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Rachel Briggs speaks at the Hostage US Annual Summit in Washington, D.C.
LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2016 marks the twentieth anniversary of my own family’s experience of hostage taking. We faced 7 months of fear, confusion and helplessness, never knowing whether my uncle was alive or dead. Thankfully, he did come home safely.

No family should go through this ordeal alone. No hostage should struggle with the physical and psychological effects of captivity without experienced and professional assistance to rebuild their lives.

You do not have to have personal experience of kidnapping to contribute to our mission. We can only do this important work because so many generous individuals and organizations pitch in.

You can donate – our generous donors are listed at the end of this annual report.

You can ask your corporation to donate – publicly or anonymously – or to match your personal donation.

Your corporation can sponsor our Annual Summit and our seminars around the country.

You can commission us to run training for your organization.

You can become a strategic partner and lend your expertise free of charge.

Together we can ensure that hostages and their families get the support they need.

Thank you for your help.

Rachel Briggs, OBE

No family should suffer alone in silence. No hostage should face rehabilitation without support.

Join with Hostage US to make sure hostages and their families get the support and care they need.
OUR MISSION

To ensure hostage families and returning hostages get the assistance they need through the direct provision of support and by helping them to access resources available from the government and other organizations.

To increase the capacity of employers to support hostage families and returning hostages through training and education.

To improve public recognition of the plight of hostage families and returning hostages.
OUR FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hostage US launched in April 2016. Within three months, we were supporting 16 families and hostages in need of our help and services. Each is allocated a member of our family support team who becomes their ‘go to’ person – they attend government meetings with them, help them to get organized, prepare for meetings and are on hand to discuss their questions and concerns.

In collaboration with our strategic partners we have provided a range of professional services: legal support to secure power of attorneys over their loved one’s assets and accounts, financial advisory services to help returned hostages fix their credit rating, mental health support for those coping with the aftermath and advice about health concerns for those returning from captivity.

We have also helped families and hostages cope with logistical and administrative challenges that become overwhelming at times of stress, trauma or grief: getting access to a hostage's bank account after their death, helping a returned hostage to deal with complex expense claims from their employer, assisting with government paperwork and helping them to deal with healthcare and insurance claims.

Our website serves as a resource center for hostages and their families with practical advice, guides on how to cope with the different stages of a kidnapping, and a library of films of those who have been impacted by kidnapping.
WHAT FAMILIES SAY ABOUT HOSTAGE US

Hostage US – and previously Hostage UK – helped during Luke’s kidnap, during the time around his death, and now almost two years later. As soon as we got in touch, they were so helpful – and continue to help us. They even procured a much-needed smartphone during the ordeal and were available around the clock. The fact that they came to us in Washington state meant so much to us – the personal contact is huge. They continue to help us – we know we can call on them for advice.

Paula Somers, mother of photojournalist Luke Somers, who was kidnapped and killed in Yemen

For former hostages, the hardest part of it all isn’t surviving the captivity – we’ve already done that. What needs to be understood is that sometimes, for those of us who have found our lives completely changed by a kidnapping, it’s not the trauma of the experience that is so hard for us to navigate, it’s figuring out how to ‘survive survival’ that is the tough part. Often times our careers have been destroyed, our lifestyles turned upside down – we have to start completely over from scratch, and we are often left with an overwhelming sense of ‘NOW WHAT?’ An organization like Hostage US gives someone like me a place to meet with others who have weathered that storm and figured out a way to make a new life, an even better life, out of something that felt impossible. With the help and connection that Hostage US has offered me, I am able to receive concrete tools on how to start rebuilding again.

Jessica Buchanan, held hostage in Somalia for 93 days, Hostage US volunteer

As a survivor of being taken hostage in Iraq and held for 311 days, I truly understand the importance of Hostage US. Hostages and their families have very limited resources to understand what they will be going through. Hostage US provides a supportive and experienced source of information that can be used to help during the actual hostage situation and the reintegration to normal life after return. My personal experience confirms that recovery after a hostage situation is a long and difficult process. Hostage US has the capability to provide the required support to make the recovery process as effective as possible.”

Roy Hallums, held hostage in Iraq for 311 days
OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

We launched our education program in June with an Annual Summit in Washington, D.C. We brought together over 100 participants who heard first-hand from returned hostages, employers who have been through a kidnapping and the US Government about duty of care and best practices in family support.

We run a regular series of seminars at locations across the US to help organizations understand the needs of families during a kidnapping and how best to support them through the event.

We also offer tailored training for organizations on best practices in family support and hostage reintegration. Many organizations have tried and tested policies and procedures to handle the operational response to a kidnapping but neglect the human dynamics. Experience shows that taking care of families and returning hostages has a positive impact – not just on those affected, but on your organization and its wider workforce. Hostage US training will help you to understand how to deliver on your duty of care obligations to your employees, sub-contractors and their dependents.
OUR TRAINING

Hostage US will work with your organization to design and deliver a custom training package tailored to your specific needs. We offer half-day, one-day and two-day packages on-site at your facility.

Choose from the topics below to customize your training program:

- The basics of family support: first contact with the family, handling ongoing communication, family liaison skills, dealing with family dynamics, supporting children, responding to critical moments i.e. proof of life, release of videos, threat to life, being sensitive to cultural, religious and gender dynamics

- Family liaison personnel: why are they needed, what is their role, personal and professional qualities, training needs and how to support them, managing ‘over-stretch’ in a long-term hostage case

- Media and social media: handling hostage and family social media accounts, advising children and young people on dealing with social media, answering family questions about the media, working with your corporate communications colleagues

- Supporting hostages and families post-release or following death: initial meeting, your role in the de-brief process, provision of professional support services to hostages, advice on viewing death images and videos, preparing for and working to obtain repatriation of remains, grief support in the workplace

- Reintegration to the workplace: support in resuming roles, part-time work, supporting managers and colleagues through reintegration, long-term human resource issues

Prices from:

- Half day - $4,000 (plus travel costs)
- One day - $6,000 (plus travel costs)
- Two days - $10,000 (plus travel costs)

Prices for multiple training packages are negotiable. Discounted rates for non-profits are available on request.

For more information, visit hostageus.org/organizations or contact us at info@hostageus.org.
**FINANCIALS**

**Functional expenses**
- $143,440 Family support program
- $30,005 General and administrative
- $51,753 Fundraising

$225,198 Total expenses

**Support and revenue**
- $407,250 Foundations
- $12,000 Corporations
- $31,754 Individuals
- $12,400 Education program
- $62 Interest income

$463,466 Total support and revenue

**Hostage US received pro bono support valued at $143,300 during 2015-2016. We would like to thank the following for their assistance to Hostage US and the families and hostages we support:**

- American Airlines, Inc.
- Annelise Moore
- Dentons
- DLA Piper
- Freid, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
- Marcelo Gomes
- Phillips & Company
- Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.
- White & Case LLP
“In a situation when there is so much misinformation, uncertainty and varying opinions, it is a relief to have an advocate that seeks to support the family first, in the most basic, essential and practical ways. Hostage US considers family first. There are no outside or competing agendas, interests. We respect and work to preserve the privacy and dignity of hostages and their families.”

Kristen Mulvihill

“I support Hostage US because it exists for an important and noble purpose: to support and advise families as they confront the painful and difficult challenges that arise when a family member is taken hostage. Having served as counsel for hostages and the wrongfully imprisoned and their families, I have come to appreciate that the legal aspects of these cases comprise only one or two dimensions in a much more complicated, multi-dimensional crisis. Thankfully, Hostage US was created to provide the knowledge and support that family members need to deal with the practical and emotional sides of these crises. I am proud to be a part of such a worthwhile organization.”

David Bowker
OUR CO-FOUNDING PARTNERS

We would like to thank our co-founding partners: Hostage UK and the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation. We are grateful for their support and collaboration.

“When I returned home after spending five years as a hostage in solitary confinement, I saw a great need for some form of organization to support families and friends of those who had been taken captive. I am really delighted that through the hard work of many American supporters, Hostage US is now in partnership with Hostage UK.”

Terry Waite CBE, Co-Founder and President Hostage UK
hostageuk.org

“We know firsthand that the families of American hostages need hope and support during the kidnapping of a loved one. With the help of the Ford Foundation, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation funded the start of this vital resource for American hostage families. Hostage US will support and empower these families, while the JWFLF will advocate for the return of all American hostages.”

Diane Foley, mother of journalist James Foley killed in Syria in 2014, Founder and President of The James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
jamesfoleyfoundation.com
OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Hostage US would like to thank our strategic partners for their continued efforts in providing support to families and returned hostages.

Phillips & Company  Dentons  White & Case LLP

OUR DONORS

Hostage US would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in supporting our continued efforts to help families and returned hostages.

$100 - $499
- Niharika Aram
- Varadaraj Elango
- Ross Frenett
- Jack Lichtenstein
- Gerfa Lunsman
- James and Mary Mulvihill
- Kristen Mulvihill
- Julia Radice
- Randal Rhoade
- Erik Rhode
- Subbadharmi Sundaram
- Two Lives: The Steven Sotloff Memorial Fund

$500 - $999
- Don Cipriani
- Henry Der
- Charles Eisen
- Eric and Diane Lebson
- Anne Manson
- Catherine Mathis

$1,000 - $4,999
- Anonymous
- Advanced C4 Solutions
- Dave Komendat
- David McCraw
- Peggy O’Neill
- Tiffany & Company

$5,000 - $9,999
- Gwendolyn van Paasschen
- The Public Relations Seminar
- Warren Young

$10,000+
- James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
- Amy Manson and family
**SUPPORT OUR MISSION**

Hostage US relies on the generosity and hard work of individuals, corporations and foundations. Here are some ways you can get involved – and help to further the mission of supporting hostages and their families.

**Organizations**

Make a corporate donation – publicly or anonymously

Commission training in family support and hostage reintegration for your organization

Become a strategic partner and lend your expertise free of charge

Sponsor our Annual Summit and seminars around the country

Take part in our corporate giving program:

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<th>Leadership Supporters - $50,000+</th>
<th>Gold Supporters - $10,000+</th>
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<td>Program naming opportunity</td>
<td>Recognition as a corporate supporter on banners/</td>
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<td>signage for Hostage US events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five (5) seats at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington, DC</td>
<td><strong>Silver Supporters - $5,000+</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diamond Supporters - $20,000+</strong></td>
<td>Recognition as a corporate supporter in printed materials/folders for Hostage US events</td>
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<td>Annual private briefing by Hostage US Executive Director for corporate leadership</td>
<td><strong>Bronze Supporters - $2,500+</strong></td>
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<td>Two (2) seats at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington, DC</td>
<td>Logo recognition for one (1) year on the Hostage US website</td>
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<td><strong>Platinum Supporters - $15,000+</strong></td>
<td>Listing in Hostage US Annual Report and Annual Donor Listing</td>
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<tr>
<td>One (1) seat at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington DC</td>
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<td>Verbal recognition of support at Hostage US events</td>
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**Individuals**

Donate to continue the mission of Hostage US

Volunteer your time and expertise if you are a professional, including physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, dentists, financial advisors and lawyers

Spread the word about Hostage US by talking to your network or hosting a fundraising event

Please follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to keep updated on our news and events

Facebook: facebook.com/hostageus
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/hostage-us
Twitter: @HostageUS