

Annual Report on

International Child Abduction

2018



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

APRIL 2018

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



United States Department of State

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Reader:

Every day, from offices in Washington and embassies and consulates around the globe, devoted State Department employees strive to protect the safety and security of U.S. citizens throughout the world. This is one of the oldest and most fundamental roles of the Department of State. This mission is especially important when we serve some of our most vulnerable citizens – our children.

I am immensely proud of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues' dedication to preventing and resolving incidents of international parental child abduction. As a Party to the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention)*, the United States believes that the courts in a child's place of habitual residence should resolve matters of custody, and that abducted children should be promptly returned to their country of habitual residence, as appropriate.

Our Prevention Team coordinates continuously with law enforcement agencies and foreign governments to prevent abductions. During 2017, the Prevention Team responded to more than 3,500 prevention-related inquiries from the general public and the number of children enrolled in our prevention programs grew to over 47,000.

When an abduction or wrongful retention occurs, country officers provide information and resources to left-behind parents and collaborate with foreign government officials to facilitate the prompt return of children to their country of habitual residence. In 2017, country officers handled cases in which 215 children returned to the United States and 356 cases resolved in other ways.

We also advocate with our Convention partner countries to encourage them to fully honor their Convention obligations. We encourage countries that have not joined the Convention to develop institutions and procedures that will allow them to become party to and implement the Convention and become our next partner in the fight against child abduction. In 2017, Jamaica and Tunisia joined the Convention, bringing the total number of Parties to 98. Some of the countries cited in earlier reports to Congress have become reliable partners in implementing the Convention. Despite continued progress, some countries demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as defined in the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014. This report cites 12 such countries. I am personally committed to pressing these countries to take more effective measures to resolve cases of international parental child abduction on behalf of children and families around the world.

Today I am pleased to submit the 2018 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction. This report explains the Department's efforts to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions over the past year. I trust this report will be a valuable resource for Congress, parents, attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State

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INTRODUCTION

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

As the U.S. Central Authority for the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention), the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues leads U.S. government efforts to prevent abductions and to respond when international abductions or wrongful retentions happen. In recognition of the impact that an abduction or retention can have on children and their families, the Prevention Team leads the Office's efforts to reduce the number of abductions that occur. On a daily basis, prevention officers tell parents about the [Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program \(CPIAP\)](#), which is one of our strongest tools to prevent IPCA. Additionally, prevention officers regularly liaise with and train law enforcement officers on identifying and responding to IPCA.

As appropriate to the circumstances of each situation, country officers may work with foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, other U.S. government agencies, and international organizations to resolve IPCA matters. We also actively encourage countries to become party to the Convention, which is the best means of ensuring that countries establish procedures to address abduction cases. Once the Convention is in force between the United States and another Convention party, also known as "partnership" under the Convention, we collaborate with foreign officials from that country to promote compliance with Convention obligations.

When parents report that their children have been abducted or retained outside of the United States, country officers inform them of potential options and provide resources to help them seek the return of, or access to, their children. In 2017, country officers responded to 218 initial inquiries in which parents sought information and resources regarding abductions and retentions, but did not proceed with providing complete documentation. Country officers handled 862 outgoing abduction cases, including 345 cases opened in 2017.

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

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

judicial phase, in many cases, a judge makes a decision about whether the child should return to the country of habitual residence.

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

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

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

Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues' Prevention Team responds to inquiries from parents, the legal community, law enforcement, foreign governments, and other stakeholders about how to prevent international parental child abduction. The Prevention Team also assists in preventing third-country abductions transiting through the United States. In 2017, the Prevention Team fielded over 3,500 prevention-related inquiries, nearly a 40 percent increase over 2016.

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) is one of the State Department's most important tools for preventing international parental child abduction. In 2017, the Prevention Team enrolled over 4,400 children into the CPIAP, an increase of nearly 10 percent over 2016. If a passport application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in the CPIAP, the program allows the Office of Children's Issues to contact the enrolling

parent(s) or legal guardians(s) to verify whether the parental consent requirement for issuance of a passport to a minor has been met. Parents can access the enrollment forms through the State Department's website or by contacting the Prevention Team.

When alerted to a possible abduction in progress, the Prevention Team liaises with law enforcement officials to seek to prevent a child from departing from the territory of the United States if a parent or legal guardian of the child presents a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction prohibiting the removal of the child from the United States. In 2017, the Prevention Team helped enroll 210 children in the Department of Homeland Security's program aimed at preventing international parental abduction, an increase of 60 percent over 2016.

Immediate Steps that May Help Prevent an Abduction:

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

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

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

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

The Prevention Team's duty officer program provides round-the-clock assistance by email at PreventAbduction1@state.gov or by phone at 1-888-407-4747 to assist parents and law enforcement officials to thwart international parental child abductions.

Cooperation with Law Enforcement

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

The Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (the Act) of 2014 helped to increase collaboration on IPCA among federal agencies. The State

Department hosts bi-annual interagency meetings to improve coordination efforts to prevent international parental abductions. Participants include the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), and the Department of Defense (DOD). The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children also participate. This interagency cooperation has increased the effectiveness of the State Department's round-the-clock duty officer program to assist parents whose children may be imminently at risk of international parental child abduction, or who need assistance facilitating the safe return of their child from abroad. Prevention officers enlist the cooperation of relevant agencies, such as DHS' U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the FBI when there is an abduction in progress reported.

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Department of State and DHS, the full-time prevention officer liaison program has been expanded to include an additional part-time prevention officer working at the CBP National Targeting Center. This arrangement has enhanced communication, streamlined processing of time sensitive cases, expedited responses from both Departments, and expanded the Department of State's relationships with law enforcement entities.

Diplomatic Efforts to Combat International Parental Child Abduction

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

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

The Office of Children's Issues leverages the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) to further diplomatic engagement with foreign leaders and improve understanding and implementation of the Convention. IVLP participants are

emerging leaders who travel through the United States to engage with U.S. counterparts in public and private sector organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Staff of the Office of Children's Issues with regional expertise in prevention and abductions regularly meet with IVLP participants to provide an overview of the U.S. Central Authority's role in preventing and resolving international parental child abductions. IVLP delegations often include judges and attorneys, government officials, and civil society leaders. In 2017, the Office of Children's Issues hosted and engaged with IVLP participants from Austria, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Panama, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Special Advisor for Children's Issues, Suzanne I. Lawrence, plays a unique and critical role in developing strategies to resolve emerging IPCA-related problems. During 2017, Special Advisor Lawrence and former Special Advisor for Children's Issues Ambassador Susan S. Jacobs traveled to more than a dozen countries and held numerous high-level meetings in Washington D.C., including various engagements with Japan, South Korea, Tunisia, and Australia to address IPCA with foreign government officials at the highest levels and discuss proper implementation of the Convention, or to encourage nonmember countries to accede to or ratify the Convention.

Throughout 2017, the Special Advisors for Children's Issues and other senior U.S. government officials continued to engage with foreign officials around the world to promote the prevention and resolution of international parental child abductions. The following are examples of such efforts:

- Special Advisor Lawrence led a delegation to the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention. Fourteen new contracting states had joined the Abduction Convention since the last Special Commission in 2011. Participants discussed best practices for cooperation between Central Authorities, mediation, and enforcement of return decisions, among other matters.
- Special Advisor Lawrence led a delegation to Japan to participate in the Tokyo Seminar on International Parental Child Abduction in the Asia Pacific. While in Tokyo, the U.S. delegation met with high-level officials from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice, and with private attorneys and mediators to encourage Japan to strengthen its process for returning children to the United States under the Convention.
- The Convention entered into force between the United States and Andorra on January 1, making Andorra the 76th U.S. Convention partner.

- The Convention entered into force between the United States and Fiji on May 1, making Fiji the 77th U.S. Convention partner.
- The United States and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding in July to collaborate on international parental child abduction issues.
- On April 3 and May 12, Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Ambassador William E. Todd met with high-level Indian officials to discuss better handling of existing international parental abductions, part of an ongoing discussion between officials of the Indian government and the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.
- Former Special Advisor Ambassador Jacobs traveled to South Korea in May to promote the resolution of ongoing international parental abductions and provide technical expertise on the Convention.
- Among various engagements with Tunisia on the topic of international parental abductions, the U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia met with his Tunisian counterpart in February to discuss Tunisia's commitment to acceding to the Convention and handling international parental child abductions. Tunisia acceded to the Convention in July.

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

What is the Convention?

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

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

What is the Hague Permanent Bureau?

The [Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law](#), commonly referred to as the Hague Permanent Bureau, monitors and supports international

implementation of this Convention and other treaties on an ongoing basis. The Hague Permanent Bureau's website contains resources such as the [Guides to Good Practice](#) that may help a country to effectively implement the Convention. Approximately every five years the Permanent Bureau hosts a Meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention. Special Advisor for Children's Issues Lawrence led a delegation from the Department of State to the 2017 Meeting of the Special Commission.

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

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

When a child is wrongfully removed or is being wrongfully retained in a country with which the United States has partnered under the Convention, a parent can file an application requesting that the child be returned to the United States. A parent may also

request access to a child under the Convention. The Office of Children's Issues serves as the primary point of contact for both parents and foreign central authorities (FCAs) and will liaise with FCAs and U.S. embassies and consulates abroad to confirm the child's welfare and facilitate the filing of the application, as appropriate. The Office of Children's Issues submits completed applications to the FCA in the country where the parent believes the child to be located.

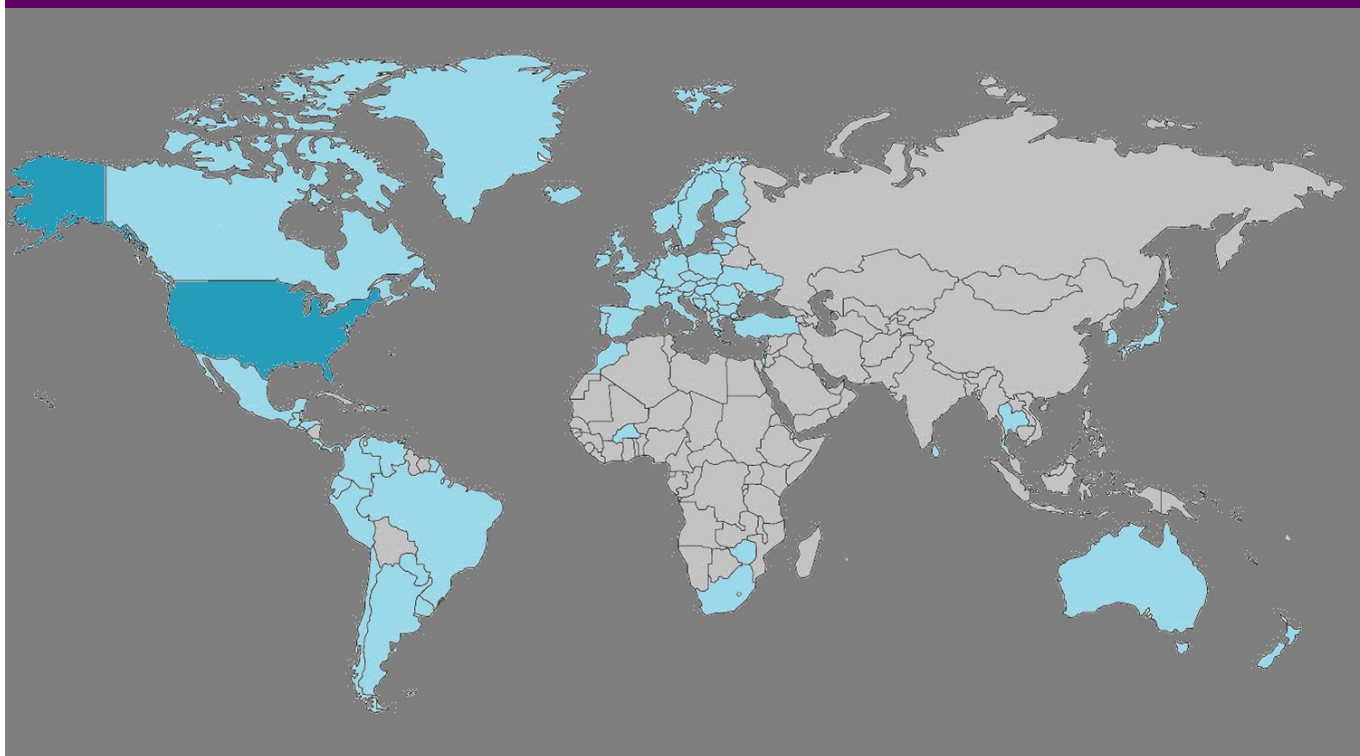
After the application for return or access has been filed, FCAs are responsible for locating children. The Convention states that a judicial or administrative authority should determine the place of habitual residence and order the child returned to that country unless specific defenses apply. Courts should decide these cases promptly, and the Office of Children's Issues monitors the Convention case throughout the foreign administrative and legal processes.

Does the Convention apply to all international parental abductions?

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

The Convention must have been in force between the two countries when the wrongful removal or retention occurred. [The Convention is in force between the United States and 77 countries.](#)

2017 U.S. CONVENTION PARTNERS



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

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

Will a child be returned if a parent files a Convention case?

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

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

Parties to the Convention have agreed to respect the right of access, or visitation, from other partner countries. Countries vary greatly in how they handle access cases.

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

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

The Role of the State Department in Non-Convention Cases

The Office of Children's Issues also leads the U.S. government response to international parental child abduction to countries that are not Convention partners with the United States. For parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in countries that are not Convention partners with the United States, the Office of Children's Issues may be able to provide information and resources about country-specific options

for pursuing the return of or access to an abducted child. The Department may also address a situation with foreign government authorities and coordinate with appropriate foreign and U.S. government authorities to monitor the welfare of abducted U.S. citizen children and encourage resolutions, as appropriate. The Office of Children's Issues or a U.S. embassy can also provide a list of attorneys who have expressed their willingness to represent U.S. citizen clients in the country where the child is located.

Parents should consider consulting an attorney who specializes in family law in the country where the child is located and who can provide legal guidance that is specific to their circumstances.

Assistance to U.S. Military Personnel and Their Families

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

The State Department is engaged with the Department of Defense's Office of Legal Policy and the Service Chiefs of Legal Assistance for all five branches of the military on IPCA issues that may impact military service members and their families. The Office of Children's Issues and Department of State attorneys have provided training to educate military lawyers and others on measures for preventing and resolving international parental abductions.

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

In 2017, the Office of Children's Issues responded to five initial inquiries affecting military parents regarding possible abductions for which no completed application was submitted to the Department. The Office of Children's Issues also worked on eleven abduction cases affecting military parents. Of these, nine were resolved and two were unresolved at the end of the year.

Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2017, 215 abducted or wrongfully retained children returned to the United States.

The majority, 160, returned from Convention countries, while 55 children returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction, as defined in the Act.

Last year, the Department worked on 197 abduction cases that were resolved without the abducted children returning to the United States. These include cases that were closed for the following reasons: (1) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Convention; (2) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement for the child to remain; (3) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; (4) the left-behind parent could not be located by the Office of Children's Issues for more than one year; and (5) the left-behind parent or child passed away.

Of the 197 cases, 138 involved Convention member countries, and 59 involved non-Convention countries.

To provide a longer-term perspective, the Office of Children's Issues reviewed the files of all children involved in abduction cases opened in 2015. By December 31, 2017, 42 percent of these children had returned to the United States. Of the abduction cases opened in 2015, 62 percent had resolved either judicially or voluntarily, another 26 percent resolved for other reasons or had been closed administratively, and lastly 12 percent remained open at the end of 2017.

Other Issues Regarding International Parental Child Abduction

Voluntary Agreements

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

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

Domestic Violence Resources Available in IPCA cases

Recognizing that some parents and children impacted by international parental abduction are also survivors of domestic violence, the Office of Children's Issues encourages families to

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

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

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

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

The Violence Against Women Act was signed into law in 1994 and reauthorized in 2013, demonstrating the U.S. government's continued commitment to helping victims of violence. Among other initiatives, the Act funds programs to combat sexual assault and domestic violence across the country. In 1996, the U.S. government launched the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24-hour, toll-free service that provides crisis assistance and local shelter referral for callers across the country. The telephone number is (800) 787-SAFE. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is (800) 787-3224.

Criminal Laws and Remedies

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

A decision by a left-behind parent about whether to [pursue criminal charges](#) against the taking parent is a difficult one that should be made through consultation with a legal representative

and in consideration of its potential impact on other aspects of their efforts to secure the child's return. Depending on the circumstances, criminal charges filed against the taking parent can either help or hinder the successful return of the child.

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

As the U.S. Central Authority, the Office of Children's Issues educates judges in the United States on the Convention. Judges hearing Convention cases can access important resources including legal analysis and abduction prevention tools and information at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/International-Parental-Child-Abduction/for-providers/for-judges.html>.

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

Use of Airlines in Abductions

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

1. **Efforts to Support and Cooperate with Law Enforcement:** Federal and state law enforcement entities have a prominent role in preventing abductions and airlines should work to support law enforcement agencies in this role. As private sector entities, airlines in the United States do not have the authority to enforce custody orders. Commercial airlines' main role related to the prevention of abductions is cooperating, upon request, with law enforcement officials.

Airlines are encouraged to contact the Office of Children's Issues if they encounter a child who is at risk for international parental child abduction.

2. **Know How to Report:** Commercial airline employees should be made aware of the Office of Children's Issues' contact information and potential child abduction indicators, so that abduction cases reported to the airlines, either by parents, attorneys, courts, law enforcement officials, or other stakeholders may be appropriately referred for immediate assistance. The State 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.

How to Use This Report

This report provides Congress with information regarding international parental child abduction. To that end, readers may find a data page for every country with one or more open abduction cases during 2017 that were reported to the Office of Children's Issues. These pages are organized into two sections. The first section consists of countries determined to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as defined by section 101(b)(5) of the Act. The second section consists of the remainder of countries with one or more abduction cases. Countries that did not have an open abduction or access case in 2017 are not listed in this report.

Each country data page includes a country summary, a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children's Issues in 2016 and 2017, and an evaluation of the foreign central authority. Additionally, readers will find status reports on State Department requests for governments to locate children, rulings by foreign judicial authorities, actions taken to enforce judicial orders, and Department recommendations. For those countries where the Department submitted cases to a foreign central authority, an additional table appears under the central authority section with data required by the Act.

This Report presents a snapshot of abduction and access cases in a country during calendar year 2017. The volume of cases over this period may not be sufficient to indicate major trends in a particular country. Therefore, the Office of Children's Issues recommends considering the information presented in this report along with the information presented in [previous annual reports on IPCA](#) and the other topical annual reports and [country information](#) the State Department publishes.

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

Understanding the Country Pages

Country Summary: This section indicates whether the country is a party to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention), and whether the Convention is in force between the country and the United States. For countries not party to the Convention, if the Office of Children’s Issues has established bilateral procedures with the country, that will also be indicated in the summary. This section will also state if a country is being cited for a “pattern of noncompliance” as defined in the Act. If appropriate, previous citations will also be included here. All commentary on this page refers to the country’s performance during calendar year 2017.

Initial Inquiries: The number of inquiries for which U.S. Central Authority staff provided information and resources, but no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2017.

Table 1: Abduction Cases reported to the U.S. Central Authority	2016	2017	2018	2019
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year includes any abduction case reported to the U.S. Central Authority prior to January 1 that had not been resolved or closed by that date. An abduction case is any abduction matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority for which a parent or legal guardian has submitted sufficient documentation to meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.	16	16	17	17
New Abduction Cases reflects reported abduction cases received by the U.S. Central Authority from January 1 through December 31, which meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.	Cases	Childs	Cases	Childs
Total Abduction Cases reflects the total number of abduction cases open at any time during the year.				
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year reflects the number of reported abduction cases resolved from January 1 through December 31. A resolved abduction case is defined as any reported abduction that was resolved for one of the following reasons: 1) the child was returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; 5) the left-behind parent could not be located for one year despite documented efforts by the U.S. Central Authority to locate the parent; or 6) the death of the child or left-behind parent.				
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year includes abduction cases closed for reasons other than those listed in the definition of a resolved abduction case.				
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year counts abduction cases still open on December 31.				

The Office of Children’s Issues upgraded its data management capacity in 2017, resulting in more accurate but slightly different statistics than previously reported for 2016. The total number of the children listed under abduction cases resolved, closed, and still open in some country pages may not equal the number of children for the total abduction cases in that year as some children may have individual outcomes that are different from the outcomes for other children in a given case.

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

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

Table 2: Abduction cases conveyed to the country by the U.S. Central Authority	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year reflects any abduction case pending with the foreign central authority on January 1.	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA reflects abduction cases the U.S. Central Authority transmitted to the foreign central authority from January 1 through December 31.	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year reflects the total number of abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority at any time during the year.	6	6	7	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months. In a Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the completed application for return of the child is submitted for determination to the judicial or administrative authority, as applicable, in the country in which the child is located. In a non-Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the request for return of the child was submitted to the foreign ministry or other appropriate authority in the country in which the child is located.	C	C	C	C
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year is the percent of the abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority or relevant foreign government office that were unresolved on December 31.	a	h	a	h
	s	i	s	i
	e	l	e	l
	s	d	s	d
		r		r
		e		e
		n		n

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

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

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

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

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

Access: This section describes any access cases with the country during 2017. In an access case, a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children living in a foreign country.

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

COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATING A
PATTERN OF NONCOMPLIANCE

Argentina

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2017, Argentina demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Argentina's judicial branch regularly fails to implement and comply with the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, 40 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for five years and five months. Argentina has been cited as noncompliant since 2014.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Argentina where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (40%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	3 (60%)	3

Significant Developments: Argentina enforced the return of two children to the United States in one case in 2017, resolving a seven-year-long Convention application. The Argentine Central Authority, together with the broader Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the Argentine Embassy in Washington, D.C., coordinated with the Department to ensure the safe return of the children. Additionally, Argentina's International Hague Network Judge regularly engages with judicial authority colleagues and the Argentine Congress on the implementation of the Convention in Argentina. In 2017, the Argentine Network Judge collaborated on the text of a draft law seeking to expedite Convention cases and reduce the number of appeals prior to enforcing return orders. The International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) trained Argentine law enforcement officials on the subject of missing children and collaborated with Argentine interlocutors to prevent and respond to missing children cases.

Central Authority: The United States and the Argentine Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The Department has enjoyed a good, working partnership with the Argentine Central Authority in 2017 and has observed a commitment by the executive branch of the Government of Argentina to attempt to improve Convention performance in the country.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	5	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	4	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		40%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.



Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 34 days. In one notable case, the Argentine authorities have failed to confirm the child's location on multiple occasions. As a result, the Convention case has not advanced.

Judicial Authorities: The Argentine judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in deciding Convention cases. As a result, cases may be pending with the judiciary for well over one year. Two open cases have been before the courts for three and eight years, respectively, with final resolution still pending.

Enforcement: While courts in Argentina ordered returns under the Convention, the Argentine authorities did not always enforce these orders, apparently due to conflicts in orders from other Argentine courts. In this reporting period, after significant delays, Argentina enforced the court-ordered return of two children in one case.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Argentine authorities to address issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Argentina. This case has been filed with the Argentine Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



Bahamas

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and The Bahamas since 1994. In 2017, The Bahamas demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Bahamian Central Authority regularly fails to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention. Additionally, The Bahamas' judicial branch regularly fails to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of these failures, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for seven years and two months. The Bahamas has been cited as noncompliant since 2011.



	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	4	5
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5	3 (75%)	3

Central Authority: The Bahamian Central Authority demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding IPCA cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	4	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		50%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The Bahamian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year. Bahamian courts cause delays by routinely requesting home study evaluations in all Convention cases, regardless of whether respondents raise defenses to return under the Convention. Additionally, the judicial authorities continue to require apostilles for supporting documents in Convention applications. These extra requirements impeded prompt resolutions.

Enforcement: As a result of serious delays by the Bahamian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases, the United States is not aware of any instances where law enforcement was asked to enforce a return order in 2017.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Bahamian authorities to address issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in The Bahamas.



Brazil

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2017, Brazil demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Brazil's judicial branch regularly fails to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 35 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for five years and 11 months. Brazil has been cited as noncompliant since 2006.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Brazil where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	16	20	16	20
New Abduction Cases	4	6	4	8
Total Abduction Cases	20	26	20	28
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	6	9 (45%)	12
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	16	20	11 (55%)	16

Significant Developments: The Brazilian Ministry of Justice, Ministry of External Relations, and judiciary collaborated on two Convention-specific judicial seminars held in November and December 2017. The Ministry of Justice and the judiciary are also working to consolidate the jurisdictions in which Convention cases can be heard. The Brazilians report their goal in consolidating jurisdictions is to help ensure that Convention cases are heard by judges who are familiar with the Convention. These initiatives demonstrate that Brazil is making some efforts to improve Convention compliance in the judiciary.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	16	20	16	20
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	5	4	8
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	19	25	20	28
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	13	16	7	8
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	68%		35%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Brazilian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year.

Enforcement: As a result of serious delays by the Brazilian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases, the United States is not aware of any instances where law enforcement was asked to enforce a return order in 2017.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Brazilian authorities to address issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases.



Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of seven open access cases under the Convention in Brazil. Of these, two cases were opened in 2017. A total of six access cases have been filed with the Brazilian Central Authority, including one that was filed initially in 2017. By December 31, 2017, one case (14%) has been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, five access cases remained open, including three that have been pending with the Brazilian authorities for more than 12 months.



China

Country Summary: China does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, China demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in China persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 75 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for two years.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to China where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	6	6
New Abduction Cases	2	2	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	6	6	8	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (25%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	6	6 (75%)	7

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in China demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities did not address remedies for left-behind parents.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	4	4	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	4	4	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	4	4	3	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		75%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Chinese judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Dominican Republic

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and the Dominican Republic since 2007. In 2017, the Dominican Republic demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Dominican Republic's judicial branch regularly fails to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 20 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for six years and eight months. The Dominican Republic has been cited since 2014.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Dominican Republic where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	3	4
New Abduction Cases	5	5	6	7
Total Abduction Cases	6	7	9	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	3 (33%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (11%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	5 (56%)	7

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	5	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	33%		20%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Dominican judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance, with serious delays at the appellate level in deciding Convention cases. Cases that are appealed to higher courts have taken more than four years to resolve.

Enforcement: As a result of serious delays by the judicial authorities of the Dominican Republic in deciding Convention cases, the United States is not aware of any instances where law enforcement was asked to enforce a return order in 2017.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Dominican Republic. This case was opened and initially filed with the Dominican Central Authority in 2017. As of December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No access cases have been pending with the Dominican authorities for more than 12 months.



Ecuador

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2017, Ecuador demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Ecuador's judicial branch and law enforcement authorities regularly fail to implement and comply with the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, one case (accounting for 13 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention) remained unresolved for more than 12 months. More specifically, this case has been unresolved for four years and 11 months. Ecuador has been cited since 2015.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ecuador where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	3	5	6
New Abduction Cases	8	12	4	7
Total Abduction Cases	12	15	9	13
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	6	5 (56%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	6	4 (44%)	7

Significant Developments: The Ecuadorian Central Authority moved from the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion to the Ministry of Justice in June 2017, and a new director was appointed in mid-November 2017.

Central Authority: While the United States and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities (ECA) have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern. The Department encounters occasional delays in receiving responses from the ECA. However, we are encouraged by the ECA's participation in bimonthly video conferences with the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	5	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	8	3	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	9	11	8	12
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	11%		13%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: Ecuador demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention as a result of failure by the competent authorities to take appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. As a result, there is one case (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) that has been pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement has failed to locate the child, leading to significant delays in initiating legal proceedings. The average time to locate a child was 59 days.

Judicial Authorities: The Ecuadorian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention. Specifically, there were delays in judicial authorities deciding cases and some decisions raised concerns.



Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Ecuador were generally enforced in a timely manner. The Department was encouraged when law enforcement promptly enforced the one court-ordered return this year, overseeing the child's departure from Ecuador.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Ecuadorian authorities to address issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Ecuador. This case was opened in 2017. This case has been filed with the Ecuadorian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Ecuadorian authorities for more than 12 months.



India

Country Summary: India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, India demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in India persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 90 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and ten months. India has been cited as noncompliant since 2014.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received 11 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to India in which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2017.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	77	91	74	84
New Abduction Cases	18	21	15	20
Total Abduction Cases	95	112	89	104
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	17	20	15 (17%)	16
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	4	5	3 (3%)	4
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	74	84	71 (80%)	84

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in India demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases. While the Indian government repeatedly met with U.S. officials to discuss abduction cases, thus far, it has failed to take concrete steps to resolve pending cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	46	54	49	55
New Cases Filed with the FCA	12	13	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	58	67	49	55
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	37	44	44	50
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	64%		90%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, seven abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Without the Hague Abduction Convention or any other protocols intended to resolve abduction cases, parents generally must pursue custody of abducted children in Indian courts. Judicial action in custody cases in India has been slow, and Indian courts tend to default to granting custody to the taking parent. The lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Indian law makes it difficult for India to resolve these cases.

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

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



Japan

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention entered into force between the United States and Japan in 2014. Since then Japan has made measurable progress on international parental child abduction. The number of abductions to Japan reported to the Department has decreased since the Convention came into force for Japan. Despite this progress, in cases where taking parents refused to comply with court return orders, there were no effective means to enforce the order, resulting in a pattern of noncompliance. As a result of this failure, 22 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for one year and 10 months. The Department continues to urge Japan to resolve the 21 pre-Convention abduction cases that remained open at the end of the year, all of which have been outstanding for many years.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Japan where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	8	16	6	9
New Abduction Cases	7	7	4	5
Total Abduction Cases	15	23	10	14
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	9	14	4 (40%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	9	6 (60%)	10

Central Authority: The United States and the Japanese Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The Japanese Central Authority has focused effectively on preventing abductions, expanding mediation between parents, and promoting voluntary returns. The average number of children reported abducted to Japan each year has decreased by 44 percent since 2014, when the Convention came into force in Japan.

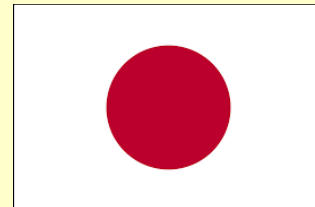
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	8	16	5	8
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	6	4	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	14	22	9	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	4	2	5
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	7%		22%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

Enforcement: Unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a return order under the Convention, judicial decisions in Convention cases in Japan were not enforced. There are two cases (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) that have been pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement has failed to enforce the return order. Japan's inability to quickly and effectively enforce Hague return orders appears to stem from limitations in Japanese law including



requirements that direct enforcement take place in the home and presence of the taking parent, that the child willingly leave the taking parent, and that the child face no risk of psychological harm. As a result, it is very difficult to achieve enforcement of Hague return orders. In addition, the enforcement process is excessively long. Left-behind parents who have obtained Hague return orders can spend more than a year in follow-on legal proceedings seeking an order to enforce the Hague order.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 37 open access cases under the Convention in Japan. Of these, three cases were opened in 2017. A total of 36 access cases have been filed with the Japanese Central Authority, including two of the three cases opened in 2017. By December 31, 2017, six cases (16 percent) have been resolved and five cases have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, one was as a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2017, 26 access cases remained open, including 23 that have been active for more than 12 months without achieving meaningful access.

The total number of Convention access cases at the beginning of 2017 includes 14 pre-Convention abduction cases that later filed for access under the Convention. Of these, one resolved, four closed for other reasons, and nine remained open at the end of 2017. In addition to filing for Hague access, these LBPs continue to seek the return of their abducted children.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2017, 12 pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Japan. In 2017, seven pre-Convention cases were resolved and one pre-Convention case was closed for other reasons. In these cases, the parents have chosen not to file for access under the Convention.

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

Jordan

Country Summary: Jordan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2006, the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. In 2017, Jordan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Jordan persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for one year and 11 months. Jordan has been cited as noncompliant since 2014.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jordan where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	13	20	8	11
New Abduction Cases	3	4	3	5
Total Abduction Cases	16	24	11	16
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	8	12	6 (55%)	9
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (9%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	8	11	4 (36%)	6

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Jordan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases. Repeated requests by the Department for information on resources available to parents and the judicial processes to resolve abduction cases have gone unanswered over a period of two years.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	4	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	9	14	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	9	14	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Jordanian law makes it difficult for Jordan to resolve these cases.

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

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



Morocco

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Morocco since 2012. In 2017, Morocco demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as a result of failure by the competent authorities to take appropriate steps to locate a child for more than one year after a Convention application was filed.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Morocco where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	2	2	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	4	4	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: The Moroccan Central Authority demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to delays in the processing of cases and a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding their resolution. In spite of repeated requests from the U.S. Central Authority, the Moroccan Central Authority failed to maintain timely and efficient communication. In addition, in one case, the Moroccan Central Authority has failed to confirm the location of a child for more than a year, thereby preventing the case from being brought to competent judicial authorities in a timely manner.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

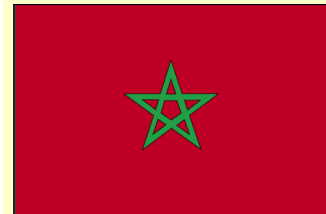
Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State requested location assistance but the Moroccan authorities have not yet confirmed location. The Central Authority has been unable to confirm the location of one child for over one year.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Moroccan judiciary in 2017.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Moroccan authorities to address issues of concern, including pre-Convention cases, and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases.



Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Morocco. This case has been filed with the Moroccan Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2017, this case was closed for other reasons.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2017, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Morocco.



Peru

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2017, Peru demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Peru's judicial branch regularly fails to implement and comply with the provisions of the Hague Abduction Convention. As a result of this failure, 36 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average these cases were unresolved for one year and 11 months.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Peru where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	12	14	10	13
New Abduction Cases	8	14	3	5
Total Abduction Cases	20	28	13	18
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	9	14	7 (54%)	11
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	10	13	6 (46%)	7

Significant Developments: In the last year the Peruvian Central Authority (PCA) has expressed interest in additional support and training for the judges in Peru. The Office of Children's Issues is working with the PCA to find ways to reduce judicial delays in Hague Convention Cases. In October 2017, members of the Central Authority, and judiciary visited the United States on a two-week child abduction-focused International Visitor Leadership Program.

Central Authority: The United States and the Peruvian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The PCA gives the United States regular updates on all open cases, and conducts a bi-monthly conference call with the U.S. Central Authority. The PCA is quick to respond to questions or concerns on cases.

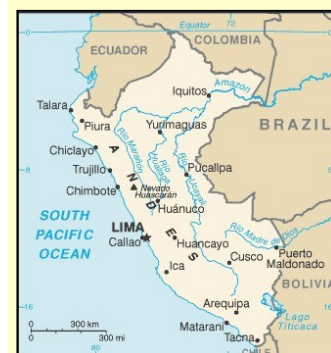
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	11	12	9	12
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	11	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	17	23	11	14
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	5	6	4	5
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	29%		36%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The Peruvian judicial authorities demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention due to serious delays in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year. In addition, there was a strike by administrative workers in the judicial system during the year, further slowing the scheduling of hearings.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial decision ordered under the Convention needed to be enforced by the Peruvian authorities.



Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Peruvian authorities to address issues of concern and expand public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Peru. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



United Arab Emirates

Country Summary: The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, the United Arab Emirates demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	3	3
New Abduction Cases	1	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	7	4	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	2	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	3 (75%)	3

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance by regularly declining to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	4	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	3	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		50%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Emirati law makes it difficult for the United Arab Emirates to resolve these cases.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage the United Arab Emirates to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



COUNTRIES WITH ONE OR MORE ABDUCTION CASES

Albania

Country Summary: While Albania became party to the Convention in 2007, the Convention is not in force between Albania and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Albanian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Albania where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Albania. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Albanian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Algeria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Algeria. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Algerian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Armenia

Country Summary: While Armenia became party to the Convention in 2007, the Convention was not in force between Armenia and the United States in 2017. Therefore there was no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		50%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the Armenian judicial authorities resolved an abduction case in a timely manner.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Armenian government officials about implementation of the Convention.



Australia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Australia where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	11	5	5
New Abduction Cases	10	13	3	9
Total Abduction Cases	17	24	8	14
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	9	14	5 (63%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	3	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	5	3 (37%)	7

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	5	5	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	7	3	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	10	12	8	14
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Australia. This case was opened in 2017. This case has been filed with the Australian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Australian authorities for more than 12 months.



Austria

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Austria where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	5	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	5	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	5	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	5	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Austria reached a timely decision in accordance with the Convention.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Austria. This case was opened in 2016 and filed with the Austrian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



Azerbaijan

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Azerbaijan periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Azerbaijani law makes it difficult for Azerbaijan to resolve these cases.

Enforcement: In some cases the Azerbaijani authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

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



Bahrain

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Bahrain. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bahraini judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Bangladesh

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bangladeshi judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Belgium

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Belgium where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The time to locate the child was 19 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Belgian judiciary in 2017.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order needed to be enforced.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases under the Convention in Belgium. Of these, one case was opened in 2017. A total of four access cases have been filed with the Belgian Central Authority, including two that were filed initially in 2017. By December 31, 2017, one case (25 percent) has been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, two access cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the Belgian authorities for more than 12 months.



Benin

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Benin. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Beninois judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Bolivia

Country Summary: While Bolivia became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between Bolivia and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Bolivian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Bolivia where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	10	11	4	6
New Abduction Cases	1	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	11	13	4	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	4	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6	4 (100%)	6

Significant Developments: Bolivia acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention in 2016, however the United States and Bolivia are not partners under the Convention.

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Bolivia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Bolivian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bolivian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Botswana

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Botswana. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the Botswanan judicial authorities resolved abduction cases in a timely manner. In unprecedented cooperation in one abduction case, Botswanan authorities were essential in assisting in the return of a child to the United States.

Enforcement: A decision made by a Botswanan court was enforced in a timely manner. The competent authority in Botswana coordinated with the U.S. Department of State and other agencies to arrange for the enforcement of a Botswana court order and the safe return of a parent and child.

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



Bulgaria

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Bulgaria where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	2 (67%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (33%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 13 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Bulgaria reached a timely decision in accordance with the Convention.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Bulgaria. This case was opened in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



Cambodia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cambodian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Cameroon

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Cameroon where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	7	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	4	8	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Cameroon. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cameroonian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Canada where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	7	5	7
New Abduction Cases	12	14	20	34
Total Abduction Cases	17	21	25	41
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	11	13	16 (64%)	30
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	7	9 (36%)	11

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	6	5	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	9	17	29
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	11	15	22	36
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	9%		5%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of six open access cases under the Convention in Canada. Of these, four cases were opened in 2017. A total of five access cases have been filed with the Canadian Central Authority. All of these cases were initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, one case (17 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2017, five access cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the Canadian authorities for more than 12 months.



Chile

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Chile where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	5	4	4
New Abduction Cases	3	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	8	8	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	4 (80%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	4	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Chilean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The Chilean Central Authority meaningfully engaged with the Chilean judiciary and local law enforcement agencies to help ensure timely and successful implementation of court ordered return decisions under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	5	4	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	7	5	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	29%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Chile routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Chilean judicial authorities impacted some cases during 2017.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Chile were generally enforced in a timely manner. In 2017, law enforcement aided in the enforcement of two orders for return under the Convention.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Chile.



Colombia

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Colombia since 1996. Colombia was previously cited for noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received six initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Colombia where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	6	6	7
New Abduction Cases	5	6	10	15
Total Abduction Cases	10	12	16	22
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	5	8 (50%)	11
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	7	8 (50%)	11

Significant Developments: As reported in last year's Annual Report, as of January 1, 2016, a procedural change reportedly limited the number of times a Convention case can be appealed. The Colombian Central Authority anticipated that this procedural change would reduce the amount of time Convention cases are in the judicial phase. However, during this reporting period, the U.S. Central Authority did not observe any events indicating that this change was effective in expediting the resolution of Convention cases. In calendar year 2017, the Colombian government informed the Department that Colombia is drafting new legislation to more effectively expedite administrative and judicial processing of Convention cases and more clearly outline the roles of both the central and judicial authorities in Colombia.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	5	5	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	5	9	14
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	10	14	20
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		14%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 24 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Colombian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Colombia. This case was opened in 2017. This case has been filed with the Colombian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Colombian authorities for more than 12 months.



Costa Rica

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Costa Rica since 2008.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Costa Rica where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	4	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	3	5	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	3 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	3	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Costa Rican judiciary in 2017.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Costa Rican authorities in 2017.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Costa Rica. This case was opened in 2017. This case has been filed with the Costa Rican Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Costa Rican authorities for more than 12 months.



Cote d'Ivoire

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Ivory Coast. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ivorian judiciary in 2017.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Cote d'Ivoire to accede to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



Croatia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	N/A		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Croatian judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Croatia.



Czech Republic

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

Significant Developments: In May 2017, the Czech Central Authority hosted representatives from fourteen Hague Convention partners, including the United States, to discuss best practices and foster communication. The Department welcomes opportunities to improve regional cooperation.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

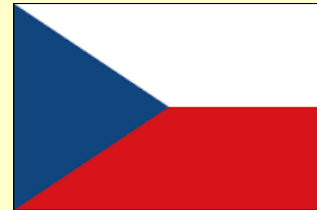
Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Czech authorities.

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in the Czech Republic. This case was initially filed in 2016 with the Czech Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case remained open. It has been pending with the Czech authorities for more than 12 months.



Denmark

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

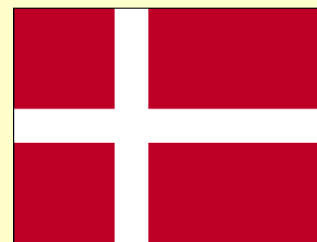
Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate the child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Danish judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Denmark. One access case has been filed with the Danish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, two (100%) access cases remained open, including one that has been pending with the Danish authorities for more than 12 months.



Egypt

Country Summary: Egypt does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2003, the United States and Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. Previously, Egypt was cited for having a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Egypt where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	19	24	18	24
New Abduction Cases	9	16	5	6
Total Abduction Cases	28	40	23	30
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	8	14	7 (31%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	2	2	1 (4%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	18	24	15 (65%)	20

Significant Developments: Egyptian officials have worked extensively to engage with the Department on reviewing possible methods for resolving cases. Egyptian officials met frequently with U.S. Embassy consular staff in Cairo to discuss individual cases of international parental child abduction and traveled to Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, Georgia, to engage on possible ratification of the Hague Convention.

Central Authority: The United States and the competent authorities in Egypt have regular discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Egyptian law, and the Egyptian government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	16	21	17	23
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	4	1	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	19	25	18	26
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	14	19	11	16
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	74%		65%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Egyptian judiciary in 2017.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Egypt to become party to the Convention and expand public diplomacy activities related to the Convention.



El Salvador

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	3	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Salvadoran judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access case under the Convention in El Salvador.



Estonia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: In a Convention case, the judicial authorities of Estonia made a timely decision.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Estonia.



Ethiopia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	3	1	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	4	2	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	3	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Ethiopia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Ethiopian law are limited.

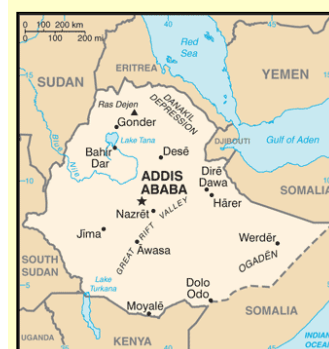
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	3	1	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ethiopian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Finland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	N/A		0%	

Location: The Department of State requested location assistance but the Finnish authorities had not yet confirmed location as of the end of the year.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Finnish judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Finland. This case was initially filed in 2016. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



France

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to France where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	4	6
New Abduction Cases	6	10	8	16
Total Abduction Cases	8	13	12	22
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	7	6 (50%)	10
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6	6 (50%)	11

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	4	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	10	7	14
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	13	11	20
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was two months and 14 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the French judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of eight open access cases under the Convention in France. Of these, five cases were opened in 2017. A total of three access cases have been filed with the French Central Authority, including one that was filed initially in 2017. By December 31, 2017, three cases (38 percent) have been resolved and three cases have been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, two access cases remained open, including one that has been pending with the French authorities for more than 12 months.



Germany

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received ten initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Germany where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	10	18	5	10
New Abduction Cases	24	34	9	12
Total Abduction Cases	34	52	14	22
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	22	32	10 (71%)	18
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	7	10	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	10	4 (29%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	6	5	10
New Cases Filed with the FCA	12	19	7	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	15	25	12	19
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	7%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of nine open access cases under the Convention in Germany. Of these, six cases were opened in 2016. A total of eight access cases have been filed with the German Central Authority, including five that were filed initially in 2017. By December 31, 2017, two cases (22 percent) have been resolved. Of those resolved, one was as a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2017, seven access cases remained open, including one that has been pending with the German authorities for more than 12 months.



Ghana

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ghana where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Ghana. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ghanaian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Greece

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Greece where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	3	2	4
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	4	3	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	4	1 (33%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	3	2	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	4	3	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Greece reached a timely decision in accordance with the Convention.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Greece.



Guatemala

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Guatemala since 2008. While it was previously cited in the 2012 through 2017 Annual Reports, Guatemala did not demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance in 2017.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Guatemala where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	10	3	4
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	6	10	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	6	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	3 (100%)	4

Central Authority: The United States and Guatemalan Central Authorities have a productive relationship. Communication with the Guatemalan Central Authority has improved. The United States and Guatemalan Central Authorities have participated in monthly conference calls, and the Guatemalan Central Authority has provided timely updates.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	5	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	7	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	20%		67%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Guatemalan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Guatemala.



Honduras

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Honduras where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	2	2
New Abduction Cases	4	5	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	7	8	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	6	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (67%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Honduras.



Hungary

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Hungary where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	N/A		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Hungarian judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Hungary.



Iceland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Iceland. This case has been filed with the Icelandic Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



Indonesia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	9	10	9	10
New Abduction Cases	1	1	4	5
Total Abduction Cases	10	11	13	15
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	4 (31%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (8%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	9	10	8 (61%)	8

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	8	9	8	9
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	9	9	10
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	8	9	6	6
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Indonesian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Iran

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	6	5	6
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	6	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	6	6 (100%)	8

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



Country Summary: While Iraq became party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Iraq and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The ability of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to provide consular services to U.S. citizens throughout Iraq, including services related to international parental child abduction, is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel advisory carefully.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Iraq where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	4	6
New Abduction Cases	6	8	2	5
Total Abduction Cases	6	8	6	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	2 (33%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6	4 (67%)	6

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications when diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2017, the United States did not inform the Government of Iraq of reported abduction cases. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Iraqi judiciary in 2017.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with the Government of Iraq regarding potential partnership.



Ireland

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ireland where no completed application was submitted to the Department.



	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Abduction Cases	4	4	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	4	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	3 (100%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Ireland. Of these, two were initially filed in 2016. One access case has been filed with the Irish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, both of these cases (100 percent) had been resolved.



Israel

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Israel where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	2
New Abduction Cases	4	8	4	11
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	5	13
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	7	3 (60%)	10
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	2 (40%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Israeli Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. Communication by the Israel Central Authority with the United States is frequent, timely, and responsive.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	6	3	7
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	7	4	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Israel.

Gaza Strip: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in Gaza. The U.S. Consulate General is not able to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, in Gaza given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Gaza. In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open abduction cases to Gaza. By December 31, 2017, both cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

West Bank: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in the West Bank. While the U.S. Consulate General is able to provide limited consular services to U.S. citizens in the West Bank, including those related to international parental child abduction, fluctuating security conditions can make this difficult. In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of nine open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, six were initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, two cases (22 percent) were resolved and one case was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, six cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Italy

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Italy where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	5	3	3
New Abduction Cases	5	6	7	8
Total Abduction Cases	9	11	10	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	7	6 (60%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	4 (40%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	5	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	6	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	6	8	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	20%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 37 days.

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Italy. All of these cases were opened in 2017. One access case has been filed with the Italian Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, one case (33 percent) has been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, one access case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Italian authorities for more than 12 months.



Jamaica

Country Summary: While Jamaica became party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Jamaica and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Jamaican government regarding partnering under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jamaica where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Abduction Cases	5	5	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	6	6	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (100%)	2

Significant Developments: In 2017, Jamaica acceded to the Convention.

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Jamaica. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Jamaican judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Kenya

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Kenya where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	6	2	3
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	3	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	5	1 (33%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	2 (67%)	3

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Kenya. However, the options for resolving these cases under Kenyan law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	4	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	4	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	4	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kenyan judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Korea, Republic of

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Republic of Korea where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	7	9
New Abduction Cases	4	5	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	7	9	8	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (25%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	9	6 (75%)	8

Central Authority: The United States and the Korean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The Department believes the Republic of Korea could improve the guidance provided to left-behind parents regarding how to retain an attorney and file their Convention application in court.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	7	9
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	5	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	9	8	10
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was two months and 22 days.

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

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue its engagement with relevant Korean authorities to address the areas of concern, including the pre-Convention case, highlighted in this report.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in the Republic of Korea.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2017, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in the Republic of Korea. In 2017, one pre-Convention case was resolved.



Kuwait

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Kuwait where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Abduction Cases	2	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Kuwait. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kuwaiti judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Lebanon

Country Summary: Lebanon does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2004, the United States and Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	8	12	9	11
New Abduction Cases	6	9	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	14	21	10	14
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	5	3 (30%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	3	5	1 (10%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	9	11	6 (60%)	9

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Lebanon worked closely with the United States to discuss the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Lebanese law are limited. Lebanese authorities demonstrated an increasing willingness to discuss cases of international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	6	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	7	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	7	6	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	4	5
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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



Lithuania

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department did not receive any initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Lithuania where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	3	7	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	7	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	5	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	0	0
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		N/A	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Lithuanian judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Lithuania.



Macedonia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Macedonia.



Malaysia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	2	2
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	5	5	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the competent authorities in Malaysia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Malaysian law. However, the options for resolving these cases under Malaysian law are limited.

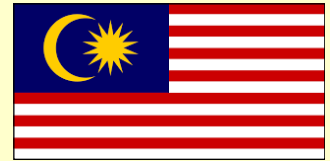
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Malaysian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Malta

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	N/A		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Maltese judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Malta.



Mexico

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received 62 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Mexico where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	97	141	74	103
New Abduction Cases	82	123	95	138
Total Abduction Cases	179	264	169	241
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	79	119	95 (56%)	137
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	26	34	12 (7%)	16
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	74	103	62 (37%)	86

Significant Developments: In late 2017 the Department noted substantial improvement in information sharing and improved coordination with the Mexican Central Authority.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	80	116	61	86
New Cases Filed with the FCA	40	59	53	77
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	120	175	114	163
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	35	53	21	30
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	29%		18%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities "shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues." In 2017, 47 abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was eight months and 17 days. In 2017, Mexican law enforcement authorities focused their efforts on newly filed Convention cases and improved their performance locating children. Nevertheless, there are some longstanding cases in which children remain missing.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Mexico routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention. However, delays by the Mexican judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2017. Delays were often attributable to the "amparo," a constitutionally based injunction that suspends the effects of a lower court's decision.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Mexico were generally enforced in a timely manner. However, there were two cases (accounting for 10 percent of the unresolved cases) that have been pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement has failed to enforce the return orders.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 11 open access cases under the Convention in Mexico. Of these, five cases were opened in 2017. A total of seven access cases have been filed with the Mexican Central Authority, including three that were filed initially in 2017. By December 31, 2017, seven cases (64 percent) have been resolved and four cases have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, one was as a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents.



Monaco

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Monaco. This case was opened in 2017. This case has been filed with the Monégasque Central Authority. As of December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Monégasque authorities for more than 12 months.



Namibia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Namibia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Namibian law are limited.

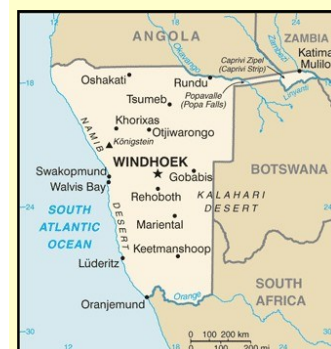
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Namibian law makes it difficult for Namibia to resolve these cases.

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

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



Netherlands

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to the Netherlands where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Dutch judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in the Netherlands. All three open cases have been filed with the Dutch Central Authority, and all were initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, two cases (67 percent) have been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons.



New Zealand

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	4	3	4
New Abduction Cases	3	4	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	8	5	7
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	4	4 (80%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	1 (20%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	4	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	7	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in New Zealand.



Nicaragua

Country Summary: While Nicaragua became party to the Convention in 2001, the Convention is not in force between Nicaragua and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Nicaraguan government regarding partnering under the Convention. Nicaragua was previously cited for noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	5	2	2
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	5	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	3 (100%)	3

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Nicaragua periodically declined to communicate directly or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		67%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. The average time to locate a child was 11 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nicaraguan judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Nigeria

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Nigeria where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	9	3	7
New Abduction Cases	4	6	6	9
Total Abduction Cases	8	15	9	16
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	8	3 (33%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	7	6 (67%)	12

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Nigeria. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

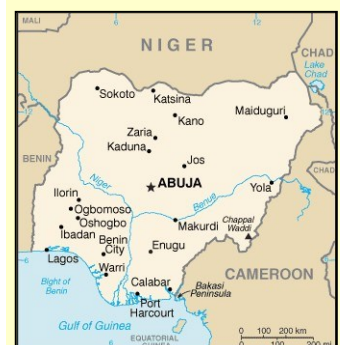
Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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



Norway

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Abduction Cases	3	3	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	4	4	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	4 (100%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Norway.



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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Oman periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. While Oman did respond to all case-specific communications, in-depth discussions to encourage greater action by the government did not occur. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Omani law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The lack of clear legal procedures for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Omani law makes it difficult for Oman to resolve these cases.

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

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



Pakistan

Country Summary: While Pakistan became party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Pakistan and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Pakistani government regarding partnering under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Pakistan where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	21	26	19	25
New Abduction Cases	5	10	6	10
Total Abduction Cases	26	36	25	35
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	9	6 (24%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	19	25	19 (76%)	27

Significant Developments: Pakistan acceded to the Convention in December 2016, and the Convention entered into force in Pakistan on March 1, 2017, however it is not yet a treaty partner with the United States. Pakistan is working to establish procedures to implement the Convention.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	11	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	11	14	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	11	14	11	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	11	13
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

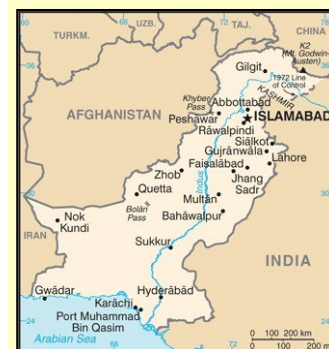
Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the Pakistani judicial authorities resolved abduction cases in a timely manner.

Enforcement: Decisions made by Pakistani courts are generally enforced in a timely manner.

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



Panama

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Panama since 1994. Panama was previously cited for noncompliance in 2017.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Panama where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Panamanian judicial authorities impacted the one case during 2017. Panamanian judges requested psychological and socio-economic evaluations, which impeded a prompt resolution.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue its engagement with relevant Panamanian authorities to address the issues highlighted in this report.

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Panama.



Philippines

Country Summary: While the Philippines became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between the Philippines and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Philippine government regarding partnering under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to the Philippines where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	16	22	13	17
New Abduction Cases	4	7	7	8
Total Abduction Cases	20	29	20	25
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	10	8 (40%)	9
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	13	17	12 (60%)	15

Significant Developments: The Philippine Central Authority is taking steps to craft implementation legislation.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	13	19	8	12
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	3	5	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	14	22	13	17
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	7	9	7	11
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		54%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

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

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



Poland

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Poland since 1992. While Poland did not demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance in 2017, the Department is concerned that Polish courts do not routinely issue written orders in Hague cases. Poland was previously cited for noncompliance in 2015.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Poland where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	3	3
New Abduction Cases	5	5	7	7
Total Abduction Cases	7	7	10	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	4 (40%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	6 (60%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	7	7
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	8	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	33%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: There were delays in judicial authorities deciding cases and some decisions raised concerns. Polish courts do not routinely issue written orders, although a parent can file a motion to request a written justification of a decision. Without written court orders, it is difficult to fully assess whether decisions were rendered consistent with the Convention.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Poland. Of these, one case was opened in 2017. A total of two access cases have been filed with the Polish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, two cases (67 percent) have been resolved. By December 31, 2017, one access case remained open. This case has been pending with the Polish authorities for more than 12 months.



Portugal

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		0%	

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 55 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Portuguese judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Portugal.



Romania

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. Romania was cited as noncompliant in the 2015, 2016, and 2017 reports. The Department is not aware of any changes to the procedures for resolving abduction cases in Romania, and therefore remains concerned that future cases may encounter similar challenges as in the past.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	2
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	2	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	1 (50%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 39 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Romanian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

Enforcement: While courts in Romania ordered returns under the Convention, the Romanian authorities were not always able to enforce these orders. One case remains open due to an unenforced return order.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Romania.



Russia

Country Summary: While Russia became party to the Convention in 2011, the Convention is not in force between Russia and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Russia where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	33	38	31	35
New Abduction Cases	10	12	14	17
Total Abduction Cases	43	50	45	52
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	5	14 (31%)	17
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	7	9	4 (9%)	4
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	31	35	27 (60%)	31

Central Authority: The United States and the competent authorities in Russia have discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Russian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	22	26	20	23
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	22	26	20	23
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	20	24	12	13
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	91%		60%	

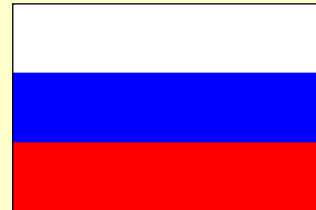
Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Russian courts, the lack of clear legal procedures for addressing non-Convention international parental child abduction cases under Russian law makes it difficult for Russia to resolve these cases.

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

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



Saudi Arabia

Country Summary: Saudi Arabia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Saudi Arabia was previously cited for noncompliance in 2015.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Saudi Arabia where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	6	3	6
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	4	7	4	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	6	4 (100%)	7

Significant Developments: In 2017, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases.

Central Authority: The United States and the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Saudi law. Through the creation of a Joint Committee on Children's Issues, Saudi authorities assisted the United States and left-behind parents to gain access to some children, assisted some left-behind parents with procuring travel documents to the Kingdom, and provided information on departures of children from the country.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	4	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	4	3	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	1	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		33%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Saudi judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Senegal

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Senegal where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Senegal. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Senegalese judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Singapore

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Singaporean judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Singapore.

Pre-Convention Cases: In 2017, one pre-Convention case was closed.



South Africa

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to South Africa where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	1	2	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	5	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	2 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	2 (50%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	5	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	33%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the South African judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in South Africa.



Spain

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Spain since 1988. While Spain did not demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance in 2017, the Department is concerned with the time it takes to locate missing children associated with IPCA cases. The Spanish Central Authority (SCA) also does not respond in a timely manner to the requests of the U.S. Central Authority, nor does it provide regular updates on the progression of IPCA cases.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Spain where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	4	5
New Abduction Cases	4	6	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	7	6	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	5 (83%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	5	1 (17%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	4	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	5	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	5	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 58 days.

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Spain. This case has been filed with the Spanish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.



Sweden

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Sweden where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	3	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	3	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

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

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

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Sweden.



Switzerland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	4	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	4	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

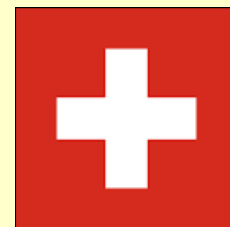
Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 23 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Swiss judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Switzerland. Of these, both were initially filed in 2016. Both cases have been filed with the Swiss Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, these cases remained open. Both of them have been pending with the Swiss authorities for more than 12 months.



Syria

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Syria where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	2

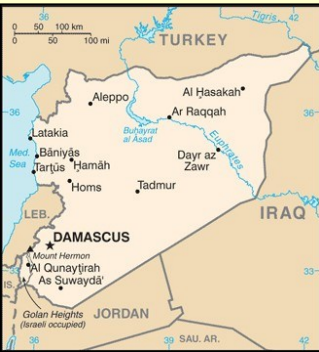
Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2017, the United States did not inform the Syrian government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Syrian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Taiwan

Summary: Due to its unique political and diplomatic status, Taiwan cannot become party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Therefore, the remedies available under the Convention are not available with respect to Taiwan. While Taiwan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, Taiwan authorities are seeking to identify other approaches to resolve abduction issues.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	3 (60%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	2 (40%)	3

Central Authority: The United States and the competent authorities on Taiwan have regular and productive discussions through appropriate channels on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Taiwan law are limited. In 2017, the Taiwan authorities engaged in discussions regarding the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Taiwan law and expressed interest in future discussions on a bilateral arrangement. The Taiwan authorities held internal discussions on approaches to resolve these cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	4	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Taiwan judiciary in 2017.

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

Department Recommendations: To improve the resolution of abduction cases in Taiwan, the Department recommends continued engagement with Taiwan authorities through appropriate channels. The Department will increase public diplomacy activities related to the resolution of cases. The Department also recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions. In the absence of the option of becoming party to the Convention, Taiwan's alignment with the principles and policies reflected in the Convention may facilitate expeditious resolution of abduction cases to Taiwan.



Thailand

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Thailand since 2016.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	2	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	3 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	N/A		0%	

Location: The Department of State requested location assistance, but the Thai authorities have not yet confirmed location.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Thai judiciary in 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Thailand.



Trinidad and Tobago

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago since 2013. Trinidad and Tobago did not demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance in 2017. However, the Department continues to urge Trinidad and Tobago to resolve a pre-Convention abduction case, which has been outstanding for many years.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Trinidad and Tobago where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	6	4	6
New Abduction Cases	3	3	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	6	9	7	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	4 (57%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6	3 (43%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	6	4	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	9	6	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	1	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	17%		17%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

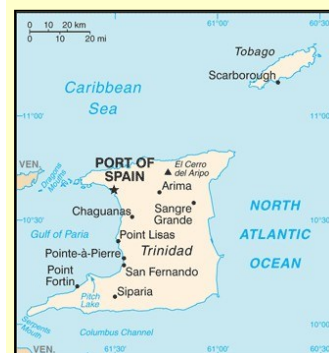
Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Trinidad and Tobago routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Trinidad and Tobago were generally enforced in a timely manner.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Trinidad and Tobago. This case was opened in 2017. This case was filed with the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority. This case was initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Trinidad and Tobago authorities for more than 12 months.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2017, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Trinidad and Tobago. The Department proactively monitors this case and raises its concerns with senior officials in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at every appropriate opportunity.



Tunisia

Country Summary: While Tunisia became party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Tunisia and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Tunisian government regarding partnering under the Convention. Tunisia was cited for noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	5	5	5
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	5	5	5	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	5 (100%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	5	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

Enforcement: Unless the taking parent voluntarily complies with a local court order, the authorities in Tunisia are generally unable to enforce judicial decisions.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue its engagement with Tunisian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Turkey

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Turkey since 2000.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Turkey where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	10	15	5	9
New Abduction Cases	3	3	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	13	18	5	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	8	9	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	9	4 (80%)	7

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	10	15	5	9
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	13	18	5	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	5	1	4
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	15%		20%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Turkey routinely reached timely decisions in accordance with the Convention. However, delays by the Turkish judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2017. Turkish authorities continue to make efforts to improve the judicial processing of cases on appeal.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Turkey. Of these, one case was opened in 2017. Two access cases have been filed with the Turkish Central Authority. Both cases were initially filed in 2017. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2017, two had been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, one access case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Turkish authorities for more than 12 months.



Uganda

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Uganda where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	2 (100%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ugandan judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Ukraine

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Ukraine since 2007. While Ukraine did not demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance in 2017, the Department is concerned about the amount of time it takes to locate missing children, delays in the judicial process, and the lack of legislation providing for the enforcement of Convention orders.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ukraine where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	6	7
New Abduction Cases	9	12	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	11	14	7	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	4 (57%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	3	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	7	3 (43%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	6	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	5	6	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	8	7	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	14%		14%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and 20 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Ukrainian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Ukraine.



United Kingdom

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Kingdom where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	9	12	6	9
New Abduction Cases	16	22	13	17
Total Abduction Cases	25	34	19	26
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	18	24	11 (58%)	15
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	9	8 (42%)	10

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	9	12	5	8
New Cases Filed with the FCA	11	15	11	14
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	20	27	16	22
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in the United Kingdom were generally enforced in a timely manner.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of seven open access cases under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Of these, two cases were opened in 2017. All seven open cases have been filed with the British Central Authority, and all were initially filed in 2017. By December 31, 2017, one case (14 percent) has been resolved and two cases have been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2017, four access cases remained open, including one that has been pending with the British authorities for more than 12 months.



Uruguay

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Uruguay since 2004.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Uruguay where no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uruguayan judiciary in 2017.

Enforcement: While courts in Uruguay ordered a return under the Convention, the Uruguayan authorities were not able to enforce this order. As a result, there is one case (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) that has been pending for more than 12 months where law enforcement has failed to enforce the return order.

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases.



Uzbekistan

Country Summary: While Uzbekistan became party to the Convention in 1999, the Convention is not in force between Uzbekistan and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Uzbek government regarding partnering under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Uzbekistan where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	5	5
New Abduction Cases	2	3	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	6	7	5	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	4 (80%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	5	1 (20%)	1

Central Authority: In 2017, the competent authorities in Uzbekistan periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Uzbek law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uzbek judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Venezuela

Country Summary: The Hague Abduction Convention has been in force between the United States and Venezuela since 1997.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	1 (33%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

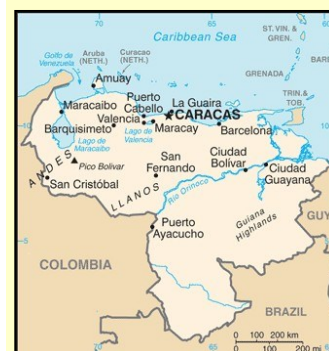
Location: The Department of State requested location assistance but the Venezuelan authorities have not yet confirmed location. The U.S. Central Authority does not receive timely updates on efforts to confirm location.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Venezuelan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2017. Judicial authorities delayed in reporting significant developments in a case to the Venezuelan Central Authority.

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

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

Access: In 2017, the U.S. Central Authority had no open access cases under the Convention in Venezuela.



Vietnam

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	2	2
New Abduction Cases	3	4	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	3 (75%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	1 (25%)	1

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Vietnam. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Vietnamese judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Yemen

Country Summary: The Department does not currently have an Embassy or personnel in Yemen and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Yemen, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department's travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Yemen.

Initial Inquiries: In 2017, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Yemen where no additional assistance was requested.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	7	4	7
New Abduction Cases	3	6	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	8	13	5	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	5	1 (20%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	7	4 (80%)	7

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2017, the United States did not inform the Yemeni government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Yemeni judiciary in 2017.

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

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



Zambia

Country Summary: While Zambia became party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Zambia and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Zambian government regarding partnering under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2016	2016	2017	2017
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	2
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Zambia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2017, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

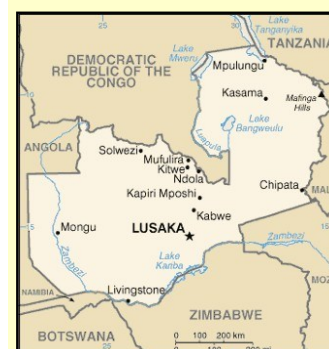
Voluntary Resolution: In 2017, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Zambian judiciary in 2017.

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

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



CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Concluded 25 October 1980)

The States signatory to the present Convention, Firmly convinced that the interests of children are of paramount importance in matters relating to their custody, Desiring to protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful removal or retention and to establish procedures to ensure their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence, as well as to secure protection for rights of access, Have resolved to conclude a Convention to this effect, and have agreed upon the following provisions -

CHAPTER I - SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION

Article 1

The objects of the present Convention are -

- a) to secure the prompt return of children wrongfully removed to or retained in any Contracting State; and
- b) to ensure that rights of custody and of access under the law of one Contracting State are effectively respected in the other Contracting States.

Article 2

Contracting States shall take all appropriate measures to secure within their territories the implementation of the objects of the Convention. For this purpose they shall use the most expeditious procedures available.

Article 3

The removal or the retention of a child is to be considered wrongful where -

- a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person, an institution or any other body, either jointly or alone, under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and
- b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention.

The rights of custody mentioned in sub-paragraph a) above, may arise in particular by operation of law or by reason of a judicial or administrative decision, or by reason of an agreement having legal effect under the law of that State.

Article 4

The Convention shall apply to any child who was habitually resident in a Contracting State immediately before any breach of custody or access rights. The Convention shall cease to apply when the child attains the age of 16 years.

Article 5

For the purposes of this Convention -

- a) "rights of custody" shall include rights relating to the care of the person of the child and, in particular, the right to determine the child's place of residence;
- b) "rights of access" shall include the right to take a child for a limited period of time to a place other than the child's habitual residence.

CHAPTER II - CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

Article 6

A Contracting State shall designate a Central Authority to discharge the duties which are imposed by the Convention upon such authorities. Federal States, States with more than one system of law or States having autonomous territorial organisations shall be free to appoint more than one Central Authority and to specify the territorial extent of their

powers. Where a State has appointed more than one Central Authority, it shall designate the Central Authority to which applications may be addressed for transmission to the appropriate Central Authority within that State.

Article 7

Central Authorities shall co-operate with each other and promote co-operation amongst the competent authorities in their respective States to secure the prompt return of children and to achieve the other objects of this Convention.

In particular, either directly or through any intermediary, they shall take all appropriate measures -

- a) to discover the whereabouts of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained;
- b) to prevent further harm to the child or prejudice to interested parties by taking or causing to be taken provisional measures;
- c) to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues;
- d) to exchange, where desirable, information relating to the social background of the child;
- e) to provide information of a general character as to the law of their State in connection with the application of the Convention;
- f) to initiate or facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of the child and, in a proper case, to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access;
- g) where the circumstances so require, to provide or facilitate the provision of legal aid and advice, including the participation of legal counsel and advisers;
- h) to provide such administrative arrangements as may be necessary and appropriate to secure the safe return of the child;
- i) to keep each other informed with respect to the operation of this Convention and, as far as possible, to eliminate any obstacles to its application.

CHAPTER III - RETURN OF CHILDREN

Article 8

Any person, institution or other body claiming that a child has been removed or retained in breach of custody rights may apply either to the Central Authority of the child's habitual residence or to the Central Authority of any other Contracting State for assistance in securing the return of the child.

The application shall contain -

- a) information concerning the identity of the applicant, of the child and of the person alleged to have removed or retained the child;
 - b) where available, the date of birth of the child;
 - c) the grounds on which the applicant's claim for return of the child is based;
 - d) all available information relating to the whereabouts of the child and the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be.
- The application may be accompanied or supplemented by -
- e) an authenticated copy of any relevant decision or agreement;
 - f) a certificate or an affidavit emanating from a Central Authority, or other competent authority of the State of the child's habitual residence, or from a qualified person, concerning the relevant law of that State;
 - g) any other relevant document.

Article 9

If the Central Authority which receives an application referred to in Article 8 has reason to believe that the child is in another Contracting State, it shall directly and without delay transmit the application to the Central Authority of that Contracting State and inform the requesting Central Authority, or the applicant, as the case may be.

Article 10

The Central Authority of the State where the child is shall take or cause to be taken all appropriate measures in order to obtain the voluntary return of the child.

Article 11

The judicial or administrative authorities of Contracting States shall act expeditiously in proceedings for the return of children.

If the judicial or administrative authority concerned has not reached a decision within six weeks from the date of commencement of the proceedings, the applicant or the Central Authority of the requested State, on its own initiative or if asked by the Central Authority of the requesting State, shall have the right to request a statement of the reasons for the delay. If a reply is received by the Central Authority of the requested State, that Authority shall transmit the reply to the Central Authority of the requesting State, or to the applicant, as the case may be.

Article 12

Where a child has been wrongfully removed or retained in terms of Article 3 and, at the date of the commencement of the proceedings before the judicial or administrative authority of the Contracting State where the child is, a period of less than one year has elapsed from the date of the wrongful removal or retention, the authority concerned shall order the return of the child forthwith.

The judicial or administrative authority, even where the proceedings have been commenced after the expiration of the period of one year referred to in the preceding paragraph, shall also order the return of the child, unless it is demonstrated that the child is now settled in its new environment.

Where the judicial or administrative authority in the requested State has reason to believe that the child has been taken to another State, it may stay the proceedings or dismiss the application for the return of the child.

Article 13

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding Article, the judicial or administrative authority of the requested State is not bound to order the return of the child if the person, institution or other body which opposes its return establishes that -

- a) the person, institution or other body having the care of the person of the child was not actually exercising the custody rights at the time of removal or retention, or had consented to or subsequently acquiesced in the removal or retention; or
- b) there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.

The judicial or administrative authority may also refuse to order the return of the child if it finds that the child objects to being returned and has attained an age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of its views.

In considering the circumstances referred to in this Article, the judicial and administrative authorities shall take into account the information relating to the social background of the child provided by the Central Authority or other competent authority of the child's habitual residence.

Article 14

In ascertaining whether there has been a wrongful removal or retention within the meaning of Article 3, the judicial or administrative authorities of the requested State may take notice directly of the law of, and of judicial or administrative decisions, formally recognised or not in the State of the habitual residence of the child, without recourse to the specific procedures for the proof of that law or for the recognition of foreign decisions which would otherwise be applicable.

Article 15

The judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State may,

prior to the making of an order for the return of the child, request that the applicant obtain from the authorities of the State of the habitual residence of the child a decision or other determination that the removal or retention was wrongful within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention, where such a decision or determination may be obtained in that State. The Central Authorities of the Contracting States shall so far as practicable assist applicants to obtain such a decision or determination.

Article 16

After receiving notice of a wrongful removal or retention of a child in the sense of Article 3, the judicial or administrative authorities of the Contracting State to which the child has been removed or in which it has been retained shall not decide on the merits of rights of custody until it has been determined that the child is not to be returned under this Convention or unless an application under this Convention is not lodged within a reasonable time following receipt of the notice.

Article 17

The sole fact that a decision relating to custody has been given in or is entitled to recognition in the requested State shall not be a ground for refusing to return a child under this Convention, but the judicial or administrative authorities of the requested State may take account of the reasons for that decision in applying this Convention.

Article 18

The provisions of this Chapter do not limit the power of a judicial or administrative authority to order the return of the child at any time.

Article 19

A decision under this Convention concerning the return of the child shall not be taken to be a determination on the merits of any custody issue.

Article 20

The return of the child under the provisions of Article 12 may be refused if this would not be permitted by the fundamental principles of the requested State relating to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

CHAPTER IV - RIGHTS OF ACCESS

Article 21

An application to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access may be presented to the Central Authorities of the Contracting States in the same way as an application for the return of a child.

The Central Authorities are bound by the obligations of co-operation which are set forth in Article 7 to promote the peaceful enjoyment of access rights and the fulfilment of any conditions to which the exercise of those rights may be subject. The Central Authorities shall take steps to remove, as far as possible, all obstacles to the exercise of such rights. The Central Authorities, either directly or through intermediaries, may initiate or assist in the institution of proceedings with a view to organising or protecting these rights and securing respect for the conditions to which the exercise of these rights may be subject.

CHAPTER V - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

No security, bond or deposit, however described, shall be required to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses in the judicial or administrative proceedings falling within the scope of this Convention.

Article 23

No legalisation or similar formality may be required in the context of this Convention.

Article 24

Any application, communication or other document sent to the Central

Authority of the requested State shall be in the original language, and shall be accompanied by a translation into the official language or one of the official languages of the requested State or, where that is not feasible, a translation into French or English.

However, a Contracting State may, by making a reservation in accordance with Article 42, object to the use of either French or English, but not both, in any application, communication or other document sent to its Central Authority.

Article 25

Nationals of the Contracting States and persons who are habitually resident within those States shall be entitled in matters concerned with the application of this Convention to legal aid and advice in any other Contracting State on the same conditions as if they themselves were nationals of and habitually resident in that State.

Article 26

Each Central Authority shall bear its own costs in applying this Convention.

Central Authorities and other public services of Contracting States shall not impose any charges in relation to applications submitted under this Convention. In particular, they may not require any payment from the applicant towards the costs and expenses of the proceedings or, where applicable, those arising from the participation of legal counsel or advisers. However, they may require the payment of the expenses incurred or to be incurred in implementing the return of the child. However, a Contracting State may, by making a reservation in accordance with Article 42, declare that it shall not be bound to assume any costs referred to in the preceding paragraph resulting from the participation of legal counsel or advisers or from court proceedings, except insofar as those costs may be covered by its system of legal aid and advice.

Upon ordering the return of a child or issuing an order concerning rights of access under this Convention, the judicial or administrative authorities may, where appropriate, direct the person who removed or retained the child, or who prevented the exercise of rights of access, to pay necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the applicant, including travel expenses, any costs incurred or payments made for locating the child, the costs of legal representation of the applicant, and those of returning the child.

Article 27

When it is manifest that the requirements of this Convention are not fulfilled or that the application is otherwise not well founded, a Central Authority is not bound to accept the application. In that case, the Central Authority shall forthwith inform the applicant or the Central Authority through which the application was submitted, as the case may be, of its reasons.

Article 28

A Central Authority may require that the application be accompanied by a written authorisation empowering it to act on behalf of the applicant, or to designate a representative so to act.

Article 29

This Convention shall not preclude any person, institution or body who claims that there has been a breach of custody or access rights within the meaning of Article 3 or 21 from applying directly to the judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State, whether or not under the provisions of this Convention.

Article 30

Any application submitted to the Central Authorities or directly to the judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State in accordance with the terms of this Convention, together with documents and any other information appended thereto or provided by a Central Authority, shall be admissible in the courts or administrative authorities

of the Contracting States.

Article 31

In relation to a State which in matters of custody of children has two or more systems of law applicable in different territorial units -

- a) any reference to habitual residence in that State shall be construed as referring to habitual residence in a territorial unit of that State;
- b) any reference to the law of the State of habitual residence shall be construed as referring to the law of the territorial unit in that State where the child habitually resides.

Article 32

In relation to a State which in matters of custody of children has two or more systems of law applicable to different categories of persons, any reference to the law of that State shall be construed as referring to the legal system specified by the law of that State.

Article 33

A State within which different territorial units have their own rules of law in respect of custody of children shall not be bound to apply this Convention where a State with a unified system of law would not be bound to do so.

Article 34

This Convention shall take priority in matters within its scope over the *Convention of 5 October 1961 concerning the powers of authorities and the law applicable in respect of the protection of minors*, as between Parties to both Conventions. Otherwise the present Convention shall not restrict the application of an international instrument in force between the State of origin and the State addressed or other law of the State addressed for the purposes of obtaining the return of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained or of organising access rights.

Article 35

This Convention shall apply as between Contracting States only to wrongful removals or retentions occurring after its entry into force in those States.

Where a declaration has been made under Article 39 or 40, the reference in the preceding paragraph to a Contracting State shall be taken to refer to the territorial unit or units in relation to which this Convention applies.

Article 36

Nothing in this Convention shall prevent two or more Contracting States, in order to limit the restrictions to which the return of the child may be subject, from agreeing among themselves to derogate from any provisions of this Convention which may imply such a restriction.

CHAPTER VI - FINAL CLAUSES

Article 37

The Convention shall be open for signature by the States which were Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the time of its Fourteenth Session.

It shall be ratified, accepted or approved and the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 38

Any other State may accede to the Convention.

The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Convention shall enter into force for a State acceding to it on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

The accession will have effect only as regards the relations between the acceding State and such Contracting States as will have declared their acceptance of the accession. Such a declaration will also have to be made by any Member State ratifying, accepting or approving the

Convention after an accession. Such declaration shall be deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; this Ministry shall forward, through diplomatic channels, a certified copy to each of the Contracting States.

The Convention will enter into force as between the acceding State and the State that has declared its acceptance of the accession on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of the declaration of acceptance.

Article 39

Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that the Convention shall extend to all the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, or to one or more of them. Such a declaration shall take effect at the time the Convention enters into force for that State.

Such declaration, as well as any subsequent extension, shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 40

If a Contracting State has two or more territorial units in which different systems of law are applicable in relation to matters dealt with in this Convention, it may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession declare that this Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify this declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.

Any such declaration shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and shall state expressly the territorial units to which the Convention applies.

Article 41

Where a Contracting State has a system of government under which executive, judicial and legislative powers are distributed between central and other authorities within that State, its signature or ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to this Convention, or its making of any declaration in terms of Article 40 shall carry no implication as to the internal distribution of powers within that State.

Article 42

Any State may, not later than the time of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or at the time of making a declaration in terms of Article 39 or 40, make one or both of the reservations provided for in Article 24 and Article 26, third paragraph. No other reservation shall be permitted.

Any State may at any time withdraw a reservation it has made. The withdrawal shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The reservation shall cease to have effect on the first day of the third calendar month after the notification referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 43

The Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession referred to in Articles 37 and 38.

Thereafter the Convention shall enter into force -

(1) for each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to it subsequently, on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;

(2) for any territory or territorial unit to which the Convention has been extended in conformity with Article 39 or 40, on the first day of the third calendar month after the notification referred to in that Article.

Article 44

The Convention shall remain in force for five years from the date of its entry into force in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 43 even for States which subsequently have ratified, accepted, approved it or

acceded to it.

If there has been no denunciation, it shall be renewed tacitly every five years.

Any denunciation shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at least six months before the expiry of the five year period. It may be limited to certain of the territories or territorial units to which the Convention applies.

The denunciation shall have effect only as regards the State which has notified it. The Convention shall remain in force for the other Contracting States.

Article 45

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall notify the States Members of the Conference, and the States which have acceded in accordance with Article 38, of the following -

(1) the signatures and ratifications, acceptances and approvals referred to in Article 37;

(2) the accessions referred to in Article 38;

(3) the date on which the Convention enters into force in accordance with Article 43;

(4) the extensions referred to in Article 39;

(5) the declarations referred to in Articles 38 and 40;

(6) the reservations referred to in Article 24 and Article 26, third paragraph, and the withdrawals referred to in Article 42;

(7) the denunciations referred to in Article 44.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at The Hague, on the 25th day of October, 1980, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and of which a certified copy shall be sent, through diplomatic channels, to each of the States Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the date of its Fourteenth Session.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Access Case	Cases where a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children in a foreign country through the Convention.
Bilateral Procedures Country	A country with which the United States has entered into bilateral procedures, as defined in the Act, with respect to child abductions.
Convention Country	A country for which the 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction has entered into force with respect to the United States.
Non-Convention Country	A country for which the Hague Abduction Convention has not entered into force with respect to the United States.
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

INFORMATIVE LINKS FOR PARENTS

American Bar Association

www.americanbar.org/aba.html

Department of Justice
Office of Violence Against Women

www.justice.gov/ovw

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac>
<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us>

Hague Conference Permanent Bureau
Child Abduction Section

www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction

International Social Service (ISS-USA)

www.iss-usa.org/

National Center for Missing &
Exploited Children

www.missingkids.com/

The Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and
Families

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/

Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)

www.ovc.gov/

U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services—Resources for Families

www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/domviolence/resources

U.S. Department of State
Office of Children's Issues

www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/en.html

2017 IPCA CASES BY U.S. STATE



Alabama

Australia	1
Italy	1
Mexico	3
South Korea	1



Alaska

Philippines	1
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Arizona

Australia	1
Colombia	1
Ethiopia	1
France	1
Germany	1
India	2
Indonesia	1
Israel	1
Japan	1
Kuwait	1
Mexico	14
Morocco	1
New Zealand	1
Peru	1
Russia	1
Thailand	1
West Bank	1



Arkansas

Colombia	1
Costa Rica	1
Mexico	2



California

Armenia	1
Austria	1
Belgium	2
Brazil	2
Canada	4
Chile	1
China	1
Costa Rica	1
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Czech Republic	1
Ecuador	1
Egypt	4
El Salvador	1
France	2
Germany	2
Greece	1
Guatemala	1
India	20
Indonesia	5
Iran	2
Israel	1
Italy	3

Japan	4
Korea, Rep. of	2
Lebanon	1
Mexico	66
Morocco	1
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
Norway	2
Pakistan	3
Panama	1
Peru	3
Philippines	6
Russia	8
Singapore	2
South Africa	1
Sweden	2
Switzerland	1
Taiwan	2
Thailand	1
Tunisia	1
Turkey	1
Uganda	1
Ukraine	1
United Kingdom	3
Uzbekistan	1
Vietnam	1



Colorado

Argentina	1
Brazil	1
Canada	2
Chile	1
Ethiopia	1
Germany	4
India	2
Malaysia	1
Mexico	4
Philippines	2



Connecticut

Australia	1
Chile	1
Costa Rica	1
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Ecuador	1
India	2
Mexico	2
Pakistan	2
South Africa	1



District of Columbia

Armenia	1
Russia	1



Delaware

Bulgaria	1
Mexico	1



Florida

Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	1
Bahamas	3
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Bermuda	1
Bolivia	1
Brazil	3
Canada	7
Chile	1
Colombia	11
Cuba	1
Dominican Rep.	1
Ecuador	4
Finland	2
France	3
Germany	2
Guadeloupe	1
Guatemala	1
Hungary	2
India	3
Ireland	1
Italy	2
Jamaica	1
Jordan	1
Mexico	12
Netherlands	1
Nicaragua	1
Peru	1
Philippines	3
Poland	4
Portugal	1
Russia	4
Spain	3
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Syria	1
Trinidad & Tobago	2
UAE	1
United Kingdom	3
Uzbekistan	2
West Bank	2



Georgia

Australia	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Colombia	1
Egypt	1
France	1
Germany	2
Ghana	1
India	5
Indonesia	1

Israel	2
Mexico	7
Montenegro	1
Pakistan	1
Panama	1
Philippines	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
Senegal	1



Guam

Korea, Rep. of	1
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Hawaii

Australia	1
Greece	1
Japan	1
Thailand	1
United Kingdom	1



Idaho

Estonia	1
France	1
Japan	1
Mexico	2



Illinois

Albania	1
Argentina	1
Benin	1
Brazil	1
Bulgaria	1
China	2
Croatia	1
Ghana	1
India	10
Indonesia	1
Ireland	1
Italy	1
Jordan	1
Lithuania	1
Mexico	10
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	4
Poland	3
Russia	2
Turkey	2
Uganda	1
Ukraine	2
Uzbekistan	1
West Bank	3

**Indiana**

Germany	1
Ireland	1
Macedonia	1
Mexico	8
Philippines	2
West Bank	1

**Iowa**

Jordan	1
Korea, Rep. of	1
Lebanon	1
Russia	1

**Kansas**

Gaza	1
Mexico	4
Pakistan	1
Russia	2

**Kentucky**

Colombia	1
Germany	1
Mexico	2
Netherlands	1
Turkey	1

**Louisiana**

China	1
Egypt	1
Jordan	1
Mexico	1
Peru	1
Thailand	1

**Maine**

Italy	1
Peru	1
Russia	1

**Maryland**

Cameroon	1
Canada	2
Czech Republic	1
Egypt	3
Germany	1
India	5
Iraq	1
Jamaica	1
Kenya	2
Korea, Rep. of	1
Libya	1
Namibia	1
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	2
Philippines	1
Poland	1
South Africa	1

Sweden	1
Tunisia	2
United Kingdom	2

**Massachusetts**

Brazil	2
Colombia	1
Denmark	1
Ecuador	2
Egypt	1
Japan	1
New Zealand	2
Norway	1
Russia	3
Uganda	2
Venezuela	1
Vietnam	1
Yemen	1

**Michigan**

Albania	1
Australia	1
Austria	1
Canada	1
Germany	1
India	3
Iraq	1
Japan	1
Jordan	2
Lebanon	2
Mexico	3
Pakistan	1
Russia	1
Taiwan	1
Yemen	3

**Minnesota**

Egypt	1
India	1
Japan	1
Mexico	3
Russia	1
Uzbekistan	1

**Mississippi**

Jordan	1
Korea, Rep. of	1
Yemen	1

**Missouri**

Comoros	1
India	2
Mexico	3
Netherlands	1
West Bank	1

**Montana**

Venezuela	1
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**Nebraska**

Brazil	1
Guatemala	1
Honduras	1
Iraq	1
Mexico	3
United Kingdom	1

**Nevada**

Anguilla	1
Costa Rica	1
Dominican Rep.	1
France	1
Japan	1
Mexico	5
Philippines	1
Russia	1

**New Hampshire**

India	1
South Africa	1
Turkey	1

**New Jersey**

Australia	1
Brazil	1
China	1
Colombia	1
Dominican Rep.	4
Egypt	4
France	1
Germany	1
Hungary	1
India	4
Indonesia	1
Jordan	2
Lebanon	1
Mexico	3
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	3
Peru	3
Philippines	1
Poland	1
Russia	2
Saudi Arabia	1
UAE	2
West Bank	1

**New Mexico**

Botswana	1
Cameroon	1
Egypt	1
Iraq	1
Italy	1

Mexico	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	1
Uruguay	1

**New York**

Argentina	1
Brazil	2
Cambodia	1
Canada	1
China	2
Colombia	1
Dominican Rep.	3
Ecuador	3
Egypt	3
France	2
Guatemala	1
Honduras	1
India	7
Indonesia	1
Iran	1
Ireland	1
Israel	2
Italy	1
Jamaica	2
Japan	1
Jordan	1
Malaysia	1
Mexico	3
Netherlands	1
Nigeria	2
Pakistan	2
Peru	1
Poland	1
Russia	8
Senegal	1
Spain	1
Syria	1
Taiwan	1
Trinidad & Tobago	4
Ukraine	2
UAE	1
United Kingdom	4
Uruguay	1
Yemen	3

**North Carolina**

Bangladesh	1
Brazil	4
China	1
Egypt	2
Germany	2
Guatemala	1
Hungary	1
India	5
Iraq	1

Jordan 1
Kenya 1
Kuwait 1
Mexico 2
Peru 2
Russia 1
Syria 1
United Kingdom 1
West Bank 1



North Dakota

Canada 1
India 1
United Kingdom 2



Ohio

Canada 1
Egypt 1
France 1
Gambia 1
Germany 1
Honduras 1
India 2
Indonesia 1
Jordan 1
Lebanon 1
Malta 1
Mexico 3
Morocco 1
Oman 1
Russia 4
South Africa 1
West Bank 1



Oklahoma

Canada 1
Colombia 1
Iran 1
Lebanon 1
Mexico 2
South Africa 1



Oregon

Mexico 4
Romania 1



Pennsylvania

Australia 1
Cambodia 1
Canada 2
Colombia 1
Dominican Rep. 1
Egypt 1
Greece 1
India 4
Indonesia 1
Lebanon 1

Mexico 1
Norway 1
Pakistan 1
Peru 1
Russia 3
Saudi Arabia 1
Tunisia 1
United Kingdom 1
Uzbekistan 1
Vietnam 1



Puerto Rico

Argentina 1



Rhode Island

Dominican Rep. 1



South Carolina

Canada 1
Egypt 1
India 2
Italy 1
Saudi Arabia 1
Ukraine 1



South Dakota

Russia 1



Tennessee

Canada 2
Guyana 1
India 1
Mexico 4
Russia 1
Saudi Arabia 1
Vietnam 1



Texas

Azerbaijan 1
Bahamas 1
Bolivia 3
Brazil 4
Bulgaria 2
Cameroon 1
Canada 4
Colombia 2
Gaza 1
Germany 1
Greece 1
Honduras 2
Iceland 1
India 4
Iran 2
Iraq 2
Israel 1
Jordan 2
Kenya 1
Korea, Rep. 1

Kuwait 1
Lebanon 2
Mexico 48
Morocco 1
New Zealand 1
Nigeria 3
Pakistan 2
Panama 1
Peru 1
Philippines 2
Russia 4
Singapore 1
Spain 2
Trinidad & Tobago 1
Ukraine 2
United Kingdom 5
Venezuela 1
Zambia 1



Utah

Chile 2
China 1
India 2
Mexico 1
Russia 1



Vermont

Nicaragua 1



Virginia

Argentina 1
Bolivia 1
China 1
Dominican Rep. 1
Egypt 2
Germany 3
Honduras 1
India 5
Japan 1
Jordan 1
Korea, Rep. of 1
Mexico 2
Nicaragua 1
Nigeria 1
Pakistan 3
Peru 1
Russia 1
Spain 1
Trinidad & Tobago 1
Tunisia 1
Turkey 3
United Kingdom 1



Washington

Argentina 1
Bahrain 1
Canada 3
Egypt 1
Iceland 1
India 6
Indonesia 1
Iraq 1
Italy 1
Jamaica 1
Korea, Rep. of 1
Pakistan 2
Peru 1
Philippines 1
Russia 1
Saudi Arabia 1



Wisconsin

Australia 1
Germany 1
India 1
Italy 1
Mexico 4
Spain 1
United Kingdom 1
West Bank 1

UNRESOLVED ABDUCTION CASES

Argentina

#1 pending 28 months
#2 pending 102 months

Armenia

#1 pending 24 months

Azerbaijan

#1 pending 21 months

Bahamas

#1 pending 100 months
#2 pending 72 months

Bolivia

#1 pending 24 months

Brazil

#1 pending 119 months
#2 pending 99 months
#3 pending 88 months
#4 pending 59 months
#5 pending 59 months
#6 pending 50 months
#7 pending 23 months

Cambodia

#1 pending 24 months

Canada

#1 pending 28 months

China

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months
#3 pending 24 months

Colombia

#1 pending 20 months
#2 pending 14 months

Dominican Republic

#1 pending 80 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 59 months

Egypt

#1 pending 26 months
#2 pending 12 months
#3 pending 12 months
#4 pending 26 months
#5 pending 44 months
#6 pending 44 months
#7 pending 44 months
#8 pending 44 months
#9 pending 44 months
#10 pending 44 months
#11 pending 26 months

Guatemala

#1 pending 32 months
#2 pending 15 months

India

#1 pending 12 months
#2 pending 24 months
#3 pending 24 months
#4 pending 24 months
#5 pending 24 months
#6 pending 24 months
#7 pending 19 months
#8 pending 19 months
#9 pending 24 months
#10 pending 24 months
#11 pending 24 months
#12 pending 24 months
#13 pending 24 months
#14 pending 24 months
#15 pending 24 months
#16 pending 12 months
#17 pending 24 months
#18 pending 19 months
#19 pending 24 months
#20 pending 19 months
#21 pending 12 months
#22 pending 24 months
#23 pending 24 months
#24 pending 24 months
#25 pending 24 months
#26 pending 24 months
#27 pending 24 months
#28 pending 24 months
#29 pending 24 months
#30 pending 24 months
#31 pending 24 months
#32 pending 24 months
#33 pending 24 months
#34 pending 24 months
#35 pending 24 months
#36 pending 19 months
#37 pending 24 months
#38 pending 24 months
#39 pending 24 months
#40 pending 24 months
#41 pending 24 months
#42 pending 19 months
#43 pending 12 months
#44 pending 19 months

Indonesia

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months
#3 pending 24 months
#4 pending 24 months
#5 pending 24 months
#6 pending 24 months

Japan

#1 pending 28 months
#2 pending 16 months

Jordan

#1 pending 23 months
#2 pending 23 months

Kenya

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months

Lebanon

#1 pending 12 months
#2 pending 12 months
#3 pending 12 months
#4 pending 12 months

Malaysia

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months

Mexico

#1 pending 69 months
#2 pending 138 months
#3 pending 119 months
#4 pending 109 months
#5 pending 102 months
#6 pending 24 months
#7 pending 22 months
#8 pending 75 months
#9 pending 27 months
#10 pending 72 months
#11 pending 31 months
#12 pending 39 months
#13 pending 35 months
#14 pending 40 months
#15 pending 42 months
#16 pending 45 months
#17 pending 58 months
#18 pending 54 months
#19 pending 63 months
#20 pending 37 months
#21 pending 12 months

Namibia

#1 pending 25 months

Nicaragua

#1 pending 21 months
#2 pending 51 months

Oman

#1 pending 24 months

Pakistan

#1 pending 19 months
#2 pending 19 months
#3 pending 19 months
#4 pending 19 months
#5 pending 19 months
#6 pending 19 months
#7 pending 19 months
#8 pending 19 months
#9 pending 19 months
#10 pending 19 months
#11 pending 19 months

Peru

#1 pending 34 months
#2 pending 14 months
#3 pending 29 months
#4 pending 15 months

Philippines

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 14 months
#3 pending 24 months
#4 pending 24 months
#5 pending 24 months
#6 pending 24 months
#7 pending 24 months

Russia

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months
#3 pending 24 months
#4 pending 24 months
#5 pending 24 months
#6 pending 24 months
#7 pending 24 months
#8 pending 24 months
#9 pending 24 months
#10 pending 24 months
#11 pending 24 months
#12 pending 24 months

Saudi Arabia

#1 pending 24 months

South Africa

#1 pending 31 months
#2 pending 15 months

Taiwan

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 pending 26 months

Turkey

#1 pending 31 months

Uganda

#1 pending 24 months

Ukraine

#1 pending 27 months

United Arab Emirates

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months

Uruguay

#1 pending 53 months

Uzbekistan

#1 pending 23 months

UNRESOLVED ACCESS CASES

Brazil

- #1 pending 43 months
- #2 pending 47 months
- #3 pending 14 months

Denmark

- #1 pending 18 months

Poland

- #1 pending 12 months

ABDUCTION CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

Bahamas

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

Brazil

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

Bulgaria

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Canada

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA
#2 Administrative processing by the FCA
#3 Administrative processing by the FCA
#4 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Colombia

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA
#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

Croatia

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

Dominican Republic

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

Ecuador

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

El Salvador

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

Finland

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA
#2 Case in mediation

France

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA
#2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
#3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

Germany

#1 Other
#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

Guatemala

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

Israel

#1 Non-FCA entity submitting case

Italy

#1 FCA rejected application
#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

Japan

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
#2 Case in mediation

Korea, Republic of

#1 Non-FCA entity submitting case
#2 Non-FCA entity submitting case
#3 Non-FCA entity submitting case
#4 Non-FCA entity submitting case

Mexico

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
#3 Administrative processing by the FCA
#4 Administrative processing by the FCA
#5 Administrative processing by the FCA
#6 Administrative processing by the FCA
#7 Administrative processing by the FCA
#8 Administrative processing by the FCA
#9 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
#10 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
#11 Administrative processing by the FCA

#12 Administrative processing by the FCA

Morocco

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Netherlands

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
#2 Case in mediation

Peru

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

Spain

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Sweden

#1 Non-FCA entity submitting case

Switzerland

#1 Case in mediation
#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity

Thailand

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
#2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other entity
#3 Case in mediation

Trinidad and Tobago

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

Turkey

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Ukraine

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

ACCESS CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

Australia

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

Belgium

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

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

Brazil

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

Canada

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

#3 Administrative processing by the FCA

#4 Administrative processing by the FCA

#5 Administrative processing by the FCA

Czech Republic

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

Dominican Republic

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

Ecuador

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

France

#1 Case in mediation

Germany

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

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

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

Italy

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

Japan

#1 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#2 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#3 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#4 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#5 Case in mediation

#6 Case in mediation

#7 Case in mediation

#8 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#9 Case in mediation

#10 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#11 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#12 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#13 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#14 Case in mediation

#15 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#16 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#17 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#18 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#19 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#20 Case in mediation

#21 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#22 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#23 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#24 Non-FCA entity submitting case

#25 Non-FCA entity submitting case

Monaco

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

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

United Kingdom

#1 Administrative processing by the FCA

#2 Administrative processing by the FCA

COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES WITH ONE OR MORE ABDUCTION CASE IN 2017

Albania	No Protocol	Ghana	No Protocol
Algeria	No Protocol	Greece	Convention
Anguilla	Convention	Guadeloupe	Convention
Argentina	Convention	Guatemala	Convention
Armenia	No Protocol	Honduras	Convention
Australia	Convention	Hungary	Convention
Austria	Convention	Iceland	Convention
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	India	No Protocol
Bahamas	Convention	Indonesia	No Protocol
Bahrain	No Protocol	Iran	No Protocol
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Iraq	No Protocol
Belgium	Convention	Ireland	Convention
Benin	No Protocol	Israel	Convention
Bermuda	Convention	Italy	Convention
Bolivia	No Protocol	Jamaica	No Protocol
Botswana	No Protocol	Japan	Convention
Brazil	Convention	Jordan	No Protocol
Bulgaria	Convention	Kenya	No Protocol
Cambodia	No Protocol	Korea, Rep. of	Convention
Cameroon	No Protocol	Kuwait	No Protocol
Canada	Convention	Lebanon	No Protocol
Chile	Convention	Lithuania	Convention
China	No Protocol	Macedonia	Convention
Colombia	Convention	Malaysia	No Protocol
Costa Rica	Convention	Malta	Convention
Cote d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Mexico	Convention
Croatia	Convention	Morocco	Convention
Czech Republic	Convention	Namibia	No Protocol
Denmark	Convention	Netherlands	Convention
Dominican Republic	Convention	New Zealand	Convention
Ecuador	Convention	Nicaragua	No Protocol
Egypt	No Protocol	Nigeria	No Protocol
El Salvador	Convention	Norway	Convention
Estonia	Convention	Oman	No Protocol
Ethiopia	No Protocol	Pakistan	No Protocol
Finland	Convention	Panama	Convention
France	Convention	Peru	Convention
Gaza Strip	No Protocol	Philippines	No Protocol
Germany	Convention	Poland	Convention

Portugal	Convention
Romania	Convention
Russia	No Protocol
Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Senegal	No Protocol
Singapore	Convention
South Africa	Convention
Spain	Convention
Sweden	Convention
Switzerland	Convention
Syria	No Protocol
Taiwan	No Protocol
Thailand	Convention
Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Tunisia	No Protocol
Turkey	Convention
Uganda	No Protocol
Ukraine	Convention
United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
United Kingdom	Convention
Uruguay	Convention
Uzbekistan	No Protocol
Venezuela	Convention
Vietnam	No Protocol
West Bank	No Protocol
Yemen	No Protocol
Zambia	No Protocol