

Annual Report on International Child Abduction

2023

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
APRIL 2023

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Dear Reader,

The Department of State is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of U.S. citizens overseas, especially our most vulnerable citizens – children. We take seriously our responsibilities to lead U.S. efforts to resolve and prevent cases of international parental child abduction, and to meet our treaty obligations under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Convention). Within the Department, the Office of Children’s Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs serves as the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention. The Office’s dedicated staff works closely with our interagency partners, foreign counterparts, and other stakeholders in pursuit of our common goals.

We strongly believe the Convention provides a critical legal mechanism for resolving cases of international parental child abduction. We actively engage with foreign governments to encourage them to ratify or accede to the Convention, and then to fulfill their treaty obligations. Unfortunately, there are countries that are reluctant to ratify or accede to the Convention and others which, although treaty partners, fail to live up to their commitments. We hold these countries accountable, as evidenced in this report.

Our evaluation of country performance uses the standards defined in the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (the Act). Despite some progress, 14 countries (two new, Bulgaria and Russia) demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2022. Three countries cited last year improved their performance and were not cited this year. In addition, our evaluations include some specific concerns about countries that we did not cite, but whose performance needs close monitoring.

We are committed to encouraging these countries to take more effective measures to resolve cases of international parental child abduction. I trust this report will be a valuable resource for Congress, parents, attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

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INTRODUCTION

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

Serving 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 (CI) leads U.S. government efforts to prevent abductions and to respond when international abductions happen. Country officers 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 a 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.

CI also works with interagency partners to prevent IPCA. On a daily basis, country officers inform parents of the [Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program \(CPIAP\)](#), which is one of our strongest tools to prevent IPCA. Additionally, country officers regularly liaise with law enforcement officers and discuss best practices for identifying and responding to IPCA.

When parents report their children have been abducted or retained outside of the United States ("outgoing abduction cases"), CI informs them of potential options and provides resources to help them seek the return of, or access to, their children. In 2022, 118 cases were resolved with the return of 165 abducted children to the United States, and an additional 117 cases were resolved in other ways. During 2022, CI handled a total of 657 active abduction cases involving 863 children and 79 access cases involving 110 children. Of those 657 cases, 216 were opened in 2022. In addition, CI responded to 180 total initial inquiries in which parents sought information and resources regarding abductions but did not proceed with providing complete documentation.

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, FCAs typically seek a voluntary resolution or offer to conduct mediation between the parents. If the parents cannot reach a voluntary agreement, then the case generally moves to the judicial phase, during which a judge decides whether the child should return to the country of habitual residence.

When the Convention is not an option 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. While CI may 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, CI, 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 staff and victim's assistance specialists, country officers provide options and resources to facilitate safe return and reintegration.

Parents may also choose to resolve abductions or retentions through [voluntary agreements](#) or [mediation](#). CI provides information and resources regarding [mediation](#) in IPCA matters, but it is not directly involved in mediating specific cases.

For IPCA cases in which children are removed to, or retained in, the United States ("incoming abduction cases"), CI, serving as the U.S. Central Authority under the Convention, carries out the required functions of locating children, providing an option for voluntary resolution, facilitating access to mediation services when requested, and monitoring proceedings under the Convention. In this capacity, CI also educates U.S. judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officials on U.S. obligations under the Convention.

Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

CI has a dedicated prevention team which responds to inquiries from parents, the legal community, law enforcement, foreign governments, and other stakeholders about how to prevent IPCA. We also assist in preventing third-country abductions transiting through the United States. In 2022, the Office of Children's Issues fielded over 4,900 prevention-related inquiries, a slight increase from 2021.

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) is one of the Department of State's most important tools for preventing IPCA. In 2022, we enrolled over 3,500 children into CPIAP, bringing the total number of children enrolled to more than 62,400. If a passport application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in the CPIAP, the program allows CI 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 Department of State's [website](#) or by contacting CI.

When alerted to a possible abduction in progress, CI liaises with law enforcement officials to seek to prevent a child from departing from the United States if a parent or legal guardian of the child presents an order from a court of competent jurisdiction prohibiting the removal of the child. In 2022, we helped enroll 307 children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) [Prevent Abduction Program](#), an increase of 18 percent from 2021. More information on this program is available on [CBP's website](#).

Immediate Steps that May Help Prevent an Abduction:

Obtain a court order: A court order can be an important measure to prevent abduction. CI

strongly encourages parents to consult an attorney regarding their particular circumstances.

Contact law enforcement: Inform law enforcement immediately of any court orders, and the potential for IPCA.

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

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

CI's duty officer program provides round-the-clock assistance by phone at 1-888-407-4747 to assist parents and law enforcement officials to thwart IPCA. CI's prevention team can also be reached via email at PreventAbduction1@state.gov for non-emergency questions or assistance.

Cooperation with Law Enforcement

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

The Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (the Act) of 2014 increased collaboration on IPCA among federal agencies. The Department of State maintains regular contact with law enforcement agencies and organizes regular interagency meetings to improve coordination efforts to prevent IPCA. 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 Department of State's round-the-clock duty officer program to assist parents whose children may be imminently at risk of IPCA, or who need assistance facilitating the safe return of their child from abroad.

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Department of State and DHS, CI has placed two prevention officers at CBP's National Targeting Center as liaisons. 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 IPCA

CI engages with both Convention partners and non-partners to prevent and resolve IPCA. CI conducts long-term advocacy to improve cooperation with foreign governments on abduction

matters by encouraging ratification or accession to the Convention, to provide meaningful assistance in abductions not falling under the Convention, and to strengthen compliance with the Convention where applicable. In 2022, we began ongoing discussions with authorities in the Faroe Islands, offering technical assistance and resources for, among other things, preventing and resolving IPCA.

CI manages diplomatic engagement on abduction matters in coordination with Department of State regional bureaus and other offices. Country officers maintain regular contact with counterparts in foreign central authorities, foreign missions in Washington, D.C., and U.S. diplomatic missions abroad. Each abduction is unique and each country has its own distinct judicial system, law enforcement entities, and cultural and family traditions. The Department of State tailors its strategy to deploy the most effective bilateral approach with each country.

CI 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. Country officers from CI 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 2022, CI hosted and engaged with IVLP participants from India, Taiwan, Peru, and Moldova.

Throughout 2022, senior U.S. government officials, including the Special Advisor for Children's Issues, continued to engage, both virtually and in person, with foreign officials around the world to promote the prevention and resolution of IPCA, to encourage countries to become a party to the Convention and to address pending abduction and access cases, including the resolution of pre-Convention abduction cases. They also used these opportunities to raise concerns regarding individual cases with foreign officials.

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 is 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, supports international implementation of this Convention and other Hague Conventions on an ongoing basis. The Hague Permanent Bureau maintains the Hague Conference's website containing resources such as the [Guides to Good Practice](#) that may help a country effectively implement the Convention.

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

CI serves as the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention and leads U.S. government efforts to combat IPCA within the Department of State and with other U.S. government agencies. CI coordinates with other relevant offices in the Department of State as well as 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 from 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. CI 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. CI submits completed applications for return or access 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 must take all appropriate measures to locate wrongfully removed or retained children and facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of the child unless specific exceptions apply. Courts should decide these cases promptly, and CI monitors Convention cases 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 between Contracting States. The Convention is in force between the United States and [80 Contracting States](#).

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 immediately before any breach of custodial rights and was wrongfully removed to or retained in another Convention country.
- The removal or retention of the child was wrongful; a removal or retention is considered wrongful if it was in violation of the other party's custodial rights, and the party seeking return 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 return if a parent files a Convention case?

Under the Convention, the judicial or administrative authorities of Contracting States may refuse to return an abducted child to a country of habitual residence under specific exceptions. Contracting States vary in how they interpret the exceptions.

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

Countries vary greatly in how they handle requests for access under the Convention.

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 CI 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 Department of State in Non-Convention Cases

CI also leads the U.S. government response to IPCA to countries that are not Convention partners with the United States. A country may not be a Convention partner with the United States either because the country has not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention or, for certain countries that have already acceded, the United States has not yet accepted the country's accession. For parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in countries that are not Convention partners with the United States, CI can provide information and resources about country-specific options for pursuing the return of or access to an abducted child. The Department may also coordinate with appropriate foreign and U.S. government authorities to monitor the welfare of abducted U.S. citizen children and encourage voluntary resolutions, as appropriate. CI or a U.S. embassy can also provide a [list of attorneys](#).

Other Issues Regarding International Parental Child Abduction

Voluntary Agreements

Voluntary agreements are an important mechanism through which international parental child abduction cases may be 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.

Parents considering mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution should always consult with legal counsel 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 child abduction are also survivors of domestic violence, CI 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. 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 there is a grave risk that returning the child would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise 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.

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) 799-SAFE(7233). The TTY number for the hearing impaired is (800) 787-3224.

Assistance to U.S. Military Personnel and Their Families

Providing assistance to our U.S. military service members and their 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 mitigate the risk of loss of contact with children and to understand the legal means available to prevent and resolve abduction cases.

The Department of State is engaged with the Department of Defense's Office of Legal Policy and the Service Chiefs of Legal Assistance for all branches of the military on IPCA issues that may impact military service members and their families. CI and Department attorneys regularly provide training to educate military lawyers and others on measures for preventing and resolving IPCA. In 2022, a team from CI provided in-person and virtual trainings for judge advocates and staff of legal assistance offices at the two largest overseas U.S. military bases in East Asia and the Pacific and Europe.

Generally, while serving overseas, active-duty U.S. military service members and their accompanying 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. For more information, please see our [website](#). The Department of Defense may have additional resources to assist in preventing and resolving IPCA.

In 2022, CI responded to four initial inquiries from military parents regarding a possible abduction for which no completed application was submitted to the Department. One child in an initial inquiry returned to the United States as the result of a voluntary agreement. CI also worked on thirteen abduction cases affecting military parents. Of these, seven cases were resolved and the other six cases remained open at the end of the year. One case was unresolved for 12 months or longer.

Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2022, 165 abducted children returned to the United States.

The majority, 121 children, returned from Convention countries, while 44 children returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction, as defined in the Act. Last year, the Department worked on 117 abduction cases, involving 145 children, 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 and determined not to return the child under the provisions of 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 CI for more than one year; and (5) the left-behind parent or child passed away.

Of the 117 cases noted above 87 cases and 108 children involved Convention countries, and 30

cases and 37 children involved non-Convention countries.

Criminal Laws and Remedies

IPCA 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 complex one that should be made through consultation with legal counsel 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, CI helps to educate 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 on our [website](#).

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 the 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 includes helping to 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 IPCA cases take place via international airline flights, although the Department has no specific data on this issue. In June 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) thoroughly reviewed commercial airline practices aimed at preventing international parental child abduction. The GAO report addressed the appropriate role of commercial airlines in preventing IPCA. The Department 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.

2. Know How to Report: Commercial airline employees should be made aware of CI's contact information and potential child abduction indicators, so that abduction cases reported to the airlines, either by parents, attorneys, courts, law enforcement officials, or other stakeholders may be appropriately referred for immediate assistance. The Department of State 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 IPCA. To that end, readers may find a data page for every country with one or more open abduction or access cases during 2022 that were reported to CI for a child whose reported habitual residence prior to abduction is the United States. These pages are organized into two sections. The first section consists of countries determined to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance during 2022 as defined by the Act. The details for each country, including a determination of a pattern of noncompliance, uses the legal and terminological definitions set forth in the Act. Because the Act requires reporting on various country details, regardless of whether or not the Convention has entered into force between the country and the United States, a finding of a pattern of noncompliance as used in this report does not necessarily mean that the country is in violation of Convention obligations owed to the United States. The second section consists of the remainder of countries with one or more abduction or access cases for a child whose reported habitual residence prior to abduction is the United States. While a country may not have been found to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in the reporting year based on the standards defined in the Act, there may still be areas of concern with abduction or access cases in the particular country; therefore, readers should review and consider the country information carefully. Countries that did not have an open abduction or access case in 2022 are not listed in this report.

Each country data page includes a country summary and a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children’s Issues in 2021 and 2022. Additionally, readers will find status reports on the Department’s relationship with the foreign central authority, 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 2022. The volume of cases over this period may not be sufficient to indicate major trends in a particular country. CI 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 Department of State publishes.

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

Abduction and access cases are dynamic and require coordinating information among several parties. Each year, the report is based on the information available at the time of publication; for some countries, there may be minor discrepancies in the data between the end of one year and start of another as a result of various factors, such as information obtained after the reporting period. Therefore, some information from the prior year’s report may be amended in this year’s 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 CI 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. All commentary on this page refers to the country’s performance during calendar year 2022. If appropriate, previous citations will also be included here.

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, 2022.

Table 1: Abduction Cases reported to the U.S. Central Authority	2021 Cases	2021	2022 Cases	2022 Childre
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.				
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.				
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. Also includes children who turn age 16 whose case remains open because there is at least one other active sibling.				
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year counts abduction cases still open on December 31.				

Significant Developments: Changes to a country’s law or other events that may impact the handling of 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

	2021Cases	2021 Children	2022 Cases	2022 Children
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.				
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.				
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.				
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.				
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.				

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.

Access: This section describes any access cases and the number of children involved in these cases with the country during 2022. In an access case, a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children living in a foreign country through the Convention.

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.

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

COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATING A PATTERN OF NONCOMPLIANCE

Argentina

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2022, Argentina continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Argentine judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Argentina was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Argentina for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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: An abduction case opened in 2022 resolved with the return of the child to the United States. The Department is not aware of any other court ordered returns from Argentina to the United States in an abduction case since 2018. However, some delays persisted within the Argentine judiciary in 2022, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. The sole abduction case still open at the end of 2022 has been unresolved in the Argentine judiciary for 12 years and six months, the Department's longest-running open unresolved abduction case in the world.

While the one case resolution during the year was encouraging, we remain concerned about delays. Argentine officials in 2022 did not submit a revised national procedural bill—reportedly designed to address Argentina's judicial delays in Convention cases—to the Argentine legislature. We are concerned that unless Argentina employs additional measures, such as legislation that would expedite the court process, abduction cases could continue to be delayed in the judiciary.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Argentine Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		50%	

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 this child.

Judicial Authorities: An unresolved case was impacted by judicial delays. As a result, cases may be pending with the judiciary for more than one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: While a court in Argentina ordered a return under the Convention, another case remains unresolved for more than 12 years, and Argentine courts have suspended a return order. Additionally, Argentina’s legal system allows multiple appeals both on the merits of the decision and on how the decisions are enforced, thereby creating excessive delays which contribute to a pattern of noncompliance.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving two children under the Convention in Argentina. Of these, one case involving one child was opened and filed with the Argentine Central Authority in 2022, and the other was opened and filed with the Argentine Central Authority in 2018. By December 31, 2022, both cases remained open. One case has been pending with the Argentine authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with Argentine authorities to address issues of concern.

Belize

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belize since 1989. In 2022, Belize demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 25 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	3	2	4
New abduction cases	1	1	2	2
Total abduction cases	2	4	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	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	4	2 (50%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3	2	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	4	4	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	3	1	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		25%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 31 days. As of December 31, 2022, there were no cases where the Belizean authorities remained unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Belizean judicial authorities impacted cases during 2022. As a result of these delays one case has been pending with the judiciary for three years, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

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 Belizean authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Belizean authorities to address issues of concern.

Brazil

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2022, Brazil continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Brazilian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 33 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 13 years and seven months. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006–2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Brazil for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	12	17	9	13
New abduction cases	5	8	6	9
Total abduction cases	17	25	15	22
Abduction cases resolved during the year	8	11	2 (13%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	9	13	13 (87%)	19

Significant Developments: In June 2022, Brazil’s President of the Superior Court of Justice and Brazil’s International Hague Network of Judges hosted a nationwide judicial training conference to promote the effective implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention in Brazil. In August 2022, Brazil hosted the 20th U.S.–Brazil Consular Dialogue during which Brazilian officials committed to improving Convention implementation.

However, in late 2022, vacancies arose in key positions of the Brazilian Central Authority, resulting in delayed case processing. A case was also delayed by the Brazilian Central Authority when it took several months to review whether it would accept the case. Additionally, while they later reconsidered, the Brazilian Central Authority initially rejected the case in a manner that was inconsistent with the Convention, which also resulted in significant delays. These developments contributed to some delays in case processing and created uncertainty about the Government of Brazil’s earlier commitments to improve Convention implementation in Brazil.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	12	17	9	13
New cases filed with the FCA	5	8	6	9
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	17	25	15	22
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	4	5	5	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	24%		33%	

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 nine days. This average time includes one abduction case involving two children (accounting for 20 percent of the unresolved cases), for which Brazilian authorities failed to take appropriate steps to locate the children for almost four years. Brazilian authorities reported confirming the children’s location during this reporting period. Not accounting for this case, the average time to locate a child was 53 days. As of December 31, 2022, there was one case in which the Brazilian authorities were unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Brazilian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for more than one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. Delays at the first instance and the appellate stages persisted during the reporting year. As a result, the Department remains concerned with the Brazilian judiciary’s repeated failure to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of 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 Brazilian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with Brazilian authorities to address issues of concern.

Bulgaria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Bulgaria since 2005. In 2022, Bulgaria demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Bulgarian Central Authority failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention, and law enforcement failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial authority in an abduction case. As a result of this failure, 25% of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. This case has been unresolved for two years and two months.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Bulgaria for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	4	4
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	6	7	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	3 (75%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	1 (25%)	1

Central Authority: There has been a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding IPCA cases which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	4	4	4
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	7	4	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	17%		25%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Bulgarian judicial authorities at both the first instance and appellate levels impacted cases during 2022. Specifically, home studies and other evaluations ordered by judges delayed the process.

Enforcement: Judicial decisions in Convention cases in Bulgaria were not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. While a court in Bulgaria ordered a return under the Convention, the Bulgarian authorities faced challenges with enforcement. Specifically, bailiffs have failed to enforce a judicial return ordered under the Convention. This case (accounting for 100% of unresolved cases) has been pending for two years and two months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Bulgarian authorities to address issues of concern.

Ecuador

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2022, Ecuador continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Ecuadorian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention and Ecuadorian authorities failed to take all appropriate measures to locate children in a timely manner. 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 one year and five months. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2022 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	5	5
New abduction cases	4	4	0	0
Total abduction cases	8	8	5	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	3 (60%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	5	2 (40%)	2

Significant Developments: In October 2022, Ecuador hosted the Fifth U.S - Ecuador Consular and Migration Dialogue, where the Government of Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to improving IPCA case response times. In November 2022, the President of the National Court of Justice hosted a nationwide judicial training to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and invited the Hague Permanent Bureau Regional Office Representative to present on IPCA best practices. The National Court of Justice also hosted a roundtable to discuss improving coordination between the Ecuadorian Central Authority (ECA), police (DINAPEN), and public defenders on IPCA cases and committed to launching an interagency dialogue between IPCA stakeholders in 2023 to discuss administrative reforms.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2020	2020	2021	2021
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	4	5	5
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	7	5	5
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	2	2

FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	14%		40%	
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Location: The competent authorities of Ecuador failed to take appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed in 2020, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. The average time to locate a child was one year and seven months.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Ecuadorian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for more than one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. Despite a June 2021 National Court of Justice resolution which requires courts to act as quickly as possible in IPCA cases these delays continue.

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 Ecuadorian authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Ecuador. This case was opened in 2022 and has been filed with the Ecuadorian Central Authority.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Ecuadorian authorities to address issues of concern.

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. In 2022, Egypt continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, authorities in Egypt persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result, 53 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remain unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and nine months. Egypt was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Egypt for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	13	22	14	25
New abduction cases	3	6	4	7
Total abduction cases	16	28	18	32
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	4 (22%)	8
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (6%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	14	25	13 (72%)	23

Central Authority: In 2022, the competent authorities in Egypt worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	13	22	13	23
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	4	7
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	13	22	17	30
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	11	19	9	15
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	85%		53%	

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Egyptian law and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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 ratify the Convention and create the legal infrastructure needed for effective implementation of the Convention.

Honduras

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. In 2022, Honduras continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Honduran Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention. Honduras was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Honduras for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	4	8
New abduction cases	3	7	2	2
Total abduction cases	6	10	6	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	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	8	1 (17%)	3

Significant Developments: Delays persisted in the Honduran Central Authority in 2022, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance even while significant efforts were made to address concerns. In March, a new director was appointed to lead the Honduran Central Authority and by August a new and expanded team devoted to Hague Abduction Convention matters was established. The Honduran Central Authority demonstrated a dedication to improving administrative performance, and in October, it hosted a training for the judiciary. However, the Honduran Central Authority continues to delay filing cases in court. The main sources of the delays include the Honduran Central Authority's requirement to conduct home studies and psychological evaluations before submitting a case to the judiciary, and limited staffing resources.

Central Authority: There have been serious delays in the processing of cases by the Honduran Central Authority, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In half of the cases pending in 2022, the Honduran Central Authority failed to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the institution of judicial proceedings in a timely manner, which resulted in significant delays.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	4	8

New cases filed with the FCA	2	6	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	9	4	8
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, 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 25 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Honduran judicial authorities impacted a case during 2022.

Enforcement: While a court in Honduras ordered a return under the Convention in 2020, the Honduran authorities faced challenges with enforcement of that case. An order in that unresolved case was finally enforced more than a year after the Honduran court ordered the return. The United States remains concerned that Honduras has not sufficiently addressed its challenges with the enforcement of return orders.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Honduran authorities to address issues of concern.

India

Country Summary: India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2022, India continued to demonstrate 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, 65 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and ten months. The Mediation Cell, established in 2018 by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights with the objective of mediating custody disputes, has yet to resolve any abduction cases between the United States and India. India was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to India for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	81	91	87	103
New abduction cases	21	29	21	24
Total abduction cases	102	120	108	127
Abduction cases resolved during the year	15	15	19 (17%)	22
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	2	4 (4%)	4
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	87	103	85 (79%)	101

Significant Developments: After the Government of India (GOI) formally refused the proposal for a U.S. India Joint Committee on IPCA in 2021, the Department presented a new proposal to the GOI to create a bilateral dialogue on IPCA following the U.S.-India Consular Dialogue. In response, in October 2022, the GOI hosted representatives from the Office of Children’s Issues in New Delhi and held IPCA discussions for the first time outside of the annual Consular Dialogue.

Central Authority: In 2022, the competent authorities in India regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	74	84	86	102

New cases filed with the FCA	27	35	18	22
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	101	119	104	124
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	62	70	68	82
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	61%		65%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, eight abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Indian courts in 2022, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Indian law continued to make it difficult for India to resolve these cases. The Indian government’s Mediation Cell, which was set up to resolve international custody disputes, has proved ineffective as it has limited authority and has yet to resolve any abduction cases between the United States and India. Additionally, some left-behind parents report difficulty with service of process in India, leading to delays and further slowing judicial resolution of 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 Indian authorities.

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

Jordan

Country Summary: Jordan does not adhere to any international protocols with respect to IPCA. In 2006, the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate parental access to abducted children. In 2022, Jordan continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. As a result of this failure, 67 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 six months. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2022 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	7	6	7
New abduction cases	2	3	3	9
Total abduction cases	7	10	9	16
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	1 (11%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	1 (11%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	6	7	7 (78%)	14

Central Authority: In 2022, the competent authorities in Jordan worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In 2021, the Government of Jordan reformed and expanded the mediation services offered through the Family Mediation Directorate to offer accessible services for parents abroad. However, the United States is not aware of any abduction cases that were resolved through this service.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	5	6	7
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	8	6	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	4	5	4	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	67%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: There is a lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Jordanian law and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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.

Korea, Republic of

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea since 2013. In 2022, the Republic of Korea continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Korean law enforcement authorities regularly failed to enforce return orders in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 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 two years and ten months. The Republic of Korea was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Republic of Korea for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	7	3	5
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	6	8	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	2 (50%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	2 (50%)	3

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Korean Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	7	3	5
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	8	4	6
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	3	5	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		50%	

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 2022, 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 34 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the Republic of Korea routinely ordered the return of children in Convention cases; however, cases were generally pending with Korean judicial authorities for over one year. Additionally, while courts in the Republic of Korea ordered the return of children in Convention cases, the need for multiple enforcement proceedings resulted in delays.

Enforcement: While courts in the Republic of Korea ordered the return of children under the Convention, decisions for return were generally not enforced, including one case that was pending for more than three years as of December 31, 2022. There were two cases (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) that have been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement has failed to enforce a return order. Additionally, left-behind parents can spend months in legal proceedings seeking to enforce the return order, resulting in delays to return. Unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a return order under the Convention, judicial decisions in Convention cases in the Republic of Korea were generally not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Korean authorities to address issues of concern.

Peru

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2022, Peru continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention, and judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 27 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 over three years. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Peru for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	10	14	10	12
New abduction cases	3	3	3	3
Total abduction cases	13	17	13	15
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	7 (54%)	9
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (8%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	10	12	5 (38%)	5

Significant Developments: In 2022, there continued to be frequent turnover in leadership positions in the Peruvian Central Authority including two different ministers and four different directors general. As a result, the Central Authority did not follow through on its commitment to review its procedures in order to become compliant with the Convention.

The Department has cited Peru for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention for 10 consecutive years. However, by the end of 2022, a significant number of abduction cases were resolved, and less than 30 percent of cases remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Nevertheless, other cases continue to experience lengthy judicial delays, contributing to Peru's pattern of noncompliance.

Central Authority: The Peruvian Central Authority's lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In addition, the Peruvian Central Authority did not adequately participate in safe-return planning related to a court-ordered return of a child to the United States.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	10	14	9	11
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	12	16	11	13
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	9	12	3	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	75%		27%	

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 2022, 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. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by Peruvian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for more than one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. Delays were especially lengthy at the appellate stage.

Enforcement: While a court in Peru ordered a return under the Convention, Peruvian authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Peru. This case was opened and filed with the Peruvian Central Authority in 2021. By December 31, 2022, this case remained open and has been pending with the Peruvian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with Peruvian authorities to address issues of concern.

Romania

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. In 2022, Romania continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance.

Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention, and law enforcement continued to fail to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial authority in an abduction case. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. One case has been unresolved for over four years. Romania was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 – 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	3	1	3
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	3	2	4
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	3	2 (100%)	4

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Romanian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	3	2	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	3	1	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		50%	

Location: The competent authorities of Romania declined to take appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed.

Judicial Authorities: Serious delays by the Romanian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2022.

Enforcement: In one case, the taking parent did not voluntarily comply with a return order issued pursuant to the Convention, and the judicial decision has not been enforced by law enforcement, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. This case (accounting for 50% of unresolved cases) has been pending for more than four years.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Romanian authorities to address issues of concern.

Russia

Country Summary: While Russia became a party to the Convention in 2011, the Convention is not in force between Russia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. In 2022, Russia demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Russian government failed to work with the U.S. Central Authority (USCA) 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. The U.S. government has a limited ability to assist U.S. citizens in Russia, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Russia.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Russia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	14	18	13	14
New abduction cases	6	6	4	6
Total abduction cases	20	24	17	20
Abduction cases resolved during the year	7	10	4 (24%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	13	14	13 (76%)	16

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 2022, the United States did not inform the Russian government of reported abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	2	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		50%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Russian

authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is a lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Russian law, and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts. Of the abduction cases for which we are aware judicial proceedings have been initiated, all have remained pending for more than one year due to repeatedly delayed hearings and failure of hearings to render a 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 Russian authorities.

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

United Arab Emirates

Country Summary: The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2022, the United Arab Emirates continued to demonstrate 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, 29 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for eight years and six months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018-2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to the United Arab Emirates for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	4	5
New abduction cases	1	2	3	7
Total abduction cases	4	5	7	12
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (14%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	5	6 (86%)	11

Central Authority: In 2022, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	4	9
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	7	12
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	2	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	67%		29%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Emirati law, and parents face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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 the Convention.

COUNTRIES WITH ONE OR MORE ABDUCTION OR ACCESS CASES

Algeria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 Department of State and the competent authorities in Algeria have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Algerian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 Algerian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Algerian law.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Algeria to accede to the Convention.

Australia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Australia, for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	5	2	4
New abduction cases	1	2	3	3
Total abduction cases	5	7	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	4 (80%)	6
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	1 (20%)	1

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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	5	2	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	7	5	7
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Australia 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 Australian authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving three children under the Convention in Australia. This case was opened in 2020. This case was filed with the

Australian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, this case remained open. This case involving three children has been pending with the Australian authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Austria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Austria since 1988. Austria was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2021 Annual Report. While the Department did not cite Austria in 2022, the Department is not aware of any changes to the procedures for resolving abduction cases in Austria, and therefore, the Department remains concerned that future cases may encounter similar challenges as in the past.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	2	2	3 (75%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (25%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Austrian 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	4	5
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		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 this child.

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

Enforcement: While courts in Austria ordered returns under the Convention, in some cases the Austrian authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Austria. This case was opened in 2022. This case has been filed with the Austrian Central Authority. This case was filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, this case remained open. No case has been pending with the Austrian authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Bahamas

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 U.S. and the Bahamian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 Department of State requested location assistance in the current case, but the Bahamian authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bahamian judiciary in 2022.

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 Bahamian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Bahamian Central Authority.

Bangladesh

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 2022, the competent authorities in Bangladesh worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Bangladeshi law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 Bangladeshi authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bangladeshi judiciary in 2022.

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 encourage Bangladesh to accede to the Convention.

Belarus

Country Summary: While Belarus became a party to the Convention in 1998, the Convention is not in force between Belarus and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The U.S. Embassy in Minsk suspended operations effective February 28, 2022. All consular services are suspended, including for cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Belarus.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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: 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 2022, the United States did not inform the Belarusian government of reported abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Belarusian judiciary in 2022.

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

Belarusian authorities.

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

Belgium

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

Central Authority: The U.S. and Belgium Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Belgian judiciary in 2022.

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 Belgian authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Belgium. This case was opened in 2022. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, this case remained open.

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

Bolivia

Country Summary: While Bolivia became a party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between Bolivia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	4	4
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	5	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	3 (75%)	3

Central Authority: In 2022, 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

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 2022.

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 engage with Bolivian government officials regarding potential partnership.

Cambodia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Cambodia have regular and productive discussions on the best way to resolve pending abduction cases under Cambodian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

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 2022.

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.

Canada

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Canada since 1988. Canada has not previously been cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Canada for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	11	15	8	10
New abduction cases	13	19	21	23
Total abduction cases	24	34	29	33
Abduction cases resolved during the year	15	22	15 (52%)	16
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	0 (0%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	8	10	14 (48%)	16

Central Authority: 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	11	15	8	10
New cases filed with the FCA	12	18	21	23
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	23	33	29	33
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, 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. On average, it took 28 days to locate a child. As of December 31, 2022, there were no open cases where the authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Canada 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 Canadian authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of eight open access cases involving eight children under the Convention in Canada. Of these, six cases involving six children were opened in 2022. All of these cases have been filed with the Canadian Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, five cases involving five children (62.5 percent) had been resolved and three cases involving three children (37.5 percent) remained open. One case has been pending with the Canadian Central Authority for more than 12 months.

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

China, People’s Republic of

Country Summary: The People’s Republic of China (PRC) does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The PRC was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to China for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	11	13	11	13
New Abduction Cases	4	5	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	15	18	11	13
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	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	11	13	11 (100%)	13

Central Authority: There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2022, however, previously filed cases remained unresolved with the competent authorities during the year.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	9	11	8	10
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	9	11	8	10
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	8	10	8	10
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	89%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the PRC judicial authorities resolved abduction cases 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 PRC

authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage the PRC to accede to the Convention.

Colombia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	4	5	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	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	1 (100%)	1

Significant Developments: In 2022, Colombian authorities hosted a nationwide judicial training conference on the Hague Abduction Convention. At the invitation of the Colombian Central Authority, the U.S. Central Authority presented on the role of the central authority in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Colombian Central Authority have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	4	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	5	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Colombia reached a timely decision.

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

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases involving seven children under the Convention in Colombia. Of these, two cases involving two children were opened in 2022. All of these cases have been filed with the Colombian Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, two cases involving two children (40%) had been resolved.

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

Costa Rica

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Costa Rica since 2008. While the Department did not cite Costa Rica for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about prior delays in the judicial process. In 2022, a child returned to the United States pursuant to a judicially ordered return under the Convention. Costa Rica was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2011-2016 and 2020-2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Costa Rica for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	3	3
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	3	3	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	3 (100%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	1 (0%)	1

Significant developments: In 2022, a child was returned to the United States pursuant to a judicially ordered return under the Convention. The resolution of this case is a sign of significant progress in the working relationship between the United States and Costa Rica on Convention.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	3	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	67%		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 month to locate a child. As of December 31, 2021, there were no cases where the Costa Rican authorities remained unable to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: In previous reports, there were delays by the Costa Rican judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. Given the previous patterns of delays, judicial delays remain a potential area of concern.

Enforcement: A decision in a Convention case in Costa Rica was generally enforced in a timely manner.

Access: In 2022 the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Costa Rica. This case was opened and filed with the Costa Rican authorities in 2022.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Costa Rican authorities to address issues of concern.

Côte d'Ivoire

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	2	4
New abduction cases	3	5	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	7	2	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	2 (100%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Côte d'Ivoire have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ivorian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2	2	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	4	2	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	2	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, 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 or decided by the Ivorian judiciary in 2022.

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 encourage Côte d'Ivoire to accede to the Convention.

Croatia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	2
New abduction cases	1	2	1	1
Total abduction cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	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	2	1 (50%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Croatia 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 Croatian authorities.

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

Czech Republic

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 U.S. and the Czech Republic Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 Republic authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Czech Republic judiciary in 2022.

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 Republic authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Czech Republic Central Authority.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Country Summary: The Democratic Republic of the Congo does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	2	3
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	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	2	3	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Congolese law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 Congolese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Congolese judiciary in 2022.

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 Congolese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to accede to the Convention.

Dominican Republic

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Dominican Republic since 2007.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Dominican Republic for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New abduction cases	3	3	2	3
Total abduction cases	5	5	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	4	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	1	1 (33%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	3	4	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 15 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the Dominican Republic routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in the Dominican Republic were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Dominican Central Authority

will continue the effective processing of cases under the Convention.

El Salvador

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	2	2
New abduction cases	2	2	2	4
Total abduction cases	2	2	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (50%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	2 (50%)	2

Central Authority: The U.S. 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	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	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 2022, one abduction case involving three children 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. As of December 31, 2022, there was one case in which the Salvadoran authorities were unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of El Salvador 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 Salvadoran authorities.

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

Ethiopia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ethiopia, for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	4
Total abduction cases	0	0	1	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (100%)	4
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Ethiopia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ethiopian law.

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 2022.

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 encourage Ethiopia to accede to the Convention.

France

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to France for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	4	6
New abduction cases	4	6	3	3
Total abduction cases	7	11	7	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	6 (86%)	8
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	6	1 (14%)	1

Central Authority: The U.S. 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	5	4	6
New cases filed with the FCA	4	6	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	11	6	8
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of France 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 French authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving three children under the Convention in France. Of these, two cases involving two children were opened in 2022. All cases have been filed with the French Central Authority. Two cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, two cases involving two children (66%) had been resolved. By December 31, 2022, one case involving one child remained open. No cases have been pending with the French authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Gambia, The

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to The Gambia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	2 (100%)	2
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: The Department of State and the competent authorities in The Gambia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Gambian law.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Gambian judiciary in 2022.

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 Gambian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage The Gambia to accede to the Convention.

Germany

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Germany for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	3	4
New abduction cases	5	8	7	11
Total abduction cases	8	13	10	15
Abduction cases resolved during the year	5	9	5(50%)	9
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1(10%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	4 (40%)	5

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	5	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	5	7
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	8	7	10
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	2	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 2022, 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 Germany routinely reached timely decisions.

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

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving seven children under the Convention in Germany. All of these cases were opened in 2022. No new cases were filed with the German Central Authority in 2022. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2022, all of these cases were closed for other reasons.

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

Ghana

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ghana for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	8	4	6
New abduction cases	3	5	1	1
Total abduction cases	7	13	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	4	3 (60%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	6	2 (40%)	2

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Ghana have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ghanaian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	8	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	11	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	17%		33%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the Ghanaian judicial authorities resolved one 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 Ghanaian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Ghana to accede to the Convention.

Greece

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Greece since 1993. While the Department did not cite Greece for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	3	5
New abduction cases	3	7	1	1
Total abduction cases	6	11	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	2 (50%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	2 (50%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	4	3	5
New cases filed with the FCA	2	4	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	8	4	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	1	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	20%		25%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Greek judicial authorities impacted cases during 2022.

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 expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Greek Central Authority.

Guatemala

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Guatemala since 2008. While the Department did not cite Guatemala for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process. Guatemala was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2012-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	3	6
New abduction cases	1	3	2	3
Total abduction cases	3	6	5	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	6	4 (80%)	8

Central Authority: Due to improved communication, the U.S. and the Guatemalan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	3	6
New cases filed with the FCA	2	5	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	6	5	9
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	2	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		40%	

Location: While Guatemalan authorities located children in some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed in a case. The Department of State requested location assistance, but the Guatemalan authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Guatemalan judicial authorities impacted a case during 2022, judicial authorities ordered and enforced the return of a child under the Convention.

Enforcement: A decision in a Convention case in Guatemala was generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Guatemalan Central Authority.

Hungary

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Hungary for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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%)	

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Hungarian judiciary in 2022.

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 expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Hungarian Central Authority.

Iceland

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

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

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Icelandic judiciary in 2022.

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 Icelandic authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving three children under the Convention in Iceland. Both of these cases were opened in 2021. Both cases have been filed with the Icelandic Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, one case (50%) involving two children has been resolved. By December 31, 2022, one case involving one child remained open. This case has been pending with the Icelandic authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Indonesia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	8	8	5	5
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	8	8	6	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	1 (17%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	5	5 (83%)	5

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Indonesia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction issues under Indonesian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	5	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	5	6	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	3	3	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	60%		33%	

Location: The Department 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 2022.

Enforcement: The United State 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.

Iran

Country Summary: Iran does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The United States does not have 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	6	4	6
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	4	6	5	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	3 (60%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	6	2 (40%)	3

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Iraq

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, the Convention is not available for resolving cases 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 when contemplating travel to Iraq.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Iraq for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	3	5
New abduction cases	1	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	3	5	3	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (33%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	2(67%)	4

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 2022, the United States did not inform the Iraqi government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Iraqi law and parents may face difficulties attempting to resolve custody disputes in the local courts.

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 recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Ireland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	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 U.S. 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	1	1
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 11 months to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Irish judiciary in 2022.

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 Irish authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving

four children under the Convention in Ireland. Of these, two cases involving three children were opened in 2022. All of these cases have been filed with the Irish Central Authority. Two cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, one case involving one child (33%) had been resolved. By December 31, 2022, two cases involving three children remained open. No cases have been pending with the Irish authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Israel since 1991. Statistics below are for Israel. See separate notes for the West Bank and Gaza.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Israel for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	1	3
New abduction cases	1	3	2	3
Total abduction cases	4	8	3	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	2(67%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	3	1 (25%)	1

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Israel Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	5	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	3	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	8	2	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%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The Judicial authorities of Israel routinely reached timely decisions.

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

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving three children under the Convention in Israel. This case was opened in 2022. This case involving three children has been filed with the Israeli Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, this case involving three children remained open. No cases have been pending with the Israeli authorities for more than 12 months.

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

West Bank: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in the West Bank. While the U.S. Embassy 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. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to the West Bank. In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to the West Bank for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022. In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of six open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, two were initially opened with the U.S. Central Authority in 2022. As of December 31, 2022, two cases were resolved. By December 31, 2022, four cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Gaza: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction that are operative in Gaza. The U.S. Embassy is unable to provide consular services to U.S. citizens in Gaza, including services related to international parental child abduction, given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Gaza. In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open abduction case in Gaza. This case was resolved. As of December 31, 2022, there are no open cases. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Italy

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Italy for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	0	0
New abduction cases	1	3	2	2
Total abduction cases	4	6	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	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 U.S. and the Italian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	1	3	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Italy 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 Italian authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Italy. This case was opened in 2022. This case has been filed with the Italian Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, this case was closed for other reasons.

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

Jamaica

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Jamaica since 2019.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jamaica for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	3	3
New abduction cases	11	13	8	10
Total abduction cases	11	13	11	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	8	10	10 (91%)	11
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	1 (9%)	2

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Jamaica Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	4	5	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	5	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, eight abduction cases were 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 Jamaica routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Jamaica were generally enforced in a timely

manner.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access cases involving one child under the Convention in Jamaica. This case was filed with the Jamaican Central Authority in 2021. By December 31, 2022, this one case involving one child (100%) has been resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Jamaican Central Authority.

Japan

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Japan since 2014. Japan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2016 and 2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Japan, for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	6	10	11	15
New abduction cases	9	11	8	13
Total abduction cases	15	21	19	28
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	5	8 (42%)	11
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	11	15	11 (58%)	17

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Japanese Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	10	11	15
New cases filed with the FCA	9	11	8	13
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	15	21	19	28
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, five 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 17 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Japan 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 Japanese authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of nine open access cases involving 18 children under the Convention in Japan. Of these, one case involving two children was opened in 2022. A total of nine cases involving 18 children have been filed with the Japanese Central Authority. One case involving two children has been filed with the Japanese Central Authority in 2022. By December 31, 2022, two cases involving three children (22 percent) have been resolved and two cases have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, two were a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2022, five cases involving 13 children remained open. One case involving two children has been pending with the Japanese authorities for more than 12 months.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2022, six pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Japan. In 2022, three pre-Convention cases were resolved. In 2022, no pre-Convention cases were closed for other reasons.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Japanese Central Authority.

Kenya

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Kenya for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	5	6
New abduction cases	1	2	5	5
Total abduction cases	5	6	10	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	2 (20%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	6	8 (80%)	9

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Kenya have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Kenyan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	5	6
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	3	3	4	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	60%		80%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, 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 2022.

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

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Kenya to accede to the Convention.

Kuwait

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 2022, the competent authorities in Kuwait worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Kuwaiti law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 Kuwaiti authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kuwaiti judiciary in 2022.

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 encourage Kuwait to accede 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. Lebanon was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and 2019 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	10	11	7	8
New abduction cases	0	0	1	3
Total abduction cases	10	11	8	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (13%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	7	8	7 (87%)	10

Central Authority: In 2022, the competent authorities in Lebanon worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Lebanese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	10	11	7	8
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	10	11	7	8
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	7	8	6	7
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	70%		86%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Lebanese judiciary in 2022.

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 encourage Lebanon to accede to the Convention.

Libya

Country Summary: Libya does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have a diplomatic presence in Libya and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Libya, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department's Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Libya.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	2	3
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	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	2	3	2 (100%)	3

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 2022, the United States did not inform the Libyan government of reported abduction cases.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Libyan judiciary in 2022.

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 Libyan authorities.

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

Malaysia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 competent authorities in Malaysia worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases remains limited under Malaysian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 Malaysian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Malaysian judiciary in 2022.

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 a Malaysian court.

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

Mexico

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received 17 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Mexico where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	67	90	68	95
New abduction cases	62	90	30	40
Total abduction cases	129	180	98	135
Abduction cases resolved during the year	58	82	41 (42%)	54
Abduction cases closed during the year	3	3	2 (2%)	6
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	68	95	55 (56%)	75

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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	67	90	68	95
New cases filed with the FCA	45	66	21	27
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	112	156	89	122
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	16	25	22	31
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	15%		25%	

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 2022, 20 abduction cases involving 29 children 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 196 days. As of December 31, 2022, there were 25 cases where the Mexican authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Mexico routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Mexican judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2022. Delays were often related 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.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 13 open access cases involving 21 children under the Convention in Mexico. Of these, four cases involving six children were opened in 2022. A total of seven cases involving ten children have been filed with the Mexican Central Authority. None of these cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, six cases involving nine children (46 percent) have been resolved and two cases involving five children have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, one case involving three children was by a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2022, five cases involving seven children remained open. Two of these cases involving two children have been pending with the Mexican authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Montenegro

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Montenegro since 2006. While the Department did not cite Montenegro for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	2	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	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Montenegro 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 Montenegrin authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Montenegrin judicial authorities impacted cases during 2022.

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 Montenegrin authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Montenegrin Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention and will work to address areas of concern.

Morocco

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Morocco since 2012. While the Department did not cite Morocco for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about the lack of a timely response from the Moroccan Central Authority to the requests of the U.S. Central Authority. Morocco was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Morocco for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New abduction cases	4	4	5	5
Total abduction cases	5	5	8	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	4 (50%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	4 (50%)	4

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Moroccan 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	4	4	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	5	5	5
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	20%		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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Moroccan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2022.

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 Moroccan authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Morocco. This case was opened in 2020. This case involving one child has been filed with the Moroccan Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Moroccan authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Moroccan Central Authority and will work to address issues of concern.

Nepal

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 Department of State and the competent authorities in Nepal have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Nepalese law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 Nepalese authorities.

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

Enforcement: The abduction related decision made by a Nepalese court was enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Nepal to accede to the Convention.

Netherlands

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Total abduction cases	1	2	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	1 (50%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	2	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2022, 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 Dutch judiciary in 2022.

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.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving four children under the Convention in the Netherlands. Of these, one case involving three children was opened in 2022. One case has been filed with the Dutch Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, one case involving three children (50%) has been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons.

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

New Zealand

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from parents regarding possible abductions to New Zealand, for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 New Zealand Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 New Zealand 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 New Zealand authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing

and resolution of cases under the Convention with the New Zealand Central Authority.

Nicaragua

Country Summary: While Nicaragua became a party to the Convention in 2000, the Convention is not in force between Nicaragua and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 2022, the competent authorities in Nicaragua occasionally declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Nicaraguan law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 Nicaraguan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nicaraguan judiciary in 2021.

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 engage with the Nicaraguan government officials regarding potential partnership.

Nigeria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	4	1	2
New abduction cases	1	2	5	8
Total abduction cases	2	6	6	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	4	2 (33%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	2	4 (67%)	8

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Nigeria have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Nigerian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	4	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	4	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%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, 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: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nigerian judiciary in 2022.

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 encourage Nigeria to accede to the Convention.

Norway

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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: The U.S. 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Norway 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 Norwegian authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving five children under the Convention in Norway. Of these, two cases involving three

children were opened in 2022. A total of three cases involving five children have been filed with the Norwegian Central Authority. Two cases were filed in 2022. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2022, one case involving two children was closed for other reasons.

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

Pakistan

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Pakistan since 2020. The Department continues to work with Pakistan to resolve nine pre-Convention abduction cases that remained open at the end of the year.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received 11 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Pakistan for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	3	6	5	6
Total abduction cases	3	6	6	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	5	2 (33%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	4 (66%)	4

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Pakistan Central Authorities have a productive relationship, but some implementation challenges remain.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	5	6
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	6	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 2022, two abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 31 days. In those cases where the child’s whereabouts were discovered, the location information was ascertained from the left-behind parent.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Pakistani judiciary in 2022.

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

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2022, nine pre-Convention abduction cases involving 12 children remained open in Pakistan. In 2022, two pre-Convention cases were resolved.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Pakistan. This case was filed with the Pakistan Central Authority in 2022. On December 31, 2022, this case remained open.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Pakistan Central Authority will continue to pursue engagement and cooperation to strengthen implementation and effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.

Panama

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Panama since 1994. Panama was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2017 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Panama for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 Panamanian Central Authorities have a cooperative and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 average time to locate a child was one month.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Panamanian judiciary in 2022.

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 expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Panamanian Central Authority.

Paraguay

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Paraguay since 2008.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Paraguayan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Paraguayan judiciary in 2022.

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 Paraguayan authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Paraguay. This case was opened in 2020 and has been filed with the Paraguayan Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, this case remained open and has been pending with the Paraguayan authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Paraguayan Central Authority.

Philippines

Country Summary: While the Philippines became a party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between the Philippines and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Philippine government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received seven initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Philippines for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	12	16	10	13
New abduction cases	3	4	1	1
Total abduction cases	15	20	11	14
Abduction cases resolved during the year	5	6	2 (9%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	10	13	9 (91%)	11

Significant Developments: In October, the Philippine Supreme Court promulgated rules to implement the Convention.

Central Authority: In 2022, the competent authorities in the Philippines worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Philippines law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	7	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	7	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	2	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Philippine judiciary in 2022.

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 Convention has been in force between the United States and Poland since 1992.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	3	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	2	3
Total abduction cases	2	4	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	3	1 (33%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	2 (67%)	2

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Polish Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Poland reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: While a court in Poland ordered a return under the Convention, the Polish authorities faced challenges with enforcement.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Polish Central Authority.

Portugal

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Portugal for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 U.S. and the Portuguese Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 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 22 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Portuguese judiciary in 2022.

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 Portuguese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Portuguese Central Authority.

Qatar

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	2	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	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2022, The Department of State and the competent authorities in Qatar have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Qatari law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 Qatari authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Qatari judiciary in 2022.

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 Qatari authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Qatar to accede to the Convention.

Saudi Arabia

Country Summary: Saudi Arabia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. Saudi Arabia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Saudi Arabia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	3	4
New abduction cases	1	1	2	2
Total abduction cases	4	5	5	6
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	4	5 (100%)	6

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Saudi law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	3	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		40%	

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

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Saudi courts, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Saudi law makes it difficult for Saudi Arabia.

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

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

Senegal

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Senegal for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	2	3
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	6	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	2 (100%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Senegal have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Senegalese law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	4	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	1	2	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 2022.

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 encourage Senegal to accede to the Convention.

Serbia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Serbia for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	2	3
New abduction cases	1	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Serbian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
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	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Serbian judiciary in 2022.

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 Serbian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Serbian Central Authority.

Singapore

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Singapore since 2012.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (0%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Singaporean authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Singaporean judiciary in 2022.

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.

Somalia

Country Summary: Somalia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu does not provide consular services, and the ability of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi to provide consular services to U.S. citizens throughout Somalia, including services related to international parental child abduction, is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Somalia.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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: 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 2022, the United States did not inform the Somali government of reported abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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 more than 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Somali judiciary in 2022.

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 Somali authorities.

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

South Africa

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and South Africa since 1997.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	5	8
New abduction cases	6	9	0	0
Total abduction cases	7	10	5	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	4 (80%)	7
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	8	1 (20%)	1

Central Authority: The U.S. and the South African Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	5	8
New cases filed with the FCA	6	9	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	10	5	8
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: In 2022, 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.

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

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

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in South Africa. This case was opened in 2021. This case involving one child has been filed with the South African Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By

December 31, 2022, this case remained open. This case involving one child has been pending with the South African authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Spain

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Spain since 1988. While the Department did not cite Spain for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about the lack of timely responses from the Spanish Central Authority to the requests of the U.S. Central Authority.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	4	5
New abduction cases	3	4	5	6
Total abduction cases	5	7	9	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	7 (78%)	9
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	5	2 (22%)	2

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Spanish Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in and a lack of effective communication about actions to resolve abduction cases under the Convention are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	5	6
New cases filed with the FCA	3	4	4	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	7	9	11
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, 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 14 days. As of December 31, 2022, there was one case in which the Spanish authorities were unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Spanish judiciary in 2022.

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 Spanish authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving three children under the Convention in Spain. All of these cases were opened in 2022 and were filed with the Spanish Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, two cases involving two children had been resolved. By December 31, 2022, one case involving one child remained open. No cases have been pending with the Spanish authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Spanish Central Authority.

Sweden

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	2 (100%)	2
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: The U.S. 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Swedish judiciary in 2022.

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 Swedish authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases involving seven children under the Convention in Sweden. Of these, three cases involving five children were opened in 2022. All of these cases have been filed with the Swedish Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, all of these cases (100% percent) had been resolved. No cases have been pending with the Swedish authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Swedish Central Authority.

Switzerland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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: The U.S. 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Swiss authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Switzerland 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 Swiss authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving two children under the Convention in Switzerland. Both of these cases were opened in 2021. Both cases involving two children have been filed with the Swiss Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, one case involving 1 child (50 percent) had been resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Swiss Central Authority.

Syria

Country Summary: Syria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The United States suspended operations at its Embassy in Damascus in 2012. The Foreign Interests Section of the Czech Embassy in Damascus performs limited consular services for U.S. citizens in country. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Syria.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	3	5
New abduction cases	1	2	1	2
Total abduction cases	4	6	4	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	1 (25%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	3(75%)	6

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 2022, 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 decided by the Syrian judiciary in 2022.

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

Country Summary: Due to its unique status, Taiwan cannot become party to the Convention. Therefore, the remedies available under the Convention are not available with respect to Taiwan. The American Institute in Taiwan and Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office cooperate to encourage resolution of abduction cases under a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Taiwan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	6	6	9
New abduction cases	4	6	3	4
Total abduction cases	9	12	9	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	2 (22%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	1 (11%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	6	9	6 (67%)	8

Central Authority: The American Institute in Taiwan and the competent authorities in Taiwan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Taiwan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	6	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	3	4	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	60%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Acting in accordance with local laws, the Taiwan judicial authorities

resolved abduction cases in a timely manner.

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

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

Tanzania

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	2
New abduction cases	1	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	1	2	1	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	2	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Tanzania have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Tanzanian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	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 Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Tanzanian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Tanzanian judiciary in 2022.

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 Tanzanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Tanzania to accede to the Convention.

Thailand

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Thailand since 2016.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Thailand for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	3	6
Total abduction cases	3	3	4	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	3 (75%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (25%)	2

Central Authority: While the United States and the Thai 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	3	5
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 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Thai judiciary in 2022.

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.

Tonga

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Tonga have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Tongan law.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Tongan judiciary in 2022.

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 Tongan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Tonga to accede to the Convention.

Trinidad and Tobago

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago since 2013. Trinidad and Tobago was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	6	10	3	4
New abduction cases	4	7	0	0
Total abduction cases	10	17	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	7	13	3 (100%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	0 (0%)	0

Significant Developments: Trinidad and Tobago hosted a regional judicial training with Hague Network Judges in September 2022 which included discussions regarding judicial procedures for resolving abduction cases.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	10	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	11	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	2	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	14%		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 2022, 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 Trinidad and Tobago routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Trinidad and Tobago were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2022, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Trinidad and Tobago.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority.

Tunisia

Country Summary: While Tunisia became a party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Tunisia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases currently.

	Case	Children	Case	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Tunisia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Tunisian law.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Tunisian judiciary in 2022.

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 Tunisian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Tunisian government officials regarding potential partnership under the Hague Abduction Convention.

Turkey (Türkiye)

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Türkiye since 2000. While the Department did not cite Türkiye for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2022, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	6	3	3
New abduction cases	1	1	2	4
Total abduction cases	5	7	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	1 (20%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	4 (80%)	6

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Turkish 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	6	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	2	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	7	5	7
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	20%		20%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Türkiye routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Turkish judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2022.

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 Turkish authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing

and resolution of cases under the Convention with the Turkish Central Authority.

Uganda

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	3	3	3	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	3	3	3 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Uganda have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ugandan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	2	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 2022.

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 encourage Uganda to accede to the Convention.

Ukraine

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ukraine for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New abduction cases	2	2	2	5
Total abduction cases	3	3	5	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	2 (40%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	3 (60%)	5

Significant Developments: On March 15, 2022, the Ukrainian Central Authority notified The Hague pursuant to Article 45 of the Convention that Ukraine might not be able to meet its obligations under the Hague Abduction Convention due to the ongoing Russian invasion.

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Ukrainian 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	2	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	5	8
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	0	0	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		20%	

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 86 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by Ukrainian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2022.

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 Ukrainian authorities.

Department Recommendations: To the extent possible, given the ongoing Russian invasion, the Department and the Ukrainian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.

United Kingdom

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the United Kingdom since 1988. The statistics below include a case in the British overseas territory of the Cayman Islands.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Kingdom for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	5	5	5
New abduction cases	9	11	12	19
Total abduction cases	14	16	17	24
Abduction cases resolved during the year	8	10	7 (41%)	8
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	5	10 (59%)	16

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	5	5	5
New cases filed with the FCA	9	11	12	19
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	14	16	17	24
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	2	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	14%		12%	

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 2022, 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 one month.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the United Kingdom routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in the United Kingdom were enforced in a timely manner.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 14 open access cases involving 20 children under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Of these, nine cases involving 12 children were opened in 2022. All of these cases have been filed with the United Kingdom Central Authority. By December 31, 2022, five cases involving eight children (36 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2022, nine cases involving 12 children remained open. Two cases involving three children have been pending with the United Kingdom authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department expects to continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention with the United Kingdom Central Authority.

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, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Uzbekistan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Uzbekistani law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	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	100%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uzbekistani judiciary in 2022.

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 Uzbekistani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Uzbekistani government officials regarding potential partnership.

Venezuela

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Venezuela since 1997. On March 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of State announced the withdrawal of diplomatic personnel from the U.S. Embassy Caracas. All consular services, routine and emergency, were suspended until further notice at that time. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Venezuela.

Initial Inquiries: In 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Venezuela for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	2	3
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	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	2	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Central Authority in Venezuela have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Venezuelan Central Authority.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Venezuela reached timely decisions.

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

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Venezuela. This case was opened and filed with the Central Authority in Venezuela in 2018. As of December 31, 2022, this case remained open and has been pending with Venezuela for more than 12 months.

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

Vietnam

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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 and the competent authorities in Vietnam have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Vietnamese law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	0	0	2	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 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 Vietnamese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Vietnamese judiciary in 2022.

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.

Yemen

Country Summary: Yemen does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have a diplomatic presence 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 2022, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Yemen for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2022.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	2	4
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	2	4	3	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	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	4	2 (67%)	4

Voluntary Resolution: In 2022, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 2022, the United States did not inform the Yemeni government of reported abduction cases.

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 2022.

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 a party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Zambia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	2	2	3	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	2	2	3 (100%)	3

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Zambia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Zambian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	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	2	2	2	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		100%	

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 2022.

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

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

Zimbabwe

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	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: While the U.S. and the Zimbabwean 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
	2021	2021	2022	2022
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	0%		0%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Zimbabwean judiciary in 2022.

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 Zimbabwean authorities.

Access: In 2022, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Zimbabwe. This case was initially opened in 2021. This case involving

two children has been filed with the Zimbabwean Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2022. By December 31, 2022, this case involving two children remained open. This case has been pending with the Zimbabwean authorities for more than 12 months.

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

APPENDICES

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 subparagraph *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.

Informative Links

American Bar Association	www.americanbar.org/
Department of Justice	www.justice.gov/ovw
Office of Violence Against Women	www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac
Federal Bureau of Investigation	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 and Exploited Children	www.missingkids.com/
The Office of the Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/about
Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)	www.ovc.gov/
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act
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

2022 IPCA Cases by U.S. State

Alabama

Guatemala	1
Jamaica	1
Qatar	1
Ukraine	1

Alaska

Canada	1
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Arizona

India	3
Indonesia	1
Japan	2
Kuwait	1
Mexico	3
Peru	1
United Kingdom	1
Vietnam	1

Arkansas

India	1
Mexico	2
Montenegro	1

California

Australia	2
Austria	3
Belarus	1
Brazil	2
Canada	2
China	2
Croatia	1
DRC	1
Ecuador	1
Egypt	2
El Salvador	1
France	2
Ghana	2
Guatemala	1
India	24
Indonesia	4
Iran	3
Israel	1
Italy	1
Jamaica	1
Japan	6
Jordan	1
Korea, Republic of	1
Lebanon	1
Mexico	32
Morocco	1
Netherlands	1
Nicaragua	1
Nigeria	1

VII

Norway	1
Pakistan	3
Peru	2
Philippines	2
Russia	6
Sweden	1
Taiwan	2
Tanzania	1
Thailand	2
Tonga	1
Türkiye	1
Ukraine	2
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom	2
Yemen	1

Colorado

Canada	1
France	1
India	2
Japan	1
Korea, Republic of	1
Mexico	3
Philippines	1
Taiwan	1

Connecticut

Canada	1
China	1
Germany	2
India	2
Lebanon	1
Morocco	1
Poland	1
South Africa	1
West Bank	1

Delaware

Egypt	1
India	1

District of Columbia

Armenia	1
Philippines	2
Russia	1

Florida

Argentina	2
Austria	1
Bangladesh	1
Belize	1
Brazil	3
Bulgaria	1
Canada	4
Colombia	1
Czech Republic	1
Ecuador	1

El Salvador	1
Germany	3
Ghana	1
Greece	1
Guatemala	1
India	3
Italy	1
Jamaica	2
Japan	2
Mexico	2
Morocco	1
Nepal	1
Peru	2
Philippines	2
Russia	3
Serbia	1
Spain	4
Switzerland	1
Syria	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Tunisia	1
Türkiye	2
United Kingdom	2
West Bank	2

Georgia

Belize	1
China	1
Costa Rica	1
Dominican Republic	1
Gambia	1
Guatemala	1
India	4
Jamaica	1
Kenya	1
Mexico	2
Taiwan	1
Zimbabwe	1

Hawaii

Japan	1
Mexico	1
Singapore	1
Spain	1

Idaho

Mexico	1
United Arab Emirates	1

Illinois

Brazil	1
Bulgaria	3
China	2
Ecuador	1
India	10
Kenya	1
Mexico	2

Peru	1	Canada	1	United Kingdom	1
Taiwan	1	India	2		
Uganda	1	Mexico	1	New Jersey	
United Kingdom	1	Morocco	1	Canada	1
West Bank	1	Pakistan	1	Cayman Islands	1
Zambia	2	United Kingdom	1	China	1
				Costa Rica	1
Indiana		Michigan		Egypt	1
Canada	1	Brazil	1	India	8
India	1	Canada	1	Japan	2
Mexico	1	Germany	1	Jordan	2
Philippines	1	India	4	Kenya	1
Russia	1	Iraq	2	Mexico	1
Singapore	1	Japan	1	Morocco	1
		Kenya	1	Pakistan	1
Iowa		Lebanon	2	Panama	1
Lebanon	1	Mexico	1	Syria	1
Japan	1	Pakistan	1	Thailand	1
		Saudi Arabia	2	Trinidad and Tobago	1
Kansas		Yemen	1	United Arab Emirates	1
Canada	1			United Kingdom	4
Gambia	1	Minnesota			
Pakistan	1	Canada	2	New Mexico	
Russia	1	DRC	1	Egypt	1
United Arab Emirates	1	Ethiopia	1	France	1
United Kingdom	1	Jamaica	1	Mexico	1
		Kenya	2	Taiwan	1
Kentucky		Pakistan	1		
Canada	1	Somalia	1	New York	
Spain	1	South Africa	1	Australia	1
Taiwan	1	Thailand	1	Cambodia	1
		Türkiye	1	Croatia	1
Louisiana		Uzbekistan	1	Ecuador	1
Jordan	1	Venezuela	1	El Salvador	1
Taiwan	1			France	2
		Missouri		Germany	1
Maine		India	1	Greece	2
Germany	1	Jordan	1	Honduras	1
		Senegal	1	India	3
Maryland		Vietnam	1	Iran	1
Canada	2			Israel	2
El Salvador	1	Montana		Jamaica	3
Honduras	1	Peru	1	Japan	3
India	3			Jordan	2
Iran	1	Nebraska		Kenya	2
Cote D'Ivoire	1	Mexico	1	Malaysia	1
Japan	1			Mexico	3
Libya	1	Nevada		Morocco	1
Nigeria	1	Canada	2	Pakistan	1
Pakistan	2	Ireland	1	Peru	1
Senegal	1	Japan	2	Poland	1
Spain	1	Mexico	3	Romania	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	West Bank	1	Russia	2
				Serbia	1
Massachusetts		New Hampshire		South Africa	2
Algeria	1	Honduras	1	Spain	1
Brazil	1	India	1	Syria	1

Trinidad & Tobago	1	Dominican Republic	1	Cote D'Ivoire	1
Ukraine	1	Egypt	1	Egypt	3
United Arab Emirates	2			India	6
United Kingdom	1	South Carolina		Libya	1
Yemen	1	Belize	1	Mexico	1
		India	1	Morocco	1
North Carolina		Jordan	2	Netherlands	1
China	1	Zambia	1	New Zealand	1
Egypt	1			Pakistan	2
Guatemala	1	Tennessee		Philippines	1
Honduras	1	Egypt	2	Taiwan	1
India	7	Ghana	1	Türkiye	1
Jamaica	1	Honduras	1	United Kingdom	1
Japan	1				
Mexico	1	Texas		Washington	
Pakistan	1	Australia	1	Egypt	1
West Bank	1	Azerbaijan	1	India	4
		Bahamas	1	Japan	2
North Dakota		Belize	1	Korea, Republic of	2
India	1	Bolivia	3	Pakistan	1
Ukraine	1	Brazil	6	Peru	1
		Canada	4	Philippines	1
Ohio		China	1	Poland	1
Canada	1	Costa Rica	1	Saudi Arabia	1
India	2	Dominican Republic	1	Uganda	2
Japan	1	Ecuador	1		
Pakistan	1	Gaza Strip	1	West Virginia	
Switzerland	1	Germany	1	Mexico	1
		Ghana	1	Philippines	1
Oklahoma		Greece	1		
Canada	1	Honduras	1	Wisconsin	
Lebanon	1	India	11	Canada	1
Pakistan	1	Kenya	2	Egypt	1
Saudi Arabia	1	Lebanon	1	Indonesia	1
		Mexico	31	Japan	1
Oregon		Morocco	1	Nigeria	1
Germany	1	Nigeria	3		
Mexico	2	Peru	1		
United Kingdom	1	Portugal	1		
		Russia	3		
Pennsylvania		South Africa	1		
Brazil	1	Spain	1		
Costa Rica	1	Sweden	1		
Egypt	4	Syria	1		
France	1	Venezuela	1		
Hungary	1	West Bank	1		
India	2				
Iraq	1	Utah			
Jamaica	1	Australia	1		
Lebanon	1	China	1		
Romania	1	India	1		
Saudi Arabia	1	Mexico	1		
United Arab Emirates	1	United Kingdom	1		
Puerto Rico		Virginia			
Peru	1	Bolivia	1		
		Canada	1		
Rhode Island		China	1		

Unresolved Abduction Cases

Algeria

#1 pending 46 months

Argentina

#1 pending 164 months

Bangladesh

#1 pending 33 months

Belize

#1 pending 39 months

Brazil

#1 pending 110 months

#2 pending 52 months

#3 pending 35 months

#4 pending 15 months

#5 pending 13 months

Bulgaria

#1 pending 28 months

China

#1 pending 84 months

#2 pending 84 months

#3 pending 45 months

#4 pending 24 months

#5 pending 24 months

#6 pending 24 months

#7 pending 24 months

#8 pending 24 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 31 months

#2 pending 23 months

Egypt

#1 pending 104 months

#2 pending 104 months

#3 pending 86 months

#4 pending 35 months

#5 pending 35 months

#6 pending 24 months

#7 pending 24 months

#8 pending 12 months

#9 pending 12 months

Ghana

#1 pending 46 months

Greece

#1 pending 15 months

Guatemala

#1 pending 27 months

#2 pending 20 months

India

#1 pending 84 months

#2 pending 84 months

#3 pending 84 months

#4 pending 84 months

#5 pending 84 months

#6 pending 84 months

#7 pending 84 months

#8 pending 84 months

#9 pending 84 months

#10 pending 84 months

#11 pending 84 months

#12 pending 84 months

#13 pending 84 months

#14 pending 79 months

#15 pending 79 months

#16 pending 79 months

#17 pending 79 months

#18 pending 72 months

#19 pending 72 months

#20 pending 72 months

#21 pending 53 months

#22 pending 53 months

#23 pending 53 months

#24 pending 36 months

#25 pending 36 months

#26 pending 36 months

#27 pending 36 months

#28 pending 36 months

#29 pending 36 months

#30 pending 36 months

#31 pending 36 months

#32 pending 36 months

#33 pending 36 months

#34 pending 36 months

#35 pending 36 months

#36 pending 36 months

#37 pending 36 months

#38 pending 36 months

#39 pending 36 months

#40 pending 36 months

#41 pending 36 months

#42 pending 36 months

#43 pending 36 months

#44 pending 36 months

#45 pending 36 months

#46 pending 36 months

#47 pending 35 months

#48 pending 31 months

#49 pending 31 months

#50 pending 31 months

#51 pending 31 months

#52 pending 31 months

#53 pending 23 months

#54 pending 23 months

#55 pending 23 months

#56 pending 20 months

#57 pending 20 months

#58 pending 20 months

#59 pending 17 months

#60 pending 15 months

#61 pending 15 months

#62 pending 15 months

#63 pending 15 months

#64 pending 14 months

#65 pending 14 months

#66 pending 13 months

#67 pending 13 months

#68 pending 12 months

Indonesia

#1 pending 84 months

#2 pending 71 months

Jordan

#1 pending 37 months

#2 pending 37 months

#3 pending 29 months

#4 pending 21 months

Kenya

#1 pending 26 months

#2 pending 26 months

#3 pending 21 months

#4 pending 17 months

Korea, Republic of

#1 pending 41 months

#2 pending 25 months

Kuwait

#1 pending 25 months

Lebanon

#1 pending 72 months

#2 pending 72 months

#3 pending 43 months

#4 pending 43 months

#5 pending 43 months

#6 pending 24 months

Malaysia

#1 pending 84 months

Mexico

#1 pending 140 months

#2 pending 109 months

#3 pending 86 months

#4 pending 86 months

#5 pending 52 months

#6 pending 47 months

#7 pending 44 months

#8 pending 41 months

#9 pending 38 months

#10 pending 36 months
#11 pending 30 months
#12 pending 29 months
#13 pending 25 months
#14 pending 24 months
#15 pending 21 months
#16 pending 19 months
#17 pending 19 months
#18 pending 19 months
#19 pending 19 months
#20 pending 15 months
#21 pending 15 months
#22 pending 14 months

Morocco

#1 pending 39 months

Nicaragua

#1 pending 33 months

Peru

#1 pending 68 months
#2 pending 66 months
#3 pending 19 months

Philippines

#1 pending 71 months
#2 pending 71 months

Romania

#1 pending 84 months

Russia

#1 pending 72 months
#2 pending 72 months

Saudi Arabia

#1 pending 57 months
#2 pending 35 months

Taiwan

#1 pending 84 months
#2 pending 25 months

Türkiye

#1 pending 26 months

Uganda

#1 pending 51 months
#2 pending 19 months

Ukraine

#1 pending 36 months

United Arab Emirates

#1 pending 84 months
#2 pending 70 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 15 months

Uzbekistan

#1 pending 32 months

Zambia

#1 pending 34 months
#2 pending 34 months

Unresolved Access Cases

Argentina

#1 pending 51 months

Colombia

#1 pending 13 months

Iceland

#1 pending 15 months

Japan

#1 pending 54 months

Mexico

#1 pending 45 months

#2 pending 54 months

Morocco

#1 pending 35 months

Peru

#1 pending 16 months

Switzerland

#1 pending 16 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 34 months

#2 pending 20 months

#3 pending 17 months

#4 pending 16 months

Venezuela

#1 pending 52 months

Abduction Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authorities in 2022

Australia

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Bahamas

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Belize

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Brazil

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA
#2 Administrative Processing by FCA
#3 Mediation

Bulgaria

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Canada

#1 Pending information requests
#2 Pending information requests
#3 Pending information requests
#4 Pending information requests
#5 Pending information requests
#6 Pending information requests
#7 Pending information requests
#8 Pending information requests
#9 Pending information requests
#10 Pending information requests
#11 Pending information requests
#12 Pending information requests
#13 Pending information requests

El Salvador

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Germany

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Guatemala

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Hungary

#1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Israel

#1 Other

Jamaica

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA
#2 Other

Japan

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#2 Mediation
#3 Mediation
#4 Mediation
#5 Mediation
#6 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
#7 Other
#8 Other
#9 Other
#10 Other

Mexico

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA
#2 Administrative Processing by FCA
#3 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#4 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#5 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#6 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#7 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#8 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#9 L Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#10 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#11 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#12 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#13 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#14 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#15 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#16 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#17 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#18 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#19 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#20 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#21 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#22 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#23 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

#24 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent
#25 Pending information requests
#26 Pending information requests

Morocco

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA
#2 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Netherlands

#1 Mediation

Pakistan

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Panama

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Peru

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

South Africa

#1 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Spain

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA
#2 FCA Rejected Application
#3 Unable to locate child and/or taking parent

Ukraine

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA
#2 J/A Delays

United Kingdom

#1 LBP parent withdrew application
#2 Pending information requests

Zimbabwe

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Access Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authorities in 2022

Australia

#1 Mediation

Canada

#1 Pending information requests

France

#1 Pending information requests

Ireland

#1 Pending information requests

Israel

#1 Other

Italy

#1 Pending information requests

Japan

#1 Mediation

#2 Other

#3 Other

#4 Other

Norway

#1 Pending information requests

Pakistan

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or
taking parent

Spain

#1 FCA rejected application

Zimbabwe

#1 Mediation

Countries and Territories with Abduction Cases in 2022

Algeria	No Protocol	Korea, Republic of	Convention
Argentina	Convention	Kuwait	No Protocol
Armenia	No Protocol	Lebanon	No Protocol
Australia	Convention	Libya	No Protocol
Austria	Convention	Malaysia	No Protocol
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	Mexico	Convention
Bahamas	Convention	Montenegro	Convention
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Morocco	Convention
Belarus	No Protocol	Nepal	No Protocol
Belize	Convention	Netherlands	Convention
Bolivia	No Protocol	New Zealand	Convention
Brazil	Convention	Nicaragua	No Protocol
Bulgaria	Convention	Nigeria	No Protocol
Cambodia	No Protocol	Norway	Convention
Canada	Convention	Pakistan	Convention
Cayman Islands	Convention	Panama	Convention
China	No Protocol	Peru	Convention
Colombia	Convention	Philippines	No Protocol
Congo-Kinshasa	No Protocol	Poland	Convention
Costa Rica	Convention	Portugal	Convention
Côte d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Qatar	No Protocol
Croatia	Convention	Romania	Convention
Czech Republic	Convention	Russia	No Protocol
Dominican Republic	Convention	Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Ecuador	Convention	Senegal	No Protocol
Egypt	No Protocol	Serbia	Convention
El Salvador	Convention	Singapore	Convention
Ethiopia	No Protocol	Somalia	No Protocol
France	Convention	South Africa	Convention
Gambia, The	No Protocol	Spain	Convention
Gaza Strip	No Protocol	Sweden	Convention
Germany	Convention	Switzerland	Convention
Ghana	No Protocol	Syria	No Protocol
Greece	Convention	Taiwan	No Protocol
Guatemala	Convention	Tanzania	No Protocol
Honduras	Convention	Thailand	Convention
Hungary	Convention	Tonga	No Protocol
India	No Protocol	Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Indonesia	No Protocol	Tunisia	No Protocol
Iran	No Protocol	Türkiye	Convention
Iraq	No Protocol	Uganda	No Protocol
Ireland	Convention	Ukraine	Convention
Israel	Convention	United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
Italy	Convention	United Kingdom	Convention
Jamaica	Convention	Uzbekistan	No Protocol
Japan	Convention	Venezuela	Convention
Jordan	No Protocol	Vietnam	No Protocol
Kenya	No Protocol	West Bank	No Protocol
		Yemen	No Protocol
		Zambia	No Protocol
		Zimbabwe	Convention