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #24 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #25 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #26 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #27 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Pakistan

- #1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Serbia

- #1 LBP withdrew application

Singapore

- #1 Mediation

South Africa

- #1 Judicial Delays
- #2 Other
- #3 Pending information requests
- #4 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
- #5 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Spain

- #1 Other

- #2 Pending information requests
- #3 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Switzerland

- #1 FCA rejected application

Thailand

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Trinidad and Tobago

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Turkey

- #1 Pending information requests

Ukraine

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

United Kingdom

- #1 Mediation

Venezuela

- #1 Pending information requests
- #2 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Access Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authorities in 2021

Australia

#1 Mediation

Canada

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

#2 LBP withdrew application

#3 Pending information requests

France

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking
parent

Iceland

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

#2 Administrative Processing by FCA

Jamaica

#1 Other

Japan

#1 Mediation

#2 Mediation

#3 Mediation

#4 Other

#5 Other

#6 Other

#7 Other

#8 Pending information requests

Mexico

#1 Pending information requests

#2 Pending information requests

Morocco

#1 FCA rejected application

Paraguay

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

South Africa

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Sweden

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking
parent

Switzerland

#1 FCA rejected application

United Kingdom

#1 FCA rejected application

Zimbabwe

#1 Mediation

Countries and Territories with Abduction Cases in 2021

Albania	No Protocol	Libya	No Protocol
Algeria	No Protocol	Malaysia	No Protocol
Argentina	Convention	Mexico	Convention
Armenia	Convention	Montenegro	Convention
Australia	Convention	Morocco	Convention
Austria	Convention	Nepal	No Protocol
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	Netherlands	Convention
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Nicaragua	No Protocol
Belarus	No Protocol	Nigeria	No Protocol
Belgium	Convention	North Macedonia	Convention
Belize	Convention	Norway	Convention
Bolivia	No Protocol	Pakistan	Convention
Brazil	Convention	Peru	Convention
Bulgaria	Convention	Philippines	No Protocol
Cambodia	No Protocol	Poland	Convention
Canada	Convention	Portugal	Convention
Chile	Convention	Qatar	No Protocol
China	No Protocol	Romania	Convention
Colombia	Convention	Russia	No Protocol
Congo-Kinshasa	No Protocol	Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Costa Rica	Convention	Senegal	No Protocol
Côte d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Serbia	Convention
Croatia	Convention	Singapore	Convention
Cyprus	Convention	Slovenia	Convention
Denmark	Convention	Somalia	No Protocol
Dominican Republic	Convention	South Africa	Convention
Ecuador	Convention	Korea, Republic of	Convention
Egypt	No Protocol	Spain	Convention
El Salvador	Convention	St. Kitts and Nevis	Convention
France	Convention	St. Vincent, Grenadines	No Protocol
Gabon	No Protocol	Sudan	No Protocol
Gambia, The	No Protocol	Sweden	Convention
Gaza Strip	No Protocol	Switzerland	Convention
Germany	Convention	Syria	No Protocol
Ghana	No Protocol	Taiwan	No Protocol
Greece	Convention	Tanzania	No Protocol
Guatemala	Convention	Thailand	Convention
Honduras	Convention	Tonga	No Protocol
India	No Protocol	Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Indonesia	No Protocol	Tunisia	No Protocol
Iran	No Protocol	Turkey	Convention
Iraq	No Protocol	Uganda	No Protocol
Ireland	Convention	Ukraine	Convention
Israel	Convention	United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
Italy	Convention	United Kingdom	Convention
Jamaica	Convention	Uzbekistan	No Protocol
Japan	Convention	Venezuela	Convention
Jordan	No Protocol	Vietnam	No Protocol
Kenya	No Protocol	West Bank	No Protocol
Kuwait	No Protocol	Yemen	No Protocol
Lebanon	No Protocol	Zambia	No Protocol

