

UK Kidnappings - The rescue by Police in Liverpool, England, on 21 March of a 42 year old kidnap victim has brought to light the nature of the kidnapping scene in the UK.



BAD ON BAD

The hostage is believed to have been abducted in a dispute between rival drug gangs. The Police describe cases where the hostage and kidnapers are linked by criminal activity as "bad on bad" kidnappings and are the most common style of kidnap in the UK.

LONGEST RUNNING KIDNAP

The hostage, reported to be the brother of a gang-land boss, was snatched in London on 13 March and taken to Liverpool. During his captivity, he was beaten and suffered superficial injuries. He had been held

captive for nine days. Interestingly Scotland Yard claimed that it was the longest running kidnap they had ever investigated, with up to two hundred officers involved at any one time.

UK POLICE HAVE EXCELLENT REPUTATION

The UK Police have an excellent reputation for resolving kidnaps safely and fast. In other parts of the world where the Police are inefficient, corrupt, or both, the safest solution to a kidnapping incident is usually negotiation and payment of a ransom. This process may take weeks or even months, in direct contrast to the nine days claimed as a record last week.

Clayton has collated figures for the 65 kidnaps they have been involved in resolving worldwide in the last four years (see following page). The Clayton statistical average is 31 days. This is well below the global release average of 84 days in cases where ransoms are paid. These figures illustrate that kidnap resolution in other parts of the world is a much slower and more difficult undertaking.

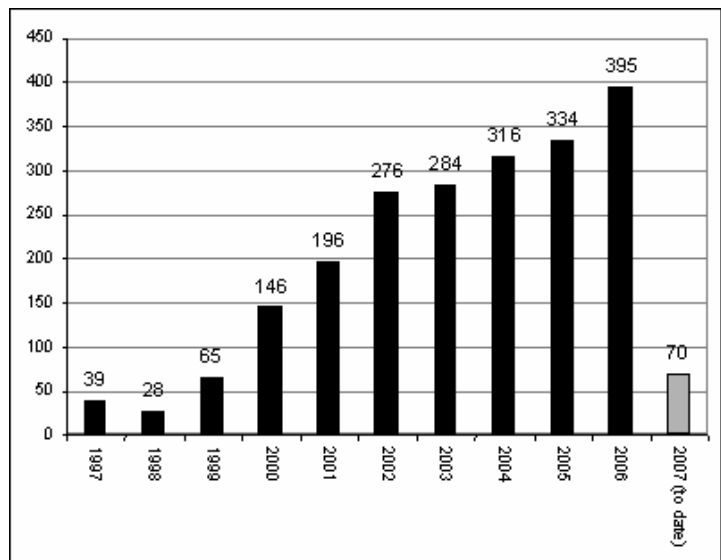
STRANGER KIDNAPS

"Stranger kidnaps" is Police speak for a kidnap in which the hostage has no criminal link to the kidnapers. These are rare in the UK with a dozen or less reported each year.

In one case in September 2006 a businessman from Glasgow was kidnapped and taken to Manchester. A demand of £2.5 million was made for his release. The gang was caught after an undercover police officer dropped off part of the ransom at a motorway emergency telephone. The gang are currently facing trial in Glasgow High Court.

KIDNAPPING IN UK ON INCREASE

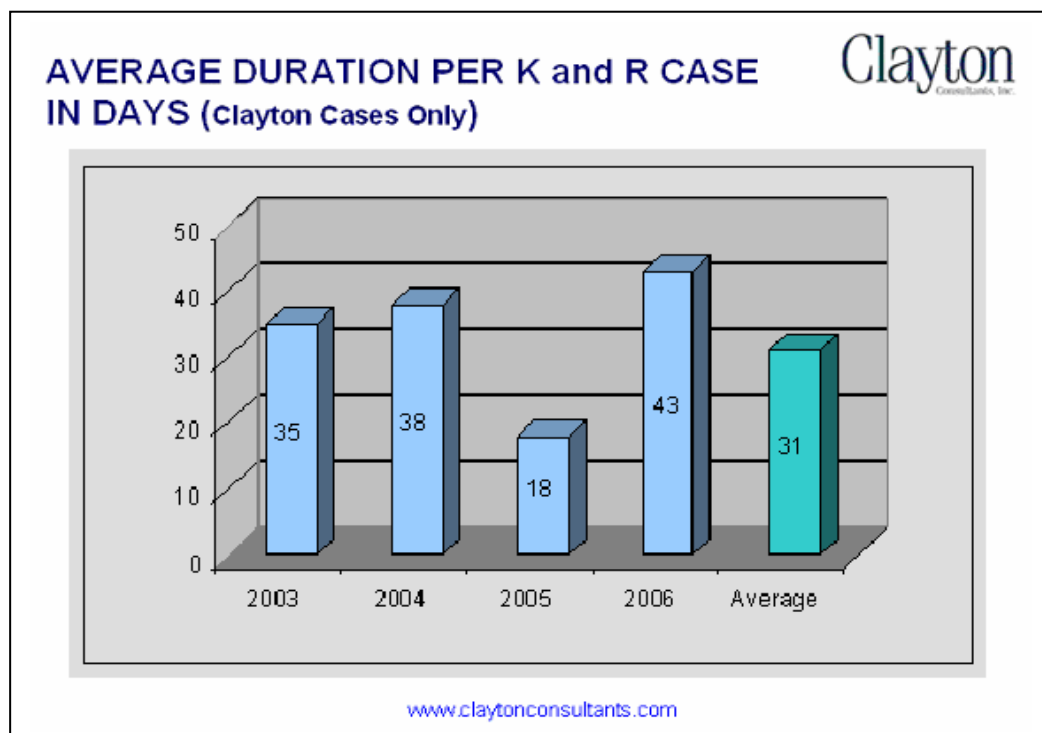
The rate of reported kidnapping in the UK has increased steadily over the past ten years (see the graph). Most of these being "bad on bad" never come to the attention of the public because many victims are too terrified to testify against their kidnapers or because they are themselves also involved in crime. The UK Police estimate that only 20% of cases result in a successful prosecution.



Kidnappings in the UK 1997-2007

UK POLICE CALL FOR CHANGE IN LAW

The UK Police have asked for a change in the law, allowing them to prosecute kidnapers without the co-operation of their victims. If passed, this would enable prosecutors from the Crown Prosecution Service to adopt similar protocols to those used in cases of domestic violence.



Compare this to the global average of 84 days in reported kidnap for ransom cases.

above figures are based on the 65 kidnap cases to which Clayton deployed kidnap Consultants from January 2003 to December 2006. Clayton also advises clients on the prevention and mitigation of kidnapping incidents and regularly conducts prevention training and kidnap simulations for UK and European corporate clients.

Contact details: Leslie Edwards
Team Leader - UK/Europe/Africa/Middle East

Office: 0044 (0) 1529 497 394
Mobile: 0044 (0) 7946 053 797
Email: ledwards@claytonconsultants.com

Corporate Headquarters: 001 760 431 0304 Email: Info@claytonconsultants.com