



KIDNAP & RANSOM DAILY BULLETIN

03 April 2013

RUSSIA – According to local media reports, police arrested four men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-one in the Russian village of Sosnovo, roughly eighty kilometres north of St. Petersburg, on charges of kidnapping and petty theft in the early hours of 03 April 2013. The four men were arrested after they were seen taking a screaming man into an apartment on Marshal Blucher Avenue. Local residents informed nearby private security, who proceeded to call the police leading to the arrest. It is believed that the four suspects were heavily inebriated and the kidnapping was a crime of opportunity rather than a targeted kidnapping.

VENEZUELA – A woman was kidnapped in the Venezuelan town of Coat Mil on 02 April 2013 and was released soon after when her family agreed to pay a ransom sum of roughly US\$3,200, according to local press reports. The incident came only hours after the opposition presidential candidate, Henri Capriles, had visited the town. According to the village's mayor, the kidnapping is the first so called "express kidnapping" to take place in the town this year.

LIBYA – Police reported on 01 April 2013, that a thirty-seven-year-old man from the Al Hadba district of Tripoli was kidnapped by unknown assailants. No further information has been revealed as of 03 April 2013. However, reports suggest that the victim, who had been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was likely taken for financially-motivated reasons.

The news comes amid reports that another individual known as Fathi Mohamed el Haimar, was found dead outside a hospital Tripoli after suffering abuse at the hands of a Zintan-based militia. According to reports, the Zintan militia kidnapped el Haimar and tortured him to death. It remains undisclosed as to the reasons behind Haimar's death and abduction; however, it is likely that that he was attacked over allegations that he supported the former regime of Muammar Gaddafi.

Residents of Sirte are continuing to raise concerns over abductions by rival brigades in their city. In one recently revealed incident, authorities in the city confirmed on 02 April 2013, that forces, which are purportedly under the direction of the Supreme Security Committee (an organisation that should have been absorbed by the Ministry of the Interior), abducted members of an allegedly rogue militia in Sirte. For their part, the SSC claimed that the 'hostages' were in fact narcotics dealers. However, locals in Sirte have complained that a number of armed groups claiming to be part of the national police system are in fact terrorising and abducting civilians on trumped up charges in order to cement their power in the city.

LEBANON – (Update, Kidnap & Ransom Daily Bulletin – 02 April 2013) Further details have emerged regarding the abduction a number of Syrians from Lebanon's northern Wadi Khaled border region on 01 April 2013. It has now been confirmed that thirteen Syrian Alawites were captured by a number of gunmen who are insisting that Syrian forces release a Lebanese Sunni, Mohammed Hussein al-Ahmad in return for the Syrian nationals.

PHILIPPINES – In a positive development, it has been alleged that there was a 54% reduction in the number of kidnap-for-ransom incidents across the country in 2012. The fall is outlined in the latest 'annual accomplishment report' of the Philippine National Police, suggesting that there were a total of eleven incidents in 2012. Whilst there has almost certainly been a reduction in attacks of late, it is important to remember that many incidents will go unreported and this is unlikely to be a true reflection of total incidents.

EGYPT – (Update, Kidnap & Ransom Daily Bulletin – 02 April 2013) In the latest development to the kidnapping of a twelve-year-old Coptic Christian in Egypt, it has now been revealed that her father is a local businessman and that kidnappers have demanded a US\$294,000 ransom for her release. Due to the financial demand, it is suspected that the abduction does not have sectarian undertones, with one source suggesting the incident is not related to previous clashes between Muslims and Copts. Authorities are reportedly struggling to investigate the abduction as the girl's father is reluctant to cooperate following a warning from the criminals that they will execute his daughter if he involves the police.

MEXICO – The former mayor of Villa Corona in the Mexican State of Jalisco, Jose de Jesus Ortiz Uribe was arrested together with his son, Leonardo Ortiz Hernandez, on 02 April 2013 on charges of kidnapping and murder. According to local media reports, the charges stem from the fact that the two had close ties to various organised crime entities and had abused the former mayor's position in order to keep innocent men in jail until they agreed to pay a ransom, thereby effectively kidnapping them. According to media reports, the two also personally organised the beating of two prisoners, which went out of hand, resulting in their death.

BOLIVIA – Police in the Bolivian State of Zulia announced on 02 April 2013 that a twenty-five year old woman, who is seven months pregnant had been arrested on multiple charges of kidnapping. The incidents which she is accused of orchestrating occurred in the summer of 2012. Police have requested that she be held in remand, however, it is unclear whether or not the judge will allow her bail due to her pregnancy, as some press reports have indicated.

ALICE BOYES
INTELLIGENCE ANALYST



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OPERATIONS CENTRE
INKERMAN HOUSE
3-4 ELWICK ROAD
ASHFORD
KENT TN23 1PF
UNITED KINGDOM

T + 44 (0) 1233 646 940
F + 44 (0) 1233 646 840

THE INKERMAN GROUP
1 CORNHILL
LONDON
EC3V 3ND
UNITED KINGDOM

T + 44 (0) 20 7589 5338
F + 44 (0) 20 7589 5339

THE INKERMAN GROUP
AM MEERKAMP 17-19
40667 MEERBUSCH
GERMANY

T + 49 (0) 2132 968 5151
F + 49 (0) 2132 967 9582

DX : 30206 ASHFORD KENT
COMPANY NUMBER : 3085655

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