

# Special Contingency Risks (SCR)

## Security Risk Management

# Willis

### Monthly Incident Report

### March 2007

## Angola

### British NGO Campaigner Detained in Angola



Dr. Sarah Wykes, a campaigner with the UK-based non-governmental organization (NGO) Global Witness, has been charged with espionage. This likely stems from the Angolan government's perception of interference in an area where secessionist insurgency has been active since 1975, and civil organizations continue to oppose the government's actions. It also reflects the fact that Global Witness has published reports on corruption and the use of oil revenues in Angola, which probably did not endear them to those who were implicated. The government is generally hostile towards campaigning NGOs, which have been highly critical of the government's human rights record. Government representatives have previously accused Global Witness of carrying out a "campaign of destabilization" in Angola.

## Burundi

### US State Department Warns of Violence and Carjacking Risks



On January 24, the US State Department issued the following: "This Travel Warning is being re-issued to pro-

vide updated information on the security situation and to remind Americans of the dangers of travel to Burundi. This supersedes the Travel Warning of 23 June 2006.

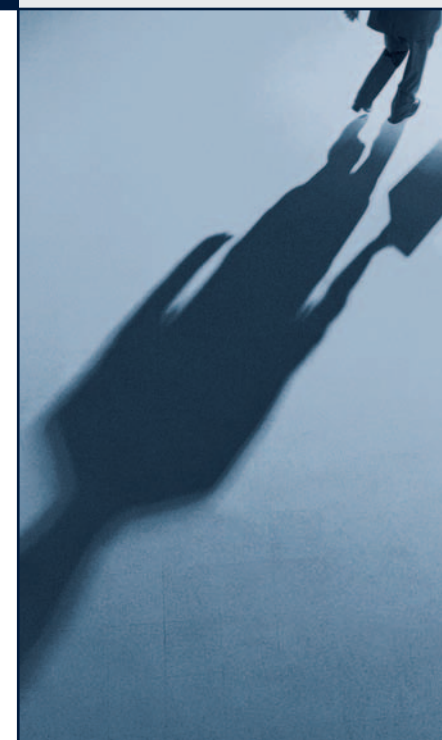
"The Department of State continues to warn US citizens against travel to Burundi. Burundi had been plagued by civil war since 1993 that often involved non-government, non-combatant targets. Gunfire in and around the capital resulted in numerous injuries and deaths. In September 2006, the government and the last remaining hold-out rebel group from the peace process, the PALIPEHUTU-FNL, signed a cease-fire agreement. Nevertheless, many of the cease-fire provisions have not been implemented and the rebels still retain the capability to conduct indirect fire attacks on the capital, Bujumbura. The last recorded attack took place in July 2006. Rebels are still present throughout Bujumbura Rural, which surrounds the capital city. Due to insufficient resources, local authorities are often unable to provide assistance in case of need.

"Crime, often committed by groups of armed bandits, poses a high risk for foreign visitors in Bujumbura and Burundi in general. Common crimes include muggings, burglaries, and carjackings. Armed criminals often ambush vehicles, particularly on the roads leading out of Bujumbura."

## China

### Kidnappers Target Industrialist's Son

A plot to kidnap the son of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman for a \$US2



### Contents:

Angola	1
Burundi	1
China	1
Guinea	2
Iraq	2
Ivory Coast	2
Kenya	3
Niger	3
Nigeria	4
Somali Coast	5
United States	5
Contacts	5



million ransom has been foiled, police said February 3.

Three men were arrested and a car containing plastic seals seized as the

suspects allegedly prepared to abduct the 21-year-old son of an engineering company boss.

Police tailed the suspects after a tip-off and arrested them on Thursday night shortly before they were due to carry out their kidnapping, a police spokesman said.

The three suspects, two of whom were arrested in the car and the third in a nearby apartment, were being detained and questioned.

Kidnappings for large ransoms by gangland figures were widespread in Hong Kong during the 1990s.

## Guinea BHP and Rio Tinto Evacuate Staff Following Security Threats



Multibillion-dollar plans by BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto to secure new opportunities in Guinea have been temporarily halted in response to growing security fears in the West African nation, according to a February 15 report.

BHP has flown out 20 staff members working on its \$US2.3 billion bauxite and alumina project. Rio has flown out about 60 staff involved in its Simandou iron ore project, potentially worth \$US2 billion.

Even though the declaration of martial law on February 12 by Guinea's president Lansana Conte to quash violent protests against his 23-year rule has put their plans on hold in Guinea, BHP said yesterday it still had confidence in the long-term opportunities there, but the safety of its people was paramount.

Other entities in Guinea's bauxite and alumina industry, including Alcoa and Alcan, have scaled back operations pending an improvement in security.

"Several of the commercial airlines have discontinued services to and from Guinea in recent days so the US government is sending a transport plane for eligible family members of the official community and some private Americans," a US Embassy spokesman in neighboring Senegal said on February 13.

## Iraq Germans Missing in Iraq Feared Kidnapped



Two Germans have been missing in Iraq for almost a week, German foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier confirmed February 12. "We cannot rule out that it was a kidnapping by force," he told reporters at an EU meeting in Brussels.

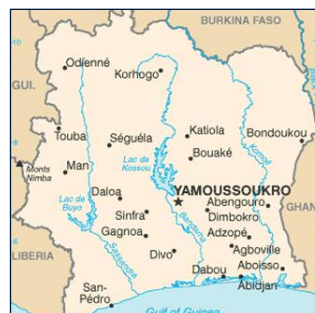
Mr. Steinmeier said the two had been missing since February 6, adding that a special crisis panel within the German foreign ministry had been set up to work on their release. He declined to give further details and did not identify the two.

Speaking in Berlin, foreign ministry spokesman Jens Ploetner declined to answer a question on whether or not there had been contact with any hostage-takers.

Several media outlets in Germany, including state ARD television, said they were kidnapped, but that no contact has been established with the hostage-takers.

Last May, two German engineers were freed after 99 days in captivity in Iraq. The German government has never confirmed reports that it paid a ransom to win their freedom. Another German was released in December 2005 after being held for three weeks.

## Ivory Coast Dutch Executives Released From Detention Following \$197 Million Payment



It was reported on February 14 that the Netherlands-based company, Tráficos, agreed to compensate the Ivorian government US\$197 million in settlement of an August 2006 toxic waste scandal. In return, the Ivorian government will release three Tráficos

executives who have been held in the country since the scandal broke. The company did not acknowledge responsibility for the toxic waste.

Two of the executives, Trafigura's director Claude Dauphin and its West African regional director, had traveled to Ivory Coast following the dumping of poisonous black sludge in open-air sites around the economic capital Abidjan last August after it was unloaded from a Trafigura-chartered tanker.

Trafigura's executives were held in Abidjan's prison since September on charges relating to the dumping, which killed at least 10 people and poisoned thousands. They said they were there to help with the investigation into the dumping when they were arrested by Ivorian authorities. "We went to Ivory Coast on a mission to help the people of Abidjan, and to find ourselves arrested in jail as a result has been a terrible ordeal," Dauphin said.

Neither Trafigura nor the Ivory Coast government accept any liability for August's events, the company has said. Trafigura says it entrusted the waste to a state-registered Ivorian company, Tommy, which was set up shortly before its chartered tanker, the Panamanian-registered Probo Koala, arrived in Abidjan.

## Kenya

### US Embassy Warns of Increased Security Risks



On February 6, the US Embassy in Kenya issued the following: "This Travel Warning is being issued to remind American citizens to consider carefully the risks of travel to Kenya at this time due to ongoing safety and security concerns. This supersedes the Travel Warning of August 10, 2006.

"The Department continues to recommend that private American citizens in Kenya evaluate their personal security situation in light of continuing terrorist threats and increasing incidents of violent crime. Terrorist acts may include suicide operations, bombings, attacks on civil aviation, and attacks on maritime vessels in or near Kenyan ports. Violent criminal attacks, including armed carjacking and home invasions/burglary, can occur at any time and in any location, and are becoming increasingly frequent, brazen, vicious, and often fatal. In January 2007, two family members of a US Embassy employee were killed by armed carjackers. Kenyan authorities have limited capacity to deter and investigate such acts.

"US citizens should be aware of the risk of indiscriminate and random attacks on civilian targets in public places, including tourist sites and locations where foreigners are known to congregate, as well as commercial operations associated with US or other foreign interests.

"American citizens in Kenya should remain vigilant, particularly in public places frequented by foreigners such as clubs, hotels, resorts, upscale shopping centers, restaurants, and places of worship. Americans should also remain vigilant in residential areas, schools, and at outdoor recreational events, and should avoid demonstrations and large crowds."

### Carjacking Results in Deaths of Embassy Official's Family Members

Two people were killed on January 27 when a group of armed carjackers attacked an official US Embassy vehicle approximately 12 miles (20 km) outside of the capital Nairobi. Five people were in the vehicle – which bore official embassy license plates – traveling west along a highway connecting Nairobi to Naivisha when they were ambushed. The gang then shot and killed two people – the wife and the mother-in-law of a US embassy official – after they took too long to exit the vehicle.'

Carjacking is common in Nairobi, and this incident was just the latest in a series of high-profile attacks.

### Carjacking Results in Death of NGO Director

Armed assailants killed a top official with CARE International in Nairobi during a carjacking attempt on January 27, the aid agency reported.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, the agency condemned the murder of a CARE veteran, Geoffrey Chege, who directed CARE USA's programs in East and Central Africa and had 25 years of experience in this field. He would have turned 57 in March. "We are deeply saddened and stunned by this senseless death," CARE President and CEO Dr. Helene Gayle said.

## Niger

### Foreign Oil Workers Threatened

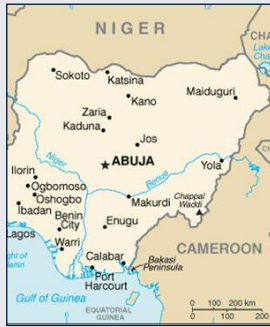


February 8 reports indicate that members of a former rebel group are warning workers from the Chinese National Petroleum Company (CNPC) to leave. CNPC is currently prospecting for oil in the region. Nomadic ethnic groups in the north

demanded autonomy from the Niger government by staging an uprising in the 1990s. Although a peace agreement was signed in 1995 with most rebel groups, insecurity reigns in the region, with periodic banditry, carjacking and kidnapping.

## Nigeria

### US Consulate Warns of Escalating Kidnap Threat



On February 16, the US Consulate General in Lagos issued the following Warden Message: "The US Government has learned that a militant Niger Delta group is reportedly planning to escalate its activities in regions beyond its previous primary target areas in the Delta. Possible targets could include

expatriate personnel, Western businesses or facilities and locales visited by tourists and foreigners in other regions of Nigeria. Attacks and kidnappings may become more violent than in recent months. In light of this information, the US Mission in Nigeria has updated its travel policy for official US Mission personnel, who must now receive the approval of the ambassador for official travel to the following Nigerian states: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta and Rivers.

"We continue to advise all Americans to review their security procedures, remain vigilant to their surroundings, and report specific incidences of targeted violence to the US Embassy in Abuja or the US Consulate General in Lagos."

### German Shipping Firm Workers Released

Reports indicate that on February 13, 24 foreign workers kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on January 20 were released in Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State. The hostages work for the German shipping firm Baco-Liner. A company spokesman said that all 24 hostages are on their way to Warri, where they will undergo medical examinations.

Many other foreign hostages kidnapped by other groups remain in captivity. This includes two Italians, one Lebanese, one American, two Filipinos and one Frenchman. The militant group, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), stated it will not negotiate to release the hostages but will hold them until after the April 2007 elections

### French Oil Worker Kidnapped

Reports issued on February 8 indicate that armed men abducted a French oil worker in Port Harcourt, capitol of Rivers State. The

man is an employee of the French company Total, which was targeted by militants recently in an attack on their facility that left three Nigerian policemen dead.

In a separate development, February 7 reports stated that a British hostage kidnapped on January 23 in Port Harcourt and a US citizen have been released. Unknown militants released the hostage because his health was deteriorating. No information regarding the US citizen was given.

### Royal Dutch Shell Employee Kidnapped

On February 6, gunmen kidnapped a Filipino national working for Royal Dutch Shell and killed at least one police official. The abduction reportedly occurred near the Owerri Airport, which has been the primary airport used by expatriates since the Port Harcourt airport was closed in August 2006 for repairs. Foreign workers typically drive to Port Harcourt from this airport, two to three hours away, usually with police escorts. The Filipino Labor Department suspended travel to Nigeria following the January 20 kidnapping of 24 Filipino oil workers.

### Canadian-Owned Oil Platform Invaded and Workers Kidnapped

At least one foreign oil worker and one Nigerian were abducted in a January 30 attack by gunmen on an oil platform owned by Addax Petroleum in Cross River State. The platform is located approximately 20 kilometers offshore.

Now, the Canadian oil company has announced the death of their employee, stating, "Immediately following the abduction, Addax Petroleum staff and community relations officials initiated a search and soon thereafter established contact through third parties with the assailants. Whilst negotiations were ongoing for release of the victim, Addax Petroleum and Petrostuff received information of his death and the victim's body was recovered on Thursday, February 1."

Of the loss, Addax Petroleum's President and Chief Executive Officer, Jean Claude Gandur, said, "We are deeply saddened by this incident and our thoughts and prayers are with the victim's family.

"Since commencing operations in Nigeria almost a decade ago, Addax Petroleum has established a practice to proactively build excellent relationships with the local communities and has fostered a climate of open dialogue and mutual respect. We strongly believe that this unfortunate event was an isolated act and is inconsistent with the socially responsible relationship that exists between Addax Petroleum and the local communities."

Addax Petroleum has put in place additional security measures to ensure the safety of its workforce, contractors and continued operations.

## Somali Coast

### Pirates Attempt to Hijack Tanker



On February 8, pirates attempted to board a tanker off the coast of the Somali capital Mogadishu. The increasingly uncertain security in the capital means that pirate attacks are likely to escalate in the near to medium term. This threat will not be completely eliminated until a viable government is created in Mogadishu – an unlikely development given the current stalemate between Islamists and warlords who control their territories through force of arms and tribal loyalties.

### Pirates Hijack Freighter Delivering Food Aid

Pirates reportedly hijacked a chartered freighter off the northeast coast of Somalia on February 4 after the ship delivered food to the stricken nation. The incident has stoked fears of a new surge in once-rampant piracy.

"As (the freighter) was heading home, the heavily armed pirates emerged from a motorboat. They jumped in the ship and seized it," Andrew Mwangura of the international Seafarers Assistance Programme told reporters.

The identity of the pirates remains unknown, but such attacks in the past have been blamed on a well organized cartel of Somalis who usually use speed boats mounted with machine guns.

"I do not know what I will tell the relatives of the crew when they start camping outside my office tomorrow," freighter company manager Karim Kudrath told reporters by telephone from the his office in Mombasa. He said it was the fourth time a company ship had been hijacked off Somalia. The MV Rozen narrowly escaped an attempted hijack off Somalia last March after another UN humanitarian delivery. "I am very doubtful if we will continue to offer our services to Somalia. It is getting very difficult for us," added Kudrath.

## United States

### Boy Kidnapped for Ransom in Florida



On February 23, 13-year-old Clay Moore was abducted at gunpoint from a school bus stop in Parrish, FL. According to investigators, Moore was selected at

random by the abductor who drove him to an isolated wooded area and tied his hands and feet to a tree and left him there. The child was able to free himself using a safety pin he had hidden in his mouth, which he used to cut through the duct tape and other materials that bound him. He walked until he found some farm workers and borrowed a cell phone. Police uncovered a handwritten ransom note and believe the kidnapper's intention was to leave his victim tied up in the woods until he received the money. With the information Moore supplied to police, they were able to focus on a suspect whom they convinced to turn himself over to US authorities. The suspect, Vincente Beltran-Moreno, had fled to Sinaloa State in Mexico. He had worked as an aluminum contractor building screen enclosures and had also at one time worked as a contract picker on a farm near the wooded area where Moore was held.

## Contact Information

For additional information, contact Lisa Zanutelli at 212 804 0539, [lisa.zanutelli@scr-ltd.co.uk](mailto:lisa.zanutelli@scr-ltd.co.uk) or Derek Rogers at 212 804 0538, [derek.rogers@scr-ltd.co.uk](mailto:derek.rogers@scr-ltd.co.uk).