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Former hostage, Terry Anderson, speaks at the Hostage US Annual Summit in Washington, DC, June 2017, hosted by K&L Gates
Rachel Briggs speaks at the Hostage US seminar in New York, March 2017, hosted by Goldman Sachs
LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am incredibly proud to present the 2017 Hostage US annual report. This past year, we have received over 30 inquiries from families and hostages. From attending government meetings, to helping them make sense of what is happening and connecting them to our partners to deliver legal, financial advisory and other services at no cost, or helping them fix practical problems, we continue to make a difference.

Hostage US is family first and family last. We are at our best when we are helping those who feel helpless gain the confidence and knowledge to take control of their situation.

There is no better endorsement for our work than the following quote from a family member supported by Hostage US:

“Hostage US has helped me to find my own voice and confidence in being able to advocate more effectively and persuasively in seeking the safe return of my family being held hostage by terrorists.”

We can only do this important work because so many individuals and organizations give their support. These generous donors are listed at the end of this annual report. Nevertheless, we continue to seek ever higher levels of support and you can help:

Ask your corporation to donate or to match your personal donation.

Sponsor our successful education program of seminars and workshops.

Commission Hostage US to run training for your organization.

Become a strategic partner and lend your expertise free of charge.

Thank you for your help.

Rachel Briggs

No family should suffer in silence. No hostage should recover without support.

Join with Hostage US to ensure hostages and families get the support 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.

Hostage US has a range of practical guides for families, hostages and organizations.
OUR FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hostage US is here to provide support to families when a loved one is taken hostage abroad. We help families cope throughout the kidnapping and assist hostages to rebuild their lives once they return.

We began providing support in April 2016 and since then have received more than 30 inquiries from families and returned hostages asking for our support and services. Each family or hostage is allocated a member of our family support volunteer team who becomes their ‘go to’ person. Our expert staff help them to get organized, prepare for meetings, attend government meetings with them, discuss difficult questions or concerns and connect the family with our partners who provide pro bono professional services.

In collaboration with our partners, we provide a range of professional services to families and returned hostages, including: legal support to secure power of attorney over a loved one's assets and accounts, financial advisory services to help returned hostages fix their credit rating, mental health support to cope through the ordeal, advice about health concerns for those returning from captivity, and media assistance to raise public awareness about hostages and hostage families.

Our family support volunteers also assist families and hostages with logistical and practical challenges that become overwhelming at times of stress, trauma or grief. We provide a wide range of resources for our families through our website hostageus.org that 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 video library of those who have been impacted by kidnapping. We are here to help families and hostages solve the myriad of challenges they face both during and after a kidnapping.
WHAT FAMILIES SAY ABOUT HOSTAGE US

The words “thank you” do not even come close to describing how grateful our family is to have Hostage US be there for us during my father, Marcel Pika’s, incarceration in the Republic of the Congo. We have formed a special bond with our Hostage US contact that makes us feel like someone cares for our wellbeing. The bond we have formed is meaningful, caring and genuine. Hostage US has exceeded our expectations. At times, we picture Hostage US as the angel that God had sent down to earth to watch over us emotionally and mentally during this dark time. The work and dedication Hostage US brings to our father’s case is something my family and I will forever be grateful for and will never forget. I would recommend Hostage US in a heartbeat to any family going through a hostage situation of a loved one.

Audrey and Percy Pika, sons of Marcel Pika, illegally detained in the Republic of Congo

I’m grateful for the support I have received through Hostage US thus far, and relieved to know that they will be there in the future to continue to offer support as I may need it. Having someone to call to talk about how a meeting with government officials went, to ask for advice on how best to approach a politician, or just to share my confusion with, has been invaluable throughout this journey. Being able to speak with someone who had first-hand experience in having a family member kidnapped abroad felt less intimidating and much more reassuring than speaking with an assigned law enforcement officer. No one in my circle of family and friends had personal or professional connections to politicians, diplomats, or others who might be in a position to assist professionally. Having Hostage US available to try to help me forge those connections, or put me in contact with someone else who might have connections, was that critical networking and advocacy role that no one else was able to fill. Perhaps most importantly, Hostage US has helped me to find my own voice and confidence in being able to advocate more effectively and persuasively in seeking the safe return of my family being held hostage by terrorists abroad.

Sister of a hostage being held in the Middle East for a number of years
OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our education program includes seminars, training and workshops aimed at teaching best practices in family support and hostage reintegration to those who handle hostage situations within organizations.

Our March 2017 seminar hosted by Goldman Sachs in New York City featured former hostage and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, David Rohde, who was held for seven months in Afghanistan.

Our second Annual Summit in Washington, DC in June 2017 hosted by K&L Gates brought together more than 100 professionals who heard about the challenges of reintegration from former hostages Terry Anderson and Jessica Buchanan.

Nearly 100 percent of attendees rated our seminars as excellent or very good and 96 percent said it was extremely or very likely that they would recommend a Hostage US seminar to a friend or colleague.

If you are interested in hosting a seminar or sponsoring our education program, please get in touch.

We are also pleased to introduce workshops to our education program. Size-limited classes offer highly interactive training for mixed groups of professionals who want a deeper look into specific topics.

Hostage US tailored training arms organizations with the knowledge and expertise to deliver effective family support when an employee is kidnapped. Delivered to your team on-site and focused on your needs, we offer anything from half-day to two-day trainings, and are always happy to work with organizations to design something geared to your exact needs.

“While we have a fairly robust plan to handle a kidnapping, we realized we were not as focused and intentional in our approach to the family, especially during the incident. We had Rachel come down for a full day and train our security team. Rachel brings a unique perspective and a wealth of actual experience and learnings. We have since amended our kidnapping plans to include more focus on the family and extended our focus following the event. Rachel, Hostage US and Hostage UK are included as a resource in our plan and we certainly intend to use her organization if we experience another kidnapping.”

Vice President of Strategic Security at a multi-national organization

“American Airlines is proud of our ongoing partnership with Hostage US. As the world's largest airline flying to more than 50 countries daily, we must always prepare for challenges that may impact our people and operation. That is a responsibility we have to our team members and our customers. The training we continue to receive from Hostage US has been an important resource for our team, as we always prepare for various scenarios that may impact our global airline and the world of aviation.”

Jose Freig, Managing Director, Government Affairs and Corporate Security, American Airlines
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, tell us how long you would like the training to be and who will attend. We will design a package to meet your needs.

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

Organizational issues: information management and record keeping, communication with staff about the incident, supporting the crisis management team, dealing with third party contractors

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 and we offer a 10 percent discount for members of the International Security Management Association (ISMA).

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

Expenses
- $173,983 Family support program
- $69,581 General and administrative
- $48,738 Fundraising

$292,302 Total expenses

Support and revenue
- $45,780 Foundations
- $63,303 Corporations
- $68,969 Individuals
- $70,625 Education program
- $72 Interest income

$248,749 Total revenue*

*Unaudited report

Additionally, Hostage US received pro bono support valued at $227,988 during the 2016-2017 financial year. We would like to thank the following for donating their services to Hostage US and the families and hostages we support:

American Airlines, Inc.
Annelise Moore
Dentons LLP
Goldman Sachs
John Smith
K&L Gates LLP
Phillips & Co.
Sebastian Meyer
Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.
White & Case LLP
IN THE NEWS

Hostage US is grateful to journalists for helping shine a spotlight on hostage taking. So much of the pain and suffering caused by kidnapping is endured silently by families and returning hostages, and there is no central dataset to establish the scale of the problem.

To better understand the issue, in 2017 Hostage US and the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation helped support research on hostage policy by the New America Foundation.

Hostage US comments in the media to improve understanding about the plight of hostages and their families. We do not comment on individual cases and do not advocate on kidnapping policy, but we do share our experiences to bring public attention to the issue.

Hostage US has been featured in a number of media pieces over the past year, including The Washington Post and PBS Newshour, and Rachel Briggs was featured as the Saturday Profile in The New York Times.

“‘There’s greater coordination within the government and a greater willingness to share information,’ said Hostage US Executive Director, Rachel Briggs”


“The experience you have as a family member is you’re desperate to find out any information you possibly can about where, why, who, how,” said Hostage US Executive Director, Rachel Briggs.”

PBS News Hour, May 5, 2017

“Ms. Briggs has become an expert in counseling others attempting to cope with the crisis of a relative abducted overseas. She also is an expert on the motives of foreign hostage takers and an advocate of improved government liaison with the traumatized families of hostages, connections that for many years hardly existed.”

The New York Times, August 11, 2017
I support Hostage US because I have personally witnessed the haunting angst and fear that a hostage family experiences as they work through the challenges to bring their loved one(s) home safely. Hostage US brings a concentrated set of dedicated, professional resources together that are specially designed to assist and accommodate the unique needs of an impacted family. The positive impact that Hostage US brings to families in their most vulnerable period cannot be overstated and I'm humbled to be associated with the Hostage US team.

**Dave Komendat, The Boeing Company**

“When something as life altering as a kidnapping happens, it is not just happening for the one being held - it is as if the victim's entire family is being held hostage right along with them. I know from personal experience, that a good part of my angst during my 93 days of captivity was a result of worrying about my family and not knowing how they were managing, or if they were even coping. Hostage US holds families together during these most difficult times, taking care of even the smallest of details, so that families can concentrate on what it is they need to do, which is getting their loved one back. My involvement with Hostage US is so important to me because after my release, my family and I realized our work was not finished, even though I was free. We had no idea the work 'surviving survival' would take, and it's through those experiences that I hope we can help other families who have endured such hardship.”

**Jessica Buchanan, former hostage, author and speaker**
OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

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

“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, murdered in Syria in 2014
Founder and President, James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
jamesfoleyfoundation.com

“We at Hostage UK would like to send our warm congratulations to the supporters of Hostage US for having established the movement in North America. In meeting the needs of the families of captives and in supporting returning hostages, Hostage US is providing a unique service. We in the UK are proud to be partners with the US in this vital work.”

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

Hostage US would like to thank our strategic partners for their continued support:

American Airlines, Inc.  K&L Gates LLP
Dentons LLP  Phillips & Co.
James W. Foley Legacy Foundation  White & Case LLP

“I was inspired to get involved with Hostage US by learning about James Foley and his family’s story. The mission of Hostage US in supporting hostage families and returning hostages was compelling, especially when you consider the risks journalists, NGO workers and others take to represent the best of our values; how could we not get involved. One large gap in supporting families and returning hostages is in financial reintegration. A returning hostage, over a prolonged captivity, will usually be welcomed home with a financial picture in shambles. Our collaborative efforts are designed to eliminate the financial stresses of reintegration, organize a financial recovery plan and coach the family and returning hostage on regaining control of their financial lives. We hope others join us along with so many amazing volunteers to support the mission of Hostage US.”


“I became involved with Hostage US because I was searching for a charitable organization that had immediate impact and to which I could bring added value. The mission of this organization - which is to assist the families and loved ones of US citizens being held hostage around the globe - is unique. I and other attorneys from my law firm have offered legal services on a pro bono basis. We stand ready to support and assist with various issues, including financial matters, contracts, trusts and estates, tax, and innovative litigation techniques. I would encourage others to lend their support to Hostage US because its mission is critical to a very special group of people who are often forgotten and are living under intolerable circumstances.”

Charlie Eisen, K&L Gates LLP
Hostage US would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in supporting our continued efforts to help families and returned hostages. We would also like to thank our founding partners, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and Hostage UK for their continued support.

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ASIS International on behalf of Jack Lichtenstein
Rachel Briggs
DaVita Healthcare Partners Inc.
Henry Der
Federal Law Enforcement Foundation
James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
Jolie and John Frank
Jose and Arely Freig
Alfredo Frohlich
Anne Manson
David McCraw
Gregg Roark
Tiffany & Company
Tokio Marine HHC – Specialty Group
Trishon Inc.
John and Judy Varrone
Jane Woodman
Warren Young

$5,000 - $9,999
AON Risk Services Inc.
Scott Gilbert
Institute of International Education
James and Cathleen Stone

$10,000 - $19,999
Anonymous
Amy and James Keating
Tim and Kristen Phillips
S&P Global

$20,000+
The Boeing Company
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.

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

We would like to thank the team of 9 runners who ran in our first half marathon fundraiser on March 11, 2017 in the Rock n' Roll 5k and Half Marathon. Over the two-month campaign, the team raised over $15,000 through their personal networks of generous friends and family. This support drove our programs further by funding a training for family support volunteers, increasing the number of trained volunteers ready to support families. If you would like to join our half marathon fundraiser in the upcoming year or start a campaign of your own, please get in touch for details and ideas in your area.

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
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Sponsor our education program of seminars around the country:

**Education Program Sponsor – support the education program over a 12-month period – $10,000**
Logo recognition on seminar programs and banners and name recognition from the podium for at least three seminars over a 12-month period, two (2) complimentary seats at each seminar
Ability to place marketing materials on the registration desk for at least three seminars over a 12-month period
One (1) seat at private VIP donors' dinner in Washington, DC

**Seminar Sponsors – support the annual series of seminars – $7,000, $5,000 or $4,000**
Sponsor the annual series of seminars at a level of $7,000, $5,000 or $4,000 and receive logo or name recognition, discounts and other varying benefits at each level for all seminars throughout the year.

**Seminar Sponsors – support a single seminar – $2,500, $2,000 or $1,500**
Sponsor a single seminar at a level of $2,500, $2,000 or $1,500 and receive logo or name recognition, discounts and other varying benefits at each level.

Get in touch to learn more about the education program sponsorship opportunities info@hostageus.org

Take part in our corporate giving program:

**Leadership Supporters - $40,000+**
Program naming opportunity
Five (5) seats at private VIP donors' dinner in Washington, DC

**Diamond Supporters - $20,000+**
Annual private briefing by Hostage US Executive Director for corporate leadership
Two (2) seats at private VIP donors' dinner in Washington, DC
Verbal recognition of support at Hostage US seminars

**Gold Supporters - $10,000+**
Recognition as a corporate supporter on banners for Hostage US seminars
One (1) seat at Hostage US seminar
One (1) seat at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington, DC

**Silver Supporters - $5,000+**
Recognition as a corporate supporter in printed materials for Hostage US seminars

**Bronze Supporters - $2,500+**
Listing for one (1) year on the Hostage US website
Listing in Hostage US annual report and annual donor listing
(Donors at each level receive benefits of the previous levels)