

Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA)



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Bureau of Consular Affairs
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Contents

Message from the Secretary of State	3
Introduction to Annual Report	4
What's New in This Year's Report	4
Department's Efforts to Combat International Parental Child Abduction, Including Efforts with Regard to non-Convention Countries.....	5
Activities Concerning Non-Convention Countries	7
Use of Airlines in Abductions	8
Actions of the Interagency Prevention Working Group.....	9
Actions by the U.S. Central Authority to Train Domestic Judges in the Application of the Hague Abduction Convention	10
Actions by the U.S. Central Authority to Train U.S. Armed Forces Legal Assistance Personnel, Military Chaplains, and Military Family Support	11
Public Statement by Secretary Kerry.....	12
Children Returned to the United States and Cases Resolved without the Return of Children to the United States	13
Legend for Country Data Pages.....	14
Convention Countries That Have Demonstrated a Pattern of Noncompliance	16
Convention Countries That Have Failed to Comply with One or More of Their Obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention	30
Non-Convention Countries That Have Demonstrated a Pattern of Noncompliance.....	33
Convention Countries with Five or More Abduction Cases in 2015.....	42
Non-Convention Countries and Areas with Five or More Abduction Cases in 2015	67
Countries and areas in which in 2015 there were one or more abduction cases relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States	88
Travel Issues Meriting Special Consideration	90

Message from the Secretary of State

Dear Reader:

The protection of our citizens abroad is one of the oldest and most important roles of the U.S. Department of State (Department). We place a special emphasis on the welfare of children, who are among our most vulnerable citizens. I am pleased to submit the 2016 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (the Act).

The wrongful taking or retention of children outside their country of habitual residence may be harmful to their well-being. Over the past year, the Department increased its efforts to prevent abductions from occurring or, if they do occur, to obtain the prompt return of the children to their places of habitual residence.

We improved our efforts to prevent abductions through increased work with law enforcement agencies, airlines and others to stop abductions in progress. We conducted more outreach to raise awareness of the issue and to provide parents with information on the steps they can take to protect their children.

We increased our diplomatic efforts to get other countries to cooperate with us on resolving cases of children abducted by a parent. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention) is in force between the United States and 74 other countries. The Convention provides, among other things, that abducted children should be returned promptly to their country of habitual residence. We have seen success in encouraging countries to become party to the Convention and in getting others to improve their compliance with the Convention. For countries that have not become party to the Convention, we have worked to improve cooperation and sought to establish bilateral or other arrangements where possible.

We still have much work to do. This report cites 21 countries that either demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as defined in the Act or otherwise failed to comply with any of their obligations under the Convention. Over the next year, the Department will continue to press for these countries to take more effective measures to promptly return children to their country of habitual residence and to provide access to left-behind parents.

I hope this report will be a valuable tool both to highlight the Department's efforts to curb international parental child abduction and to outline the problems some families may face in resolving these tragic cases.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry
Secretary of State

Introduction to Annual Report

The U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues serves as the U.S. Central Authority under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Hague Abduction Convention or Convention). Pursuant to the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act, 22 U.S.C. §9111, et seq. (the Act), the Department submits this report on international parental child abduction. The reporting period for the 2016 Annual Report is the calendar year from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, and in this report when we mention a year we mean the 2015 calendar year. The terms used in the report are defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.

What's New in This Year's Report

This Annual Report covers international parental child abduction cases relating to children whose habitual residence we believe to be the United States. This report reflects the number of cases reported to our office, and how the Department's Office of Children's Issues and counterparts in foreign countries process them.

However, each abduction case is unique. To reflect these complexities, this year we include narratives in our report that give context to the statistics on international parental child abduction throughout the world. We also include supplemental data in order to give additional context to the statistics that the Act requires.

Information Reported by Country: Our report provides statistical information about each country for which there were five or more pending abduction cases reported during 2015. It also provides information about our bilateral relationship on abduction matters, recommendations for improved work to resolve abductions, and comments on compliance with the Convention if applicable. We intend this format to give readers a convenient reference about abduction and access proceedings in each of these countries.

Presentation of Data: In the data pages we include statistics beyond those required by the Act when they add context that we believe may be useful for the reader. For example, we provide the number of abductions and access requests reported to the Department, reflecting the overall caseload in our office regardless of whether the case meets the definition of an abduction under the Convention or under the Act. We calculate percentages of Resolved and Unresolved Cases based on the number of cases for which applications were submitted to the Foreign Central Authority during 2015.

Description of our Work: Throughout the report, we discuss topics that relate to our work on international parental child abduction cases. For example, we explain the International Visitor Leadership Program, one of our methods for showing foreign officials how the United States addresses child abduction cases.

Department's Efforts to Combat International Parental Child Abduction, Including Efforts with Regard to non-Convention Countries

In 2015, more than 600 children were reportedly abducted by a parent from the United States to another country. The Department of State, as the United States Central Authority for the Hague Abduction Convention, takes the lead in attempting to prevent and aid in the resolution of international abductions.

Strategically, we focus on preventing abductions. The Department maintains a Prevention Office in the Office of Children's Issues to act on and provide information to thwart attempted abductions. In 2015 the Department enrolled 4,064 children in the Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP), one of the Department of State's most important tools for preventing international parental child abduction. If a passport application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in the CPIAP, the program allows the Department's Office of Children's Issues to attempt to contact the parent(s) who enrolled the child to help verify whether the parental consent requirement for minors has been met. We also helped enroll 127 children in the Department of Homeland Security's program aimed at preventing international abduction. The Department of State works with U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies, airlines and others to prevent children from being unlawfully removed from the United States. Our broad public affairs campaign and our vigilant duty officer program let parents contact us for information that can help avoid an abduction before it happens. We fielded 1,560 inquiries in 2015 from parents, attorneys, support organizations and foreign governments seeking prevention information.

The Department also undertakes long-term efforts to elicit cooperation from foreign governments on abduction cases. We actively encourage countries to become party to the Hague Abduction Convention, which is the best means of ensuring other countries abide by the same standards we do when addressing abduction and access cases.

We work with parents, with counterparts in foreign governments, and with other U.S. government agencies to help resolve individual international parental abduction cases. Each abduction is unique and each country has its own distinct judicial system, law enforcement entities, and cultural and family traditions. The Department must tailor its strategy to deploy the most effective approach towards resolving each abduction case, including securing a child's return to the place of habitual residence or parental access to children.

Much of the day-to-day diplomatic engagement on abduction matters is handled by the Country Officers in the Office of Children's Issues. Our team of experts, based in Washington, is consistently in direct touch with counterparts in foreign government central authorities. On a regular basis, they also work with foreign governments through foreign embassies in Washington and our U.S. diplomatic missions overseas.

Senior U.S. officials often engage with their foreign counterparts to press for a prompt resolution to abduction cases. In this report, you will find Secretary Kerry's statement emphasizing the U.S. commitment to combating international parental child abduction.

The Department presses U.S. interests in parental child abductions at all levels. A few other examples of the types of engagement in 2015:

- Ambassador Michele Thoren Bond, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, regularly presses foreign governments on abduction issues both in Washington and abroad. During 2015, she made public statements, delivered protests to foreign ambassadors, and held meetings in foreign capitals to voice U.S. concerns over international parental child abduction.
- Ambassador Susan Jacobs, the Secretary's Special Advisor on Children's Issues, visited more than 15 countries and attended multilateral conferences to discuss abduction issues. She promoted accession to or ratification of the Hague Abduction Convention, when appropriate, as well as other arrangements to promote the return of and access to abducted children. Ambassador Jacobs also encouraged countries for which the Convention is already in force with respect to the United States, also known as "partner" countries, to improve their treaty implementation.
- Our embassies and consulates around the world play an important role in the Department's campaign to address international parental child abduction. U.S. Ambassadors raise concerns to host governments. U.S. consular and political officers regularly work on abduction matters, through liaising with local officials and by providing consular services, such as checking on the welfare of children who were abducted abroad.
- The International Visitor Leadership Program gives decision-makers and practitioners in other countries a first-hand view of how we resolve parental child abduction cases. In 2015, judicial, administrative, and other leaders from more than 15 nations participated in this program. Our visitors return to their home countries after seeing first-hand how we process international abduction cases under the Convention.

International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the Department of State's premier professional exchange program. Through the IVLP, the Office of Children's Issues engages with foreign nations' child abduction authorities, including lawyers, judges, child welfare experts, and government officials.

In a typical visit, a group of international visitors travels to the United States, beginning in Washington. They meet with the Office of Children's Issues to learn about and establish ties with the State Department. They then travel to other cities, where they meet local judges, social welfare workers, or others who reflect the United States' work in this field. At the program's end, the visitors will have had the chance to discuss technical and legal topics, and to establish ties with persons working on these issues in the United States.

This diplomatic cultural engagement allows decision-makers in other countries to understand the need to implement effective systems to address international parental child abduction. It is a vital component of our engagement with foreign governments on international parental child abduction.

Activities Concerning Non-Convention Countries

Throughout 2015, we continued our diplomatic engagement with countries that have become Party to the Convention but for whom the Convention is not yet in force with respect to the United States. As a result of those efforts, we look forward to welcoming Thailand as our 74th partner under the Convention in 2016.

We made substantial gains toward identifying countries that can become viable partners with the United States under the Hague Abduction Convention. In 2015 we held discussions with several countries aimed at moving toward establishing a partnership. The U.S. Central Authority is conducting a detailed review of these and other countries to determine whether partnership is appropriate at this time. During 2015, no countries became Convention countries with respect to the United States.

Use of Airlines in Abductions

Many international parental child abductions take place via international airline flights, although the Department has no specific data on this issue. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) thoroughly reviewed commercial airline practices to prevent international parental child abduction in June 2011.¹ The GAO re-port addressed the policies and measures airlines currently have in place, possible solutions, and the appropriate role of commercial airliners in preventing international parental child abductions.

In addition to the recommendations of the GAO report, the Department also recommends the following best practices for airlines to aid in preventing abductions:

1. Support and Cooperate with Law Enforcement Efforts: 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.² Commercial airlines' main role related to the prevention of abductions is cooperating, upon request, with law enforcement officials. Airlines are encouraged to contact the Department's Office of Children's Issues if they encounter a child who is at risk for international parental child abduction.
2. Know How to Report: Commercial airline employees should be made aware of the Office of Children's Issues' contact information and potential child abduction indicators, so that abduction cases reported to the airlines, either by parents, attorneys, courts, law enforcement officials, or other stakeholders may be appropriately referred for immediate assistance. The Department provides brochures that contain the Department's contact information and information on potential child abduction indicators to port authorities, airline employees, and the general public. The Department will continue its outreach activities to these stakeholders.

For information related to abduction prevention, please visit:

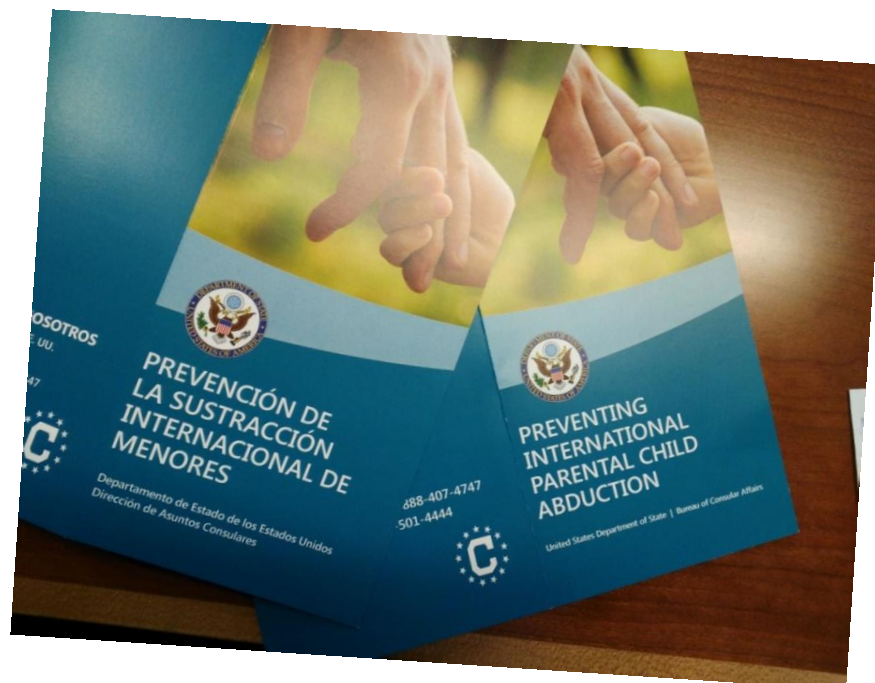
<http://www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/english/preventing.html>.

¹ United States Government Accountability Office, Report to Subcommittee on Aviation Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives. Commercial Aviation, Program Aimed at High Risk Parent Abductors Could Aid in Preventing Abductions. (June 2011)

² Id.

Actions of the Interagency Prevention Working Group

In April and October of 2015, the U.S. Central Authority hosted Prevention of International Parental Child Abduction Interagency Working Group meetings to discuss strategies to enhance child abduction prevention measures. Special Advisor for Children's Issues Susan Jacobs chaired both meetings; officials from the U.S. Central Authority, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Defense participated. Participants discussed ways to enhance current interagency abduction prevention strategies. At the October meeting, the U.S. Central Authority provided English and Spanish language Preventing International Parental Child Abduction brochures to all participants to distribute within their agencies. The working group will continue to meet regularly to streamline and improve interagency cooperation when working to prevent child abduction cases originating from the United States.



Actions by the U.S. Central Authority to Train Domestic Judges in the Application of the Hague Abduction Convention

The Department of State, in its role as the U.S. Central Authority, educates judges in the United States about the Convention in a variety of ways. Any judge can access information on our website via a webpage tailored to the needs of judges hearing international parental child abduction cases. The webpage contains important resources about the Convention, as well as abduction prevention tools and information, and can be found online at: <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/english/legal/for-judges.html>.

When the Department is informed that a judge in the United States is hearing a case under the Convention, the Department sends a letter directly to the judge emphasizing important articles of the Convention, including the article requiring a Convention case to be handled as expeditiously as possible, and the articles that clarify that a decision under the Convention is not a decision about custody. The letter also explains the Department's role as the U.S. Central Authority, and provides additional resources such as the Convention's implementing legislation in the United States, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. The Department also informs judges hearing Convention cases in the United States that they may contact the Department to speak with one of the four U.S. Network Judges who participate in the International Hague Network of Judges (Judges Network).

The Judges Network

The Judges Network is one of the United States' most important tools for judicial education on the Convention. The Judges Network was formed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law and consists of a group of approximately 100 judges from more than 65 countries, who are identified as experts in the Convention and other international family law issues. One of the roles of a Network Judge is to serve as a domestic resource on the Convention for his/her judicial colleagues.

The United States currently has four U.S. judges serving on the Network, three state court judges and one federal court judge. Each year, the Department facilitates numerous requests from domestic judges to speak with one of the U.S. Hague Network Judges with questions ranging from Convention interpretation to procedural issues. In addition to their help on individual Convention cases, the U.S. Network Judges participate in trainings and symposiums on international family law, where they explain their role as judges in Convention cases.

The Department of State is grateful for the service of the U.S. Hague Network Judges, who have helped facilitate the resolution of many Convention cases in the United States by communicating and sharing Convention best practices with U.S. and foreign judges.

Actions by the U.S. Central Authority to Train U.S. Armed Forces Legal Assistance Personnel, Military Chaplains, and Military Family Support

In 2015, the Department had nine open abduction matters affecting military parents at year's end. Of these, one case is "unresolved," as defined by the Act.

In 2015, the Department assisted military parents in resolving abduction cases by giving information about documents necessary to file Hague Convention applications; by giving information on options available to contact children who remain in foreign countries; and by working with military liaisons on providing information on how to serve process in abduction and access proceedings. Providing information and services for military parents continues to be a priority in our international parental child abduction work. Cases affecting military parents present unique challenges and opportunities, and the Department's country officers explain any additional resources available through the military to assist in resolving child abductions.

In November 2015, the U.S. Central Authority presented a seminar on international parental child abduction, as part of the Dougherty-Nelson Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps Continuing Legal Education Program.

This Program was held at the George Mason University School of Law, Fairfax, Virginia, and was attended by approximately 400 JAG officers. The U.S. Central Authority educated the military lawyers on preventing international parental child abduction and on available remedies. The organizers, attendees, and the U.S. Central Authority representatives all acknowledged the importance of continued collaboration to raise awareness of international parental child abduction within the military community.

Public Statement by Secretary Kerry

On November 18, 2015, to underscore the Department's commitment to preventing and resolving cases of international parental child abduction, Secretary Kerry issued this press statement:

International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act

Press Statement
John Kerry
Secretary of State
Washington, DC

November 18, 2015

[I] want to express my appreciation to the many countries that honor their commitments under the Hague Abduction Convention. I also want to encourage all countries to cooperate towards the expeditious resolution of child abduction cases.

One of the Department of State's highest priorities is the welfare of children involved in international parental child abduction cases, and one of our most effective tools for resolving these cases is the Hague Abduction Convention.

I want to thank the 73 countries that partner with us under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and encourage other countries to become party to this important treaty.

In 2014, Congress passed the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act, which gives the Department of State additional tools to advocate for the return of abducted children.

As we begin work on our second annual report under this law, I want to express my appreciation to the many countries that honor their commitments under the Hague Abduction Convention. I also want to encourage all countries to cooperate towards the expeditious resolution of child abduction cases.

There can be no safe haven for abductors.

The Department of State will continue to use all the tools available to us to help those involved in international parental child abduction cases to resolve their disputes and move forward with their lives.

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To report a case of international child abduction or learn how to prevent it, visit our website at:
<http://childabduction.state.gov>.

Children Returned to the United States and Cases Resolved without the Return of Children to the United States

In 2015, 299 abducted children whose habitual residence was in the United States were returned to the United States.

The majority, 213, returned from Convention countries, while 86 were returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction, as defined in the Act. None were returned from bilateral procedures countries or countries having other procedures for resolving such abductions.

Last year, the Department worked on 136 abduction cases that were resolved without the abducted children being returned to the United States. These include cases that were sent to the Foreign Central Authority and were later closed for the following reasons: the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Hague Abduction Convention; the parents reached a voluntary arrangement; the left-behind parent withdrew the application for return; the left-behind parent could not be located for greater than one year; or the left-behind parent or child passed away.

Of the 136 cases, 134 involved Convention Countries, and two involved non-Convention countries. None involved bilateral procedures countries or countries having other procedures for resolving abductions.

Legend for Country Data Pages

Reported Abductions /Access	Any abduction or access matter open with the U.S. Central Authority at any point in 2015, whether or not it meets the criteria for an international child abduction or access case under the Hague Abduction Convention. This includes abductions where the child's habitual residence is the United States and all access matters.
New Reported Abductions/Access in 2015	Any new abduction or access matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
Average Days to Locate	Average number of days it takes authorities in the foreign country to locate a child.
Cases Sent to Foreign Central Authority (FCA)	Cases pending with the Foreign Central Authority at any point during 2015 that meet the criteria for international child abduction under the Hague Abduction Convention. Percentages of Resolved and Unresolved cases are based on this figure.
Cases Sent to FCA in 2015	Cases the U.S. Central Authority sent to the Foreign Central Authority from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
Cases FCA Did Not Forward to J/A	Cases that the Foreign Central Authority received and did not forward to the judicial or administrative authority in that country by December 31, 2015.
Unresolved Cases	In a Convention country, abduction or access cases that were not resolved within 12 months after the application for return of or access to the child was submitted to the foreign judicial or administrative authority. In a non-Convention country, cases that were not resolved within 12 months after the application for return or access to the child was submitted to the Foreign Central Authority or foreign ministry.
Unresolved due to Law Enforcement	The number of unresolved cases where foreign law enforcement authorities have: 1) not located the child; 2) failed to undertake serious efforts to locate the abducted child; or 3) failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of such country.
Resolved Cases	Cases sent to the Foreign Central Authority that were closed for the following reasons: 1) the child is returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority is complying with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reach a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdraws the application for return; 5) the left-behind parent cannot be located for one year despite documented efforts by the U.S. Central Authority to locate the parent; or 6) the death of the left-behind parent or child.
Reported Abductions/Access Closed at Any Point in 2015	Any Reported Abduction/Access closed during 2015 for any reason prior to it being sent to the Foreign Central Authority, or for reasons other than those listed in the definition of for Resolved Cases.
Reported Abductions Still open as of 12/31/2015	Reported Abductions/Access open on December 31, 2015.

How to Read the Data Pages for Convention Countries

The Act calls for specific statistics relating to the Department's work on international parental child abduction. We present this data for each Convention country in tables similar to the example on the left of this page.

Conceptually, our data presentation follows the progress of a child abduction case. We receive reports of abductions (A) and send applications to the Foreign Central Authority (FCA) as appropriate (B). In turn, depending on the country's system for processing Hague applications, either the foreign central authority or the parent, may submit cases to the judicial or administrative authority (J/A) designated to hear Hague abduction and access cases in that country (C). Some case may meet the Act's definition of "unresolved" (D). Some cases will be closed as resolved (E) or for other reasons (F), such as the parent never submits a Hague application or the parents reach a voluntary agreement prior to the Hague application being sent. At year's end a number of open cases remain (G). By tracking the gray boxes on the chart, the reader can account for every case the U.S. Central Authority has on file in each country in 2015. **The number of reported abductions open at any point during the year will equal the total of cases resolved as defined by the Act PLUS those closed for other reasons PLUS those remaining open at the end of the year.**

As applicable, we report how long unresolved cases (H) were pending at the end of 2015, and the reason why the Foreign Central Authority had not sent cases to the judicial or administrative authority (I) by December 31, 2015.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
7	2	80 DAYS†	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
6	1	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
2	33%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
3	50%	1	3

Unresolved Abduction Cases	
A	Pending for 520 Days
B	Pending for 699 Days

Unresolved Access Cases	
a	Pending for 899 Days

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions	
l	Regular Administrative Processing

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Access	
i	Parents decided to pursue a mediated agreement.

Convention Countries That Have Demonstrated a Pattern of Noncompliance

These Hague Abduction Convention partner countries demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015: Argentina, The Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Romania.

In the following data pages we provide for each country:

- the criteria on which we based our determination;
- statistical information on international abduction and access cases in that country; and
- steps we recommend to improve the resolution of abduction and access cases.

How does the State Department process a Hague Abduction Convention case?

The Office of Children's Issues in the Department of State serves as the U.S. Central Authority under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. This office provides information about the Hague Abduction Convention and receives and transmits applications to foreign Central Authorities under the Convention in an effort to return children abducted by relatives to their country of habitual residence.

When a parent in the United States believes a child has been abducted or wrongfully retained abroad by a relative, they often contact the U.S. Central Authority. In an initial consultation, a country officer provides information about available options. If the child is being wrongfully retained in a partner country under the Convention, one option is filing an Application for Return, which the parent submits and the U.S. Central Authority then transmits to the corresponding Central Authority in the foreign country.

The Foreign Central Authority locates the child and processes the application. Under the Convention, a judicial or administrative authority should determine the place of habitual residence and order the child returned to that country, subject to certain defenses. Courts should decide these cases promptly. As necessary, authorities in the foreign country may help facilitate the return of the child to the country of habitual residence. Courts in the country of habitual residence can then consider any underlying custody issues.

Argentina



Argentina demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015 because:

- Thirty percent or more of the total abduction

cases were unresolved; and

- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Argentina. Delays in the enforcement and execution of return orders by the judiciary have prevented Argentina from upholding its obligations under the Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Argentina, the State Department recommends:

- Promotion of training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Promotion of the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities;
- Participation in bilateral meetings with Argentine government officials to encourage Argentina to comply with its obligations under the Convention; and
- Intensified engagement with the Argentine Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
7	2	80 DAYS†	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
6	1	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
2	33%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
3	50%	1	3

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
3	0	84	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
3	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
2	67%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
1	33%	0	2

†Does not include a 2012 case where law enforcement has not located the child

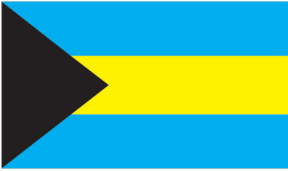
Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 1856 Days
B	Pending for 2379 Days

Unresolved Access Cases

a	Pending for 408 Days
b	Pending 940 Days

The Bahamas



The Bahamas demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- Thirty percent or more of the total abduction cases are unresolved abduction cases;
- The Foreign Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention; and
- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is in force between the United States and The Bahamas.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in the Bahamas, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Hold bilateral meetings with Bahamian government officials to encourage the Bahamas to comply with its obligations under the Convention;
- Intensify engagement with the Bahamas Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing; and
- Through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
3	0	59	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
2	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
2	100%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	1	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
1	0	UNKNOWN†	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
0	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	1	0

†Case was closed prior to being sent to the FCA.

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 1476 days
B	Pending for 2340 days



Brazil demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- Thirty percent or more of the total abduction cases are unresolved abduction cases as defined by the Act; and

- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Brazil. While the Department has a very productive relationship with the Brazilian Central Authority, delays in the courts, especially during the appeals process, prevent Brazil from fully upholding its obligations under the Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Brazil, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases.

Brazil

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
25	3	96 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
22	2	1	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
13	59%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
6	27%	2	17

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
8	0	185 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
8	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
4	50%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
3	38%	0	5

Brazil (continued)

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 820 Days
B	Pending for 699 Days
C	Pending for 707 Days
D	Pending for 702 Days
E	Pending for 605 Days
F	Pending for 766 Days
G	Pending for 1072 Days
H	Pending for 1084 Days
I	Pending for 1478 Days
J	Pending for 1969 Days
K	Pending for 1961 Days
L	Pending for 2281 Days
M	Pending for 2914 Days

Unresolved Access Cases

a	Pending for 699 Days
b	Pending for 1035 Days
c	Pending for 1605 Days
d	Pending for 1991 Days

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority – Abductions

I	Regular Administrative Processing
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Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Access

I	Parents decided to pursue a mediated agreement rather than to submit the case to the judicial authority
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Colombia



Colombia demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- The Colombian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention; and
- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

In a Hague-ordered return case, the Colombian Central Authority promptly facilitated a safe return for multiple children to the United States. During 2015, communication from the Colombian Central Authority on pending Hague cases was infrequent.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Colombia.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Colombia, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy activities, such as professional exchanges to the United States that support the foreign policy goals of the U.S. government.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
18		10	347
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
8		5	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
4	44%	8	6

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
3		3	UNKNOWN*
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
1		1	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
1	100%	1	1

*This information is not available.

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	Administrative processing by FCA =Pending information request
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Costa Rica



Costa Rica demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- The judicial authority regularly failed to

implement and comply with the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Costa Rica.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Costa Rica, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Hold bilateral meetings with Costa Rican officials to encourage Costa Rica to comply with its obligations under the Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
<i>REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)</i>		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
5		1	UNKNOWN*
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
2		1	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15 (3)
1	50%	3	1

*This information is not available.

ACCESS			
<i>REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)</i>		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
2		0	UNKNOWN*
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
2		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
1	50%	0	1

*This information is not available.

Dominican Republic



The Dominican Republic demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- The judicial authority regularly failed to

implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

Cases that are appealed to higher courts have taken more than four years to be resolved. The one unresolved case in 2015 is unresolved because of judicial delays.

The Convention is in force between the United States and the Dominican Republic.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in the Dominican Republic, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and,
- Hold bilateral meetings with Dominican Republic officials to encourage the Dominican Republic to comply with its obligations under the Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
11	5	7 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
6	2	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	17%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
5	83%	3	3

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
1	0	3 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15	
1	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	0	1

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 1752 days
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Ecuador



Ecuador demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- Thirty percent or more of the total abduction cases were unresolved;
- The Foreign Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention;
- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention; and
- Law enforcement authorities regularly failed to locate children or enforce return orders or determinations of rights of access rendered by the judicial authorities.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Ecuador.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Ecuador, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Intensify engagement with the Ecuadorian Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing;
- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases; and
- Promote training with law enforcement entities on how to effectively locate children and enforce court-ordered returns.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
10	4	158 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
4	2	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
2	50%	1	25%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
1	25%	5	4

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
0	0	N/A	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
0	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0	0	0

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 1033 days
B	Pending for 719 days

Guatemala



Guatemala demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance because:

- The Foreign Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its

responsibilities pursuant to the Convention; and

- Law enforcement authorities regularly failed to locate children or enforce return orders or determinations of rights of access rendered by the judicial authorities.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Guatemala.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Guatemala, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Promote training with law enforcement entities on how to effectively locate children and enforce court-ordered returns; ,
- Through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities;
- Hold bilateral meetings with Guatemalan government officials to encourage Guatemala to comply with its obligations under the Convention; and
- Intensify engagement with the Guatemalan Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
10		3	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
7		2	6
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
3	43%	0	7

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
1		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
0	0	1	0

Guatemala (continued)

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority – Abductions

I	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
II	FCA was reviewing the case
III	FCA was reviewing the case
IV	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
V	Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
VI	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

Honduras



Honduras demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015 because:

- The Honduran Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention; and
- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Honduras.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Honduras, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Intensify engagement with the Foreign Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing, and
- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy activities.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
8	3	137 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
4	1	2	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	25%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
1	0%	3	4

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
0	0	UNKNOWN	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
0	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0	0	0

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending 1246 days
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Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	-Administrative processing by FCA -Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent -FCA attempted to mediate between the parties before forwarding the case to the court
II	-Administrative processing by FCA -FCA attempted to mediate between the parties before forwarding the case to the court



Peru demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015 because:

- Thirty percent or more of the total

abduction cases are unresolved abduction cases as defined by the Act; and

- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Peru.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Peru, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with Peruvian government officials to encourage Peru to comply with its obligations under the Convention.

Peru

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
23	6	40 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
17	4	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
7	47%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
5	29%	4	14

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
1	0	UNKNOWN	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
0	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0	1	0

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 2568 days
B	Pending for 1886 days
C	Pending for 1674 days
D	Pending for 1308 days
E	Pending for 1238 days
F	Pending for 933 days
G	Pending for 525 days

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abduction

I	FCA was reviewing the case
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Romania



Romania demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with its obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention in 2015 because:

- Thirty percent or more of the total abduction cases are unresolved abduction cases as defined by the Act;
- The judicial authority regularly failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention; and
- Law enforcement authorities regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authorities.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Romania.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Romania, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and law enforcement authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases and enforcing court-ordered returns; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with Romanian government officials to encourage Romania to comply with its obligations under the Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
3		1	1 DAY
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
1		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	100%	1	100%
(1) RESOLVED CASES (A)		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
0	0%	1	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
0		0	0
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES (A)		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
0	0	0	0

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 2162 days
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Convention Countries That Have Failed to Comply with One or More of Their Obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention

In 2015, these countries failed to comply with one or more of their obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention with respect to the resolution of abduction or access cases: Austria and Japan.

The Convention is in force between the United States and each of these countries. The country's failure to comply was confined to a discrete component of its obligations under the Convention.

In the following data pages we provide for each country:

- the criteria on which we based our determination;
- statistical information on international abduction and access cases in that country; and
- steps we recommend to improve the resolution of abduction and access cases.

Austria



Austria partnered with the United States under the Convention in 1988. The Austrian Central Authority processes cases promptly

and forwards them to the judiciary. It communicates with Austrian courts on behalf of applicant parents. The Government of Austria has taken steps to improve the processing of Convention cases, including legislation that in 2005 concentrated jurisdiction for Convention return cases to 16 district courts.

In 2015, Austria failed to fully comply with its obligations under the Convention. In 2015, the length of the Austrian appeals process for Convention petitions delayed the resolution of one international parental child abduction case involving children whose habitual residence is the United States, and the length of time the children were in Austria as a result of this delay was a factor in the Court's decision to deny return in the underlying Convention proceeding.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Austria, the Department recommends that the United States promote training with judicial authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
4	2	1 DAY	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
3	1	1	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	25%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	25%	1	3

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
2	1	0 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
1	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
1	100%	1	0

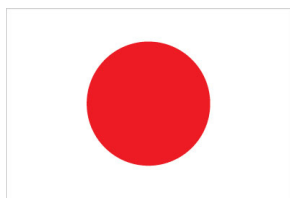
Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 485 days.
---	-----------------------

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
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Japan



Japan partnered with the United States under the Convention in 2014. The Japanese Central Authority is well staffed, organized,

and adept at managing the Convention process. It communicates quickly with Japanese family courts, and coordinates the delivery of many resources free of charge to left-behind parents, including lawyer referral, mediation, translations, and social services. The judiciary has processed cases and issued orders in a timely manner. In 2015, there were three voluntary Convention returns, one facilitated through in-court mediation.

At the end of 2015, 40 open pre-Convention abduction cases remained. Of these, 32 were with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 12 months. In 2015, one pre-Convention case was resolved and 11 cases were closed. Expedious resolution of these cases is a top priority for the Department of State, and the Department raises these cases with Japan and requests assistance in their resolution.

In 2015, Japan failed to comply with its obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention in the area of enforcement of return orders. A Japanese court issued the first Convention return order to the United States in early 2015. Authorities attempted, but were unable to effectuate enforcement of the court order by December 31, 2015, exposing what may be a systemic flaw in Japan's ability to enforce return orders. Therefore, the Department will continue to closely monitor Japan's ability to enforce court orders.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Japan, the Department recommends promoting direct judicial communication and peer-to-peer exchanges with child welfare organizations and enforcement entities of Convention partners.

HAGUE CONVENTION ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
15	11	9 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15	
10	9	N/A*	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	10%	1	10%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
3	30%	4	8

HAGUE CONVENTION ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
45	13	30 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
33	6	N/A*	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	3%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
2	6%	7	36

* By Japanese law, the foreign central authority does not file Hague petitions in court; rather, the parent must file.

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 392 days.
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Unresolved Access Cases

I	Pending for 450 days.
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Non-Convention Countries That Have Demonstrated a Pattern of Noncompliance

These countries demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015: Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, and Tunisia.

In the following data pages we provide for each country:

- the criteria on which we based our determination;
- statistical information on international abduction cases in that country; and
- steps we recommend to improve the resolution of abduction and access cases.

The Department does not accept access matters arising in non-Convention countries. We address them as the special consular services we provide from our consulates and embassies.

Applications for Return in Non-Convention Countries

In Convention countries, the Department of State sends applications for return of children to the Central Authorities designated by our Hague partners. We lack this framework in non-Convention countries. Still, in non-Convention countries the Department tries to assist parents who seek the return of children whose habitual residence is in the United States.

For example, in a non-Convention country, there may not be a formally designated Central Authority with which to correspond, or any other procedures for requesting return of or access to an abducted child. Nonetheless, the Department sends diplomatic notes that serve as applications for return, as defined by the Act, to the governments in these countries. (While the Act formalizes these procedures, the Department has always communicated with foreign governments regarding non-Convention cases. In preparing this year's report, we reviewed our past communications to determine if they qualified as applications for return under the Act.) We send applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so will put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent.

These applications reinforce other communications on abduction cases and advise the foreign government that the United States is interested in an international parental child abduction case in that country. These applications can serve as the basis for future action by the United States. We expect that these applications for return will further our work to help resolve parental child abduction cases arising in non-Convention countries.

Meanwhile, the Department continues to work with left-behind parents who pursue abduction matters in non-Convention countries. Our Office of Children's Issues is an important resource for parents for information on developments in the foreign country and for liaison with our embassies and consulates abroad. This Office is also the liaison with interagency partners, such as the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, and with non-governmental organizations, like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Consular officers in our foreign posts assist as appropriate, conducting welfare and whereabouts visits of children and providing information about legal procedures and proceedings in the foreign country.

Egypt



Egypt demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015 because 30 percent or more of the total abduction cases are unresolved abduction cases as defined by the Act.

The Egyptian government worked closely with the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to help left-behind parents obtain access to their children. It also facilitated voluntary agreements between parents to return abducted children. While Egypt and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Consular Cooperation in Cases Concerning Parental Access to Children in 2003, this Memorandum does not address the resolution of abduction matters and thus does not meet the Act's definition of bilateral procedures. Egypt has no other procedures in place for returning abducted children and therefore does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, as described in the Act.

During 2015, the Department had 25 reported abductions to Egypt relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, nine were newly reported during the calendar year.

In 2015, 20 applications for return that the Department had submitted to Egypt were pending; the Department submitted eight of these applications during 2015. By December 31, 2015, two cases with pending applications (10 percent of cases open during 2015) had been resolved, as defined by the Act: one was resolved by a voluntary agreement between the parents that resulted in the child returning to the United States; the other was resolved when the left-behind parent did not pursue the return any further. Three other cases closed prior to submission of applications for return. By December 31, 2015, 20 reported abductions remained open.

At the end of 2015, ten cases (50 percent of cases open during 2015) were unresolved. A case is considered "unresolved" under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Egypt. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Egypt. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Egypt, the Department recommends continued engagement between the Department of State and Egyptian government officials to encourage Egypt to become party to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

India



India demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by persistently failing to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015.

India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

During 2015, the Department had 99 reported abductions to India relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, 25 were newly reported during the calendar year. While no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, 16 reported abductions were closed. Of those closed, one was closed by an Indian court order that resulted in the child returning to the United States, five were closed by voluntary agreements between the parents that resulted in the children returning to the United States, two were closed after the parents reached voluntary agreements that did not result in the children returning to the United States, two were closed after the left-behind parent submitted a written withdrawal of their application or their request for assistance to the Department, and three were closed after the left-behind parent could not be located for one year. In addition, one reported abduction was closed for each of the following reasons: a child reached age 16; the Indian court granted custody of a child to the alleged taking parent, and the left-behind parent did not wish to pursue the return any further; and a U.S. court granted custody of a child to the alleged taking parent. By December 31, 2015, 83 reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Indian government for 46 cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in India. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of India. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in India, the Department recommends continued engagement by the Department and Indian government officials to encourage India to accede to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Jordan



Jordan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by persistently failing to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015.

Jordan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, though in May 2006 the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that seeks to assist a parent residing in one country to obtain meaningful access to his or her child residing in the other country. Since the MOU does not address the resolution of abduction cases, it does not meet the Act's definition of bilateral procedures.

During 2015, the Department had 26 reported abductions to Jordan relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, six were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and 11 reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, 15 reported abductions remained open. During 2015, the Department did not submit applications for return to the Jordanian government.

In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered "unresolved" under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Jordan. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Jordan. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Jordan, the Department recommends continued engagement with Jordanian government officials to encourage Jordan to accede to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Lebanon



Lebanon demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by persistently failing to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015.

Lebanon adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, though the United States and Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in April 2004 that seeks to assist a parent residing in one country to obtain meaningful access to his or her child residing in the other country. Since the MOU does not address the resolution of abduction cases, it does not meet the Act's definition of bilateral procedures.

During 2015, the Department had 14 reported abductions to Lebanon relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, four were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and four reported abductions had been closed. Of those closed, one was closed by a voluntary agreement between the parents that did not result in the child returning to the United States, two were closed after the left behind parent could not be located for one year, and one was closed because the child turned 16. By December 31, 2015, 10 reported abductions remained open.

In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved, as defined by the Act. A case is considered "unresolved" under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Lebanon. During 2015, the Department did not submit applications for return to the Lebanese government. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Lebanon. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Lebanon, the Department recommends continued engagement with Lebanese government officials to encourage Lebanon to accede to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Nicaragua



Nicaragua demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2015 because:

- Fifty percent or more of the total abduction cases are unresolved abduction cases as defined by the Act.
- Nicaragua persistently failed to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015.

Nicaragua is party to the Hague Abduction Convention, but is not partnered with the United States. During 2015, the Department of State had four reported abductions to Nicaragua. By December 31, 2015, one case (50 percent of the cases for which the Department submitted an application for return) had been resolved as defined by the Act, and none had been closed. By December 31, 2015, three reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Nicaraguan government for two cases. In 2015, one case was unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Nicaragua. There were no unresolved cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities in Nicaragua. The average time it takes to locate a child is 11 days.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Nicaragua, the Department recommends further bilateral meetings with government officials to discuss next steps for possible partnership under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Oman



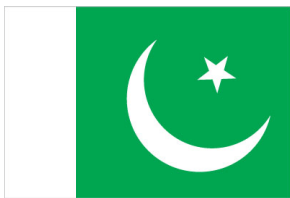
Oman demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by persistently failing to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015. Oman does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

During 2015, the Department had three reported abductions to Oman relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, none were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and one reported abduction had been closed. That one reported abduction closed because the child no longer resided in Oman. By December 31, 2015, two reported abduction remained open.

In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Oman. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Oman. The average length of time it takes to locate a child is 21 days.

To improve the resolution of international parental abduction cases in Oman, the Department recommends continued engagement with Omani government officials to encourage Oman to accede to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Pakistan



Pakistan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by persistently failing to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015. Pakistan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

In 2015, the Department had 32 reported abductions to Pakistan relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, six were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, but nine reported abductions had been closed. Of those closed, seven were closed by voluntary agreements between the parents that resulted in the children returning to the United States, one was closed after the parents reached voluntary agreements that did not result in the children returning to the United States, and one was closed after the left-behind parent could not be located for one year. By December 31, 2015, 23 reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Pakistani government for three cases; we submitted applications only when left-behind parents gave us permission. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Pakistan. In addition, there were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Pakistan. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Pakistan, the Department recommends continued engagement with Pakistani government officials to encourage Pakistan to accede to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Tunisia



Tunisia demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by persistently failing to work with the United States to resolve abduction cases in 2015.

Tunisia adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Despite high-level attention between our two governments on the issue, the Government of Tunisia did not provide meaningful assistance to left-behind parents in returning children to their habitual residence. While some parents report positive developments in Tunisian courts, including the consideration of foreign court orders in Tunisian proceedings, these Tunisian orders remained unenforced in 2015.

During 2015, there were five reported abductions to Tunisia where the children's habitual residence is the United States. One abduction case was reported in 2015; it relates to an alleged abduction that took place in 2009. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved as defined by the Act. One reported abduction was closed after the left-behind parent could not be located. By December 31, 2015, four reported abductions remained open.

In coordination with left-behind parents, the Department did not submit any new applications for return to the Tunisian government during 2015. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, or failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child. However, there was one case (100 percent of the cases filed with the foreign government) where law enforcement authorities failed to enforce a return order rendered by Tunisian judicial or administrative authorities. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Tunisia, the Department recommends that:

- Tunisia promote training with law enforcement entities on how to effectively locate children and enforce court-ordered return; and
- The Department promote Tunisia's participation in meetings with the United States, and other countries, who can share best practices for handling international parental abduction cases.

Convention Countries with Five or More Abduction Cases in 2015

As required by the Act, in the following data pages we provide for each country:

- statistical information on international abduction cases in that country; and
- steps we recommend to improve the resolution of abduction and access cases.

Diplomacy Works in Slovakia

Throughout 2015, the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia joined chiefs of mission from the French, Irish, Italian, Spanish, and Norwegian embassies to address problems that parents experienced with the legal system in Slovakia, including a lengthy appeals process and difficulty enforcing Hague Abduction Convention return orders.

The Slovak Ministry of Justice introduced new legislation that entered into force on January 1, 2016. The legislation sets a twelve-week time limit for the resolution of Convention cases, limits the number of appeals, and provides for expeditious enforcement of Convention orders.

Legend for Country Data Pages

Reported Abductions /Access	Any abduction or access matter open with the U.S. Central Authority at any point in 2015, whether or not it meets the criteria for an international child abduction or access case under the Hague Abduction Convention. This includes abductions where the child's habitual residence is the United States and all access matters.
New Reported Abductions/Access in 2015	Any new abduction or access matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
Average Days to Locate	Average number of days it takes authorities in the foreign country to locate a child.
Cases Sent to FCA	Cases pending with the Foreign Central Authority at any point during 2015 that meet the criteria for international child abduction under the Hague Abduction Convention. Percentages of Resolved and Unresolved Cases are calculated based on this figure.
Cases Sent to FCA in 2015	Cases the U.S. Central Authority sent to the Foreign Central Authority from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
Cases FCA Did Not Forward to J/A	Cases that the Foreign Central Authority received and did not forward to the Judicial or Administrative Authority in that country by December 31, 2015.
Unresolved Cases	In a Convention country, abduction or access cases that were not resolved within 12 months after the application for return of or access to the child was submitted to the foreign judicial or administrative authority. In a non-Convention country, cases that were not resolved within 12 months after the application for return or access to the child was submitted to the Foreign Central Authority or foreign ministry.
Unresolved due to Law Enforcement	The number of unresolved cases where foreign law enforcement authorities have: 1) not located the child; 2) failed to undertake serious efforts to locate the abducted child; or 3) failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of such country.
Resolved Cases	Cases sent to the Foreign Central Authority that were closed for the following reasons: 1) the child is returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority is complying with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reach a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdraws the application for return; 5) the left-behind parent cannot be located for greater than one year; or 6) death of the left-behind parent or child.
Reported Abductions/Access Closed at Any Point in 2015	Any Reported Abduction/Access closed during 2015 for any reason prior to it being sent to the Foreign Central Authority, or for reasons other than those for Resolved Cases.
Reported Abductions Still open as of 12/31/2015	Reported Abductions/Access open on December 31, 2015.

Australia



In 2015, there were 13 reported abductions in Australia relating to a child whose habitual residence

is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Australia.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
13		6	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
7		4	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
RESOLVED CASES (1)		REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015 (2)	REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15 (3)
4	57%	2	7

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
2		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
0	0%	2	0

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

1	FCA was reviewing the case
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In 2015, there were 30 reported abductions in Canada relating to a child whose habitual residence

is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Canada.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Canada

ABDUCTIONS				
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
30		17	165 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
16		8	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT		
1	6%	0	0%	
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
13	81%	8	9	

ACCESS				
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
7		0	0 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
2		0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT		
0	0%	0	0%	
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
2	100%	5	0	

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 631 Days
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Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
II	Left-behind parent withdrew Hague application before case went to the judicial authority



In 2015, there were eight reported abductions in Chile relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Chile.

The Department recommends:

- Promoting training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases.

Chile

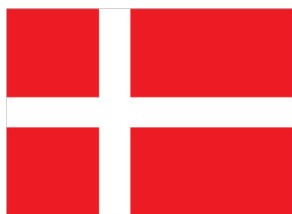
ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
8		6	94 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
5		5	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
1	20%	2	5

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
0		0	N/A
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
0	0%	0	0

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	Regular Administrative Processing
II	Regular Administrative Processing

Denmark



In 2015, in Denmark there were seven reported abductions relating to children removed from the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Denmark.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
7		5	18 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
4		3	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
4	100%	1	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE. DAYS TO LOCATE
2		2	7 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
1		1	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
1	100%	0	1



In 2015, there were 10 reported abductions in El Salvador relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United

States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and El Salvador.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

El Salvador

ABDUCTIONS				
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
10		3	78 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
6		1	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT		
0	0%	0	0%	
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
6	100%	4	0	

ACCESS				
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
0		0	N/A	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
0		0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT		
0	0%	0	0%	
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	0	0	



In 2015, there were 12 reported abductions in France relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and France.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

France

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
12	2	6 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
9	3	1	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
7	78%	3	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
2	1	8 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15	
1	1	1	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	1	1

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority- Abductions

I	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
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Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Access

I	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
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In 2015, there were 57 reported abductions in Germany involving a child taken from the United States to

Germany.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Germany.

Germany experiences a high volume of applications from the United States under the Convention, which the Government of Germany processes promptly and effectively.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Germany

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
57		32	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
15		8	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
10	67%	23	24

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
20		9	44 DAYS
SENT TO FCA		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
5		3	3
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
2	40%	11	7

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	FCA was reviewing the case
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Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Access

i, ii, iii	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
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In 2015, there were five reported abductions in Ireland relating to a child who was abducted to, or retained in, Ireland.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Ireland.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Ireland, the Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Ireland

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
5		2	19 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
4		2	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
4	100%	1	0

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
4		1	1 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
4		2	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
1	25%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
2	25%	0	2

Unresolved Access Cases

A	Pending for 503 days
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In 2015, there were nine reported abductions in Israel relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Israel.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Israel, the Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Israel

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
9	3	60 DAYS	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
6	2	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
5	83%	2	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
3	0	UNKNOWN	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
3	0	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
2	67%	0	1



In 2015, there were 12 reported abductions in Italy relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Italy.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Italy, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities, and
- Intensify engagement with the Italian Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing.

Italy

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
12		4	11 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
10		3	1
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
2	20%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN CY 15	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
6	60%	2	4

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
2		1	0 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
1		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
RESOLVED CASES (1)		REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN CY 15 (2)	REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15 (3)
1	100%	0	1

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 373 days
B	Pending for 903 days

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	FCA was still awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
II	FCA was still reviewing the case

Republic of Korea



The Convention is in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea. At the end of 2015, there remained four

open pre-Convention abduction cases, all of which were with the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 12 months. In 2015, two pre-Convention cases were closed. Expeditious resolution of the pre-Convention cases is a top priority for the Department, and the Department raises these cases with the Republic of Korea and requests assistance in their resolution.

The Republic of Korea Central Authority has a limited administrative role in the processing of Hague petitions under the Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote peer exchanges with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases; and
- Intensify engagement with the Republic of Korea Central Authority to promote prompt case processing.

HAGUE CONVENTION ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
6		3	41 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
4		3	N/A*
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
1	25%	2	3

HAGUE CONVENTION ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
1		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
1		0	N/A*
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
RESOLVED CASES (1)	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	0	1

* According to Republic of Korea law, the Republic of Korea Central Authority does not file Hague petitions in court.



In 2015, there were 318 reported abductions in Mexico relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Mexico.

The Department and the Mexican Central Authority have an effective working relationship. The United States processes more IPCA cases with Mexico than with any country in the world. Although the Department has observed a significant increase in the speed with which children are found, location continues to be difficult. Cases can linger because of lengthy appeals.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Mexico, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Conduct training with law enforcement entities on how to effectively locate children and;
- Continue the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Mexico

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
318		153	447
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
167		61	1
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
35	21%	1	0.01%
RESOLVED CASES (1)		REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015 (2)	REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15 (3)
83	50%	97	138

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
31		14	66
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
18		7	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
3	17%	0	0%
RESOLVED CASES (1)		REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015 (2)	REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15 (3)
12	67%	8	11

Mexico (continued)

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 1190 days.
B	Pending for 1164 days.
C	Pending for 477 days.
D	Pending for 493days.
F	Pending for 429 days.
G	Pending for 3359 days.
H	Pending for 1409 days.
I	Pending for 1191 days.
J	Pending for 2207 days.
K	Pending for 499 days.
L	Pending for 2585 days.
M	Pending for 980 days.
N	Pending for 1568 days.
O	Pending for 505 days.
P	Pending for 2762 days
Q	Pending for 1460 days
R	Pending for 934 days
S	Pending for 1576 days
T	Pending for 1392 days
U	Pending for 2918 days
V	Pending for 742 days
W	Pending for 426 days
X	Pending for 1976 days
Y	Pending for 1495 days
Z	Pending for 1052 days
AA	Pending for 1409 days
AB	Pending for 758 days
AC	Pending for 1571 days
AD	Pending for 955 days
AE	Pending for 577 days
AF	Pending for 468 days
AG	Pending for 1409 days
AH	Pending for 610 days
AI	Pending for 2248 days
AJ	Pending for 1221 days

Unresolved Access Cases

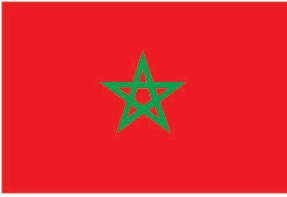
a	Pending for 1325 days
b	Pending for 454 days
c	Pending for 1662 days

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I	Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
II	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
III	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

IV	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
V	Administrative processing by FCA
VI	Administrative processing by FCA
VII	Administrative processing by FCA
VIII	Administrative processing by FCA
IX	Administrative processing by FCA
X	Case filed in court, but not by FCA
XI	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
XII	FCA was reviewing the case
XIII	FCA was reviewing the case
XIV	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
XV	FCA was reviewing the case
XVI	Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
XVII	Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
XVIII	FCA was reviewing the case
XIX	FCA was reviewing the case
XX	FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
XXI	Administrative processing by FCA

Morocco



In 2015, there were fifteen reported abductions in Morocco relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Morocco. Partnership between Morocco and the United States began on December 1, 2012. Our partnership with Morocco is still relatively new. As of 2015, the Department has not yet observed a Hague return application process from beginning to end. However, we continue to monitor Morocco for compliance with the Convention and look forward to continuing our dialogue on best practices. The Department enjoys a positive relationship with the Moroccan Central Authority and is encouraged by its leadership in the region on international parental child abduction issues.

During 2015, the Department had three remaining pre-Convention abduction cases to Morocco. By December 31, 2015, two of those cases had been closed and one case remained open. Expeditious resolution of this pre-Convention case is a top priority for the Department, and we are working with the Moroccan Central Authority to help resolve this pre-Convention case.

During 2015, the Department submitted one application for return to the Moroccan government for a pre-Convention case. In 2015, no pre-Convention abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Morocco. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement

authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Morocco. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Morocco, the Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

HAGUE CONVENTION ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
15	12	UNKNOWN	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
2	2	0	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	8	7

Case Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

1	FCA was reviewing the case
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Morocco (continued)

HAGUE CONVENTION ACCESS		
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
3	2	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
2	1	0
UNRESOLVED CASES	UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	

1	50%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	0	3

Unresolved Access Cases

A	Pending for 876 days
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New Zealand

In 2015, there were seven reported abductions in New Zealand relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United

States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and New Zealand.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
7		5	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
4		4	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
2	50%	3	2

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

1	FCA rejected the application
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ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
0		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
0	0	0	0



In 2015, there were five reported abductions in Norway relating to children removed from the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Norway.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Norway

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
5		5	11 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
3		4	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
3	100%	1	1

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS CASES (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS CASES IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
3		2	33 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
1		1	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CASES CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN CY 15	(3) REPORTED ACCESS CASES STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	1	2



In 2015, in Poland there were six reported abductions in Poland relating to a child whose habitual residence is the

United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Poland.

The Department recommends that the United States:

- Continue the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Poland

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
6		4	38 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
4		3	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
2	50%	2	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
3		2	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
1		1	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	1	2

Spain



In 2015, there were nine reported abductions in Spain relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Spain.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Spain, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Through embassy and consulate public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and
- Continue the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
9		4	43 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
4		3	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
4	100%	3	2

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
6		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FCA IN 2015	NOT SENT TO J/A BY 12/31/15
2		1	1
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
1	50%	4	1

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Access

I	Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
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Trinidad and Tobago



The Convention is in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago. At the end of 2015, there remained open one pre-

Convention abduction case. Expeditious resolution of this pre-Convention case is a top priority for the Department, and the Department raises this case with Trinidad and Tobago and requests assistance in its resolution.

At the end of 2015, there were four reported Convention cases relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Trinidad and Tobago, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
4		2	11 DAYS
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
4		2	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
1	25%	0	3

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority- Abductions

I	Parents decided to pursue a mediated agreement rather than to submit the case to the judicial authority
II	Case is with Trinidadian Central Authority for routine processing.

HAGUE ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
0		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	0	0



In 2015, there were 16 reported abductions in Turkey relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Turkey. Turkey is taking steps to reduce the lengthy processing of abduction cases.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Turkey, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities through our Embassy and consulates; and
- Continue the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Turkey

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
16		3	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
14		2	4
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
3	21%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
3	21%	1	12

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS CASES (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
2		0	UNKNOWN
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
0		0	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	2	0

Unresolved Abduction Cases

A	Pending for 611 days
B	Pending for 1507 days
C	Pending for 715 days

Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authority - Abductions

I, II, III	Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
IV	FCA was awaiting information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

Ukraine



In 2015, there were 10 reported abductions in Ukraine relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States.

The Convention is in force between the United States and Ukraine.

At the end of 2015 one pre-Convention abduction case remained open. In 2015, two pre-Convention cases were closed. Expeditious resolution of the pre-Convention cases is a top priority for the Department, and the Department raises these cases with Ukraine and requests assistance in their resolution.

The Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial, administrative and law enforcement authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases; and
- Continue the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

HAGUE CONVENTION ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
10	6	1 DAY	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
4	2	1	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
2	50%	3	5

HAGUE CONVENTION ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)	NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE	
4	0	UNKNOWN	
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY	SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15	
0	0	N/A	
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES	(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15	
0	0%	3	1

Case Not Sent to Judicial Authority – Abduction

I	Parents decided to pursue a mediated agreement rather than to submit the case to the judicial authority
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United Kingdom



In 2015, there were 37 reported abductions in the United Kingdom relating to a child who was abducted to, or retained in, the United Kingdom

The Convention is in force between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Department recommends:

- Continuing the effective processing and resolution of international parental child abduction cases under the Hague Abduction Convention.

ABDUCTIONS			
REPORTED ABDUCTIONS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ABDUCTIONS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
37		26	1 DAY
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
28		21	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN CY 15	(3) REPORTED ABDUCTIONS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
18	64%	5	14

ACCESS			
REPORTED ACCESS (1+2+3)		NEW REPORTED ACCESS IN 2015	AVERAGE DAYS TO LOCATE
16		5	1 DAY
SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY		SENT TO FOREIGN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN 2015	NOT SENT TO JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY BY 12/31/15
8		3	0
UNRESOLVED CASES		UNRESOLVED DUE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT	
0	0%	0	0%
(1) RESOLVED CASES		(2) REPORTED ACCESS CLOSED AT ANY POINT IN 2015	(3) REPORTED ACCESS STILL OPEN AS OF 12/31/15
6	75%	7	3

Non-Convention Countries and Areas with Five or More Abduction Cases in 2015

As required by the Act, in the following data pages we provide for each country or area:

- statistical information on international abduction cases in that country or area; and
- steps we recommend to improve the resolution of abduction and access cases.

Bolivia



During 2015, the Department had nine reported abductions to Bolivia relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, two were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and no reported abductions were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2015, nine reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted two applications for return to the Bolivian government. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Bolivia. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Bolivia. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Bolivia adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Bolivia, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with Bolivian government officials to encourage Bolivia to accede to the Hague Abduction Convention.

China



During 2015, the Department had seven reported abductions to China relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, one was newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and three reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, four reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted four applications for return to the Chinese government. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in China. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of China. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

China adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. China has participated in bilateral meetings and multilateral conferences on the Hague Abduction Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in China, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with government officials in China to encourage China to become party to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Ethiopia



During 2015, the Department had five reported abductions to Ethiopia relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, three were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and four reported abductions had been closed. Of those closed, two were closed by voluntary agreement between the parents that resulted in two children returning to the United States and two were closed after the left-behind parents requested a withdrawal of their application or their request for assistance to the Department. By December 31, 2015, one reported abduction remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted one application for return to the Ethiopian government. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Ethiopia. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Ethiopia. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Ethiopia adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Ethiopia, the Department recommends that the United States, through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

Ghana



During 2015, the Department had eight reported abductions to Ghana relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, three were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and five reported abductions had been closed. Of those closed, one was closed after two children returned to the United States pursuant to a Ghanaian court order, two were closed by voluntary agreement between the parents that resulted in two children returning to the United States, one was closed after the children aged out, and one was closed because the left-behind parent took no apparent actions to pursue the child's return from Ghana. By December 31, 2015, three reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted no applications for return to the Ghanaian government. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved, as defined by the Act. A case is considered "unresolved" under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Ghana. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Ghana. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Ghana adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. However, as noted above, we are aware of cases in which left-behind parents were able to gain custody of their children and return to the United States through the Ghanaian court system.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Ghana, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote training with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases;
- Promote training with law enforcement entities on how to effectively locate children and enforce court-ordered returns;
- Through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with Ghanaian officials in to encourage accession to the Convention.

Indonesia



During 2015, the Department had ten reported abductions to Indonesia relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, two were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and one reported abduction had been closed. By December 31, 2015, nine reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Indonesia government for nine cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Indonesia. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Indonesia. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Indonesia adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Indonesia has participated in bilateral meetings and multilateral conferences on the Hague Abduction Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Indonesia, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Through embassy and consulate public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with Indonesian government officials to encourage Indonesia to become party to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Iran



The Islamic Republic of Iran adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic relations with Iran and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Iran, including children abducted by their parents to Iran.

During 2015, the Department had 11 reported abductions to Iran relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, one was newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved as defined by the Act, but six reported abductions had been closed and four remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted no applications for return to the Iranian government. We send applications only when doing so is appropriate, will not put parents or children at risk, and when diplomatic and security considerations permit. As a result, in 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved, as defined by the Act, because there was no case during 2015 in which an application for return had been submitted to the foreign government and remained unresolved for a period that exceeded 12 months after it was submitted. In addition, there were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Iran. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

The Department recommends that the Department continue to emphasize child abduction prevention efforts in the United States with regard to travel to Iran.

Iraq



During 2015, the Department had eight reported abductions to Iraq relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, seven were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases were resolved as defined by the Act, but three reported abductions had been closed and five remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted no applications for return to the Iraqi government. As a result, in 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Iraq. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Iraq. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Iraq is party to the Hague Abduction Convention, but is not partnered with the United States. In 2015, Iraq had not yet established a Foreign Central Authority for the purposes of the Convention. The ability of the U.S. Embassy to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, throughout Iraq is extremely limited given the security environment.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Iraq, the Department recommends that the United States continue to emphasize child abduction prevention efforts with regard to travel to Iraq.

Jamaica



During 2015 in Jamaica there were eleven reported abductions relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, six were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and seven reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, four reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department did not submit applications for return to the Jamaican government for any cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Jamaica. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Jamaica. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Jamaica adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Jamaica, the Department recommends that the United States hold bilateral meetings with government officials in Jamaica to encourage Jamaica to become party to the Convention and to develop other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Kenya



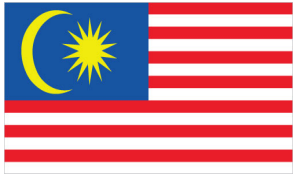
During 2015, the Department had seven reported abductions to Kenya relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, three were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and four reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, three reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Kenyan government for two cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Kenya. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Kenya. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Kenya adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Kenya, the Department recommends that through embassy public affairs and consular sections, the United States promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

Malaysia



During 2015, the Department had five reported abductions to Malaysia relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, one was newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and one reported abduction had been closed. By December 31, 2015, four reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Malaysian government for four cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Malaysia. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Malaysia. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Malaysia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2015, Malaysia hosted a seminar with the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At this seminar, Hague and non-Hague countries in the region discussed mediation and the Hague Abduction Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Malaysia, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities by Embassy; and
- Hold bilateral meetings with Malaysian government officials to encourage Malaysia to become party to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Nigeria



During 2015, the Department had ten reported abductions to Nigeria relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, four were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and four reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, six reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department did not submit any applications for return to the Nigerian government. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Nigeria. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Nigeria. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

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

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Nigeria, the Department recommends that Embassy and consulate public affairs and consular sections promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

The Philippines



During 2015, the Department had 23 reported abductions to the Philippines relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, seven were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and five reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, 18 reported abductions remained open.

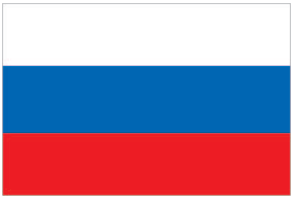
During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Philippine government for 13 cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in the Philippines. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of the Philippines. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

During 2015, the Philippines did not adhere to protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The Philippines has participated in bilateral meetings and multilateral conferences on the Hague Abduction Convention.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in the Philippines, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Hold bilateral meetings with Philippine government officials as the Philippines implements the Hague Abduction Convention;
- Promote peer exchanges with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases; and
- Promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

Russia



During 2015, the Department had 44 reported abductions to Russia relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, 15 were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved as defined by the Act, and ten reported abductions had been closed. Of those closed, four were closed after children returned to the United States by voluntary agreement or other means, two children aged out and their cases were transferred to another Department of State office, and four were closed after the left-behind parent could not be located for one year. By December 31, 2015, 35 reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Russian government for 20 cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Russia. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Russia. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Russia is a party to the Hague Abduction Convention but is not partnered with the United States under the Convention.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in Russia, the Department recommends that the United States:

- Intensify engagement with the Russian Central Authority for updates on international parental child abduction cases and to promote prompt case processing; and
- Evaluate the suitability of partnering with Russia under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Saudi Arabia



During 2015, the Department had seven reported abductions to Saudi Arabia relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, three were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and five reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, two reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Saudi Arabian government for three cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Saudi Arabia. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Saudi Arabia. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Saudi Arabia adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Saudi Arabia, the Department recommends that the United States hold bilateral meetings with Saudi government officials to encourage Saudi Arabia to accede to the Hague Abduction Convention and to develop other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

Sudan



During 2015, the Department had five reported abductions to Sudan relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, none were opened during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, but two reported abductions had been closed due to voluntary returns of children. By December 31, 2015, three reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department did not submit any applications for return to the Sudanese government. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Sudan. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Sudan. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Sudan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Sudan, the Department recommends that the United States, through embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

Taiwan

During 2015, the Department had four reported abductions to Taiwan relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, none were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and two reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, two reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return through appropriate channels to the Taiwanese authorities for three cases. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the Taiwan judicial or administrative authorities. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Taiwan adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The Hague Abduction Convention is open only to states, so Taiwan cannot join. Taiwan authorities have participated in meetings to discuss joint efforts to align their child abductions practices with the Convention’s.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases on Taiwan, the Department recommends that the United States promote peer exchanges through appropriate channels with judicial and administrative authorities on the effective handling of international parental child abduction cases.

Tanzania



During 2015, the Department had four reported abductions to Tanzania relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, three were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and two reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, two

reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department did not submit applications for return to the Tanzanian government for any case. In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Tanzania. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Tanzania. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Tanzania adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Tanzania, the Department recommends that the United States, through Embassy public affairs and consular sections, promote the resolution of international parental child abduction cases with public diplomacy and outreach activities.

United Arab Emirates



During 2015, the Department had seven reported abductions to the UAE relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Three cases were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and two reported abductions had been closed. Both were closed by voluntary agreements between the parents that resulted in the children returning to the United States. By December 31, 2015, five reported abductions remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted applications for return to the Emirati government for two cases. By December 31, 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in the United Arab Emirates. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of the United Arab Emirates. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of international parental child abduction cases in the United Arab Emirates, the Department recommends that the United States continue to meet with Emirati government officials to encourage the United Arab Emirates to accede to the Convention and to establish other protocols or procedures for resolving international parental child abduction cases.

West Bank

During 2015, the U.S. Central Authority had 16 reported abductions to the West Bank relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, six were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases had been resolved, as defined by the Act, and five reported abductions had been closed. By December 31, 2015, 11 reported abductions remained open.

In 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities in the West Bank. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

There are no protocols in effect in the West Bank with respect to international parental child abduction.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in the West Bank, the Department recommends that the United States emphasize child abduction prevention efforts in the United States with respect to travel to West Bank.

Yemen



During 2015, the Department had ten reported abductions to Yemen relating to children whose habitual residence is the United States. Of those, none were newly reported during the calendar year. By December 31, 2015, no cases were resolved, as defined by the Act, but six reported abductions had been closed and four remained open.

During 2015, the Department submitted no applications for return to the Yemen government due to the limitations of our bilateral relationship and security concerns. As a result, in 2015, no abduction cases were unresolved. A case is considered “unresolved” under the Act if it remains pending for twelve months after the Department submits an application for return or access to an appropriate authority in Yemen. There were no unresolved abduction cases in which law enforcement authorities failed to locate a child, failed to undertake serious efforts to locate a child, or failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of Yemen. The average time it takes to locate a child is unknown.

Yemen adheres to no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. Embassy in Sana’a suspended operations on February 11, 2015, and cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Yemen, including children abducted by their parents to Yemen.

To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Yemen, the Department recommends that the United States emphasize child abduction prevention efforts in the United States with respect to travel to Yemen.

Countries and areas in which in 2015 there were one or more abduction cases relating to a child whose habitual residence is the United States

Country	Convention/		
Albania	No Protocol	Haiti	No Protocol
Argentina	Convention	Honduras	Convention
Armenia	No Protocol	Hungary	Convention
Australia	Convention	Iceland	Convention
Austria	Convention	India	No Protocol
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	Iran	No Protocol
The Bahamas	Convention	Iraq	No Protocol
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Ireland	Convention
Belarus	No Protocol	Israel	Convention
Belgium	Convention	Italy	Convention
Benin	No Protocol	Ivory Coast	No Protocol
Bolivia	No Protocol	Jamaica	No Protocol
Bosnia-	Convention	Japan	Convention
Botswana	No Protocol	Jordan	No Protocol
Brazil	Convention	Kazakhstan	No Protocol
Bulgaria	Convention	Kenya	No Protocol
Cameroon	No Protocol	Kosovo	No Protocol
Canada	Convention	Kuwait	No Protocol
Chad	No Protocol	Latvia	Convention
Chile	Convention	Lebanon	No Protocol
China	No Protocol	Liberia	No Protocol
Colombia	Convention	Libya	No Protocol
Costa Rica	Convention	Macedonia	Convention
Cyprus	Convention	Madagascar	No Protocol
Czech	Convention	Malawi	No Protocol
Denmark	Convention	Malaysia	No Protocol
Dominican	Convention	Mali	No Protocol
Ecuador	Convention	Mexico	Convention
Egypt	No Protocol	Moldova	No Protocol
El Salvador	Convention	Morocco	Convention
Estonia	Convention	Mozambique	No Protocol
Ethiopia	No Protocol	Namibia	No Protocol
France	Convention	Netherlands	Convention
Gabon	No Protocol	Nicaragua	No Protocol
The Gambia	No Protocol	Nigeria	No Protocol
Gaza	No Protocol	Norway	Convention
Germany	Convention	Oman	No Protocol
Ghana	No Protocol	Pakistan	No Protocol
Greece	Convention	Peru	Convention
Guatemala	Convention	Philippines	No Protocol
Guinea	No Protocol	Poland	Convention
		Portugal	Convention

Republic of Korea	Convention Country
Romania	Convention
Russia	No Protocol
Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Serbia	Convention
Slovakia	Convention
Slovenia	Convention
South Africa	Convention
Spain	Convention
Sudan	No Protocol
Sweden	Convention
Switzerland	Convention
Taiwan	No Protocol
Tanzania	No Protocol
Timor-Leste	No Protocol
Trinidad and Tobago	Convention Country
Tunisia	No Protocol
Turkey	Convention
Ukraine	Convention
United Kingdom	Convention Country
United Arab	No Protocol
West Bank	No Protocol
Yemen	No Protocol

Besides the Hague Convention, the United States does not have bilateral procedures or other procedures for resolving international parental child abductions with any countries.

Travel Issues Meriting Special Consideration

When considering whether to allow the international travel of a child, you should also take into consideration the specific conditions and circumstances of the relevant country. Without the Hague Abduction Convention remedy or any other protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, parents are often left to pursue whatever remedies are available under the local law and practice in that country. More information can be found online at travel.state.gov.