

Annual Report on International Child Abduction

2024

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
APRIL 2024

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,

We know that international parental child abduction can significantly affect families, communities, and especially the children involved. Protecting these vulnerable children is one of the Department of State's highest priorities, and we take seriously our responsibilities to lead U.S. efforts to resolve and prevent cases of international parental child abduction. We also strive to fulfill 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.

When properly implemented, 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 performance uses the standards expressed in the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (the Act). Sixteen countries (two new, Montenegro and Poland)

demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2023. Fourteen countries cited last year were cited again 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 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 general options and provides resources to help them seek the return of, or access to, their children. In 2023, 136 cases were resolved with the return of 205 abducted children to the United States, and an additional 119 cases were resolved in other ways. During 2023, CI handled a total of 721 active abduction cases involving 982 children and 69 access cases involving 92 children. Of those 721 abduction cases, 316 were opened in 2023. In addition, CI responded to 227 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 place 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, 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 place 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 2023, the Office of Children's Issues fielded over 4,600 prevention-related inquiries, a slight decrease from 2022.

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) is one of the Department of State's most important tools for preventing IPCA. In 2023, we enrolled over 3,700 children into CPIAP, bringing the total number of children enrolled to more than 66,000. 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 2023, we helped enroll 341 children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) [Prevent Abduction Program](#), an increase of 11 percent from 2022. 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.

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 location 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.

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 2023, CI hosted and engaged with IVLP participants from The Bahamas, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Honduras, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, CI engaged with more than 20 countries in a multi-region program, "The U.S. Judicial System: Protecting Women and Children."

Throughout 2023, 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. These engagements included U.S. participation in the eighth meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* at the Hague Permanent Bureau in October 2023.

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 place 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 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 to 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 to 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 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 place 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.

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 location-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 affected 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.

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.

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 the place 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.

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 affect 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 2023, a team from CI provided in-person and virtual trainings for judge advocates and staff of legal assistance offices at four of the 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 2023, CI worked on nine abduction cases affecting military parents and families. Of these, four cases were resolved and the other five cases remained open at the end of the year. Two cases were unresolved for 12 months or longer.

Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2023, 205 abducted children returned to the United States.

The majority, 146 children, returned from Convention countries, while 59 children returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction, as defined in the Act.

Last year, the Department worked on 119 abduction cases, involving 147 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 119 cases noted above, 84 cases and 109 children involved Convention countries, and 35 cases and 38 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 effect 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 will find a data page for every location with one or more open abduction or access cases during 2023 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 2023 as defined by the Act. The details for each page, 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 details, regardless of whether or not the Convention has entered into force with 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 any Convention obligations. 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 information carefully. Countries that did not have an open abduction or access case in 2023 are not listed in this report.

Each data page includes a summary and a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children's Issues in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, readers will find status reports on the Department's relationship with the foreign central authority, requests for governments to locate children, information about foreign judicial authorities, actions taken to enforce judicial orders, and Department recommendations. For those countries or areas 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 during calendar year 2023. The volume of cases over this period may not be sufficient to indicate major trends in a particular country or area. 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 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 Data Pages

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 with the United States. For countries and areas not party to the Convention, if CI has established bilateral procedures with the country or area, that will also be indicated in the summary. This section will also state if a country or area is being cited for a “pattern of noncompliance” as defined in the Act. All commentary on this page refers to the country or area’s performance during calendar year 2023. 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 there was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

Table 1: Abduction Cases reported to the U.S. Central Authority	2022 Cases	2022 Children	2023 Cases	2023 Children
<p>Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year includes any abduction case reported to the U.S. Central Authority prior to January 1 and still pending (not 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.</p>				

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.				
Total abduction cases reflect the combined number of Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year and New Abduction Cases .				
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year reflects the number of reported abduction cases that were no longer pending on December 31 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 no longer pending on December 31 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 are abduction cases still pending (not resolved or closed) on December 31.				

Significant Developments: Changes to laws left or other events that may affect the handling of abduction matters are reported here.

Central Authority: Parties 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 these central authorities, where appropriate.

Table 2: Abduction cases conveyed by the U.S. Central Authority	2022 Cases	2022 Children	2023 Cases	2023 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 pending 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 pending 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 where the child is located.				
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year is the percent of the pending abduction cases transmitted to the relevant foreign government authority 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 cases, 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 case, 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 performance in locating children that were reported abducted to the country or area.

Judicial Authorities: This section describes the performance of the judicial or administrative body with adjudicative authority to hear and decide upon abduction or access cases.

Enforcement: This section describes the 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 during 2023. In an access case, a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children living 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 concerning international parental child abduction.

**COUNTRIES OR AREAS DEMONSTRATING A PATTERN OF
NONCOMPLIANCE**

Argentina

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2023, 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 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Argentina for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	1	1
Total abduction cases	2	2	2	2
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	2 (100%)	2

Significant Developments: No abduction cases resolved during the reporting year. A new case filed with the Argentine judiciary in 2023 remained pending a first-instance decision for more than four months. In 2023, Argentina hosted a nationwide seminar on international legal cooperation, which included the Hague Abduction Convention. However, there were delays within the Argentine judiciary in more than one case still unresolved in 2023, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance. One of the two abduction cases still open at the end of the year has been unresolved in the Argentine judiciary for 13 years and six months, the Department's longest unresolved Convention case in the world.

Additionally, Argentine officials again did not submit a revised national procedural bill—reportedly designed to address Argentina’s judicial delays in Convention cases—to the Argentine legislature. Argentine national elections at the end of the reporting period resulted in a change in administration. Consistent with the Department’s experience on this issue, the turnover in political leadership within key government ministries likely means the draft law will be further delayed as the new administration reviews the text in accordance with their policy priorities. The Department is 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 country’s judiciary.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Argentine Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship despite the challenges.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	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 10 days to locate this child.

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

Enforcement: A case remains unresolved for more than 13 years, and Argentine courts have suspended an order that said the child should return in 2017. 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases (involving three children) under the Convention in Argentina. Of these, one case (involving one child) was opened and filed with the Argentine Central Authority in 2023, while the other two had been filed in previous years (2018 and 2022, respectively). By December 31, 2023, one case (involving one child) had been resolved and two cases (involving two children) remained open. One of the remaining open access cases (involving one child) 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

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belize since 1989. In 2023, Belize continued to demonstrate 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, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Belize was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Belize for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	2	4
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	6	2	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	1 (50%)	3

Significant Developments: In 2023, The Special Advisor for Children’s Issues met with the Belizean Central Authority and Belize’s Hague Network Judge to improve training efforts and encourage Belize to increase resources for IPCA response.

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	4	2	4
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	2	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	3	1	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		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 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities 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, 2023, there were no cases where the Belizean authorities remained unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Belizean judicial authorities impacted a case during 2023. As a result of these delays, one case has been pending with the judiciary for four 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

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2023, 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, 43 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 four months. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	9	13	13	18
New abduction cases	6	8	8	10
Total abduction cases	15	21	21	28
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	4 (19%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	13	18	17 (81%)	23

Significant Developments: In 2023, two children returned to the United States from Brazil. Brazil's International Hague Network of Judges hosted a nationwide judicial training conference in Fortaleza, Brazil, to exchange best practices with partner countries, including the United States, to promote the effective implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention in Brazil.

However, again during this reporting period, the Brazilian Central Authority delayed processing some cases when it took an extended period of time to review whether it would accept them. Additionally, the Brazilian Central

Authority's case processing procedures lack clarity in some circumstances, which in turn resulted in delays.

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Brazilian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, some actions to resolve Convention cases, as noted above, are an area of concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	9	13	13	18
New cases filed with the FCA	6	8	8	10
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	15	21	21	28
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	5	5	9	13
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		43%	

Location: The average time to locate a child was 71 days. As of December 31, 2023, there were two cases in which the Brazilian authorities were unable to initially locate a child.

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

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Brazil were generally enforced in a timely manner during this reporting period.

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

Bulgaria

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Bulgaria since 2005. In 2023, 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, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. This case has been unresolved for three years. The Department previously cited Bulgaria in the 2023 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	4	4	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	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	1	1 (50%)	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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	4	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	4	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	25%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Bulgarian judiciary in 2023.

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 sole active case (accounting for 100 percent of unresolved cases) has been pending for three years.

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

Ecuador

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2023, 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. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ecuador for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	5	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	5	5	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	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	2 (100%)	2

Significant Developments: In the beginning of 2023, the Ecuadorian National Court of Justice included IPCA reforms to the Children’s Code and presented the reforms to the National Assembly for a vote. However, the legislature was dissolved, which prevented a vote on the Children’s Code reforms. As a result, Ecuador failed to implement Convention procedural reforms, and judicial delays contributed to Ecuador continuing to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance during the reporting period. We are concerned that unless Ecuador employs these procedural reforms, abduction cases could continue to be delayed in the judiciary. Separately, the Ecuadorian Central Authority worked with other stakeholders in the Ecuadorian government to create an internal procedure guide for Convention cases. This guide provides a framework for how to handle Convention cases in Ecuador.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities have a productive relationship despite the challenges.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	5	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	5	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	40%		50%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. As of December 31, 2023, there was one case in which the Ecuadorian authorities were unable to initially locate a child. The Department of State requested location assistance, but the Ecuadorian authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The Ecuadorian judicial authorities issued a decision in a case in which some of the reasoning was not consistent with the Convention, and there were serious delays in deciding Convention cases, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. As a result, cases may be pending with the judiciary for more than one year.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Ecuador. This case was opened in 2022. This case, involving one child, has been filed with the Ecuadorian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, that one case remained open. No access cases have been pending with the Ecuadorian judicial authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Egypt

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 2023, Egypt continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Egypt persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 62 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 three months. Egypt was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and the 2019-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Egypt. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	14	25	13	22
New abduction cases	4	7	3	4
Total abduction cases	18	32	16	26
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	8	6 (38%)	12
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	13	22	10 (63%)	14

Central Authority: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	13	23	13	22
New cases filed with the FCA	4	7	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	17	30	13	22
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	9	15	8	11
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	53%		62%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. In 2023, 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 2022-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Honduras for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	8	1	3
New abduction cases	2	2	1	2
Total abduction cases	6	10	2	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	5	7	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%)	5

Significant Developments: Systemic issues persisted in the Honduran Central Authority (HCA) in 2023, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance even while significant efforts were made to address concerns. The HCA took steps to improve administrative performance, including hosting judicial seminars, identifying objectives for improvement, and attending an IPCA-focused International Visitors Leadership Program. Key systemic issues include a reported requirement for the HCA to conduct home studies and psychological evaluations before submitting a case to the judiciary, which can cause significant delays, and limited staffing resources.

Central Authority: There have been delays in the processing of cases by the Honduran Central Authority, which contributed to a pattern of

noncompliance. In 50 percent of the cases pending in 2023, the Honduran Central Authority failed to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the institution of judicial proceedings in a timely manner, which resulted in delays.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	8	1	3
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	8	2	5
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	0	0	1	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		50%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 59 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Honduras routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Honduras judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted a case during 2023. One case has been filed with the appellate court for more than eight months with no hearing date scheduled, according to the HCA.

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 Honduran authorities.

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

India

Summary: India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2023, 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, 61 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for four years and one month. The Mediation Cell, established in 2018 by the Indian Government 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 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to India. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	87	103	85	101
New abduction cases	21	24	30	35
Total abduction cases	108	127	115	136
Abduction cases resolved during the year	19	22	17 (15%)	22
Abduction cases closed during the year	4	4	3 (3%)	7
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	85	101	95 (82%)	107

Significant Developments: The Government of India did not participate in regular discussions concerning reported IPCA cases outside of the annual U.S.-India Consular Dialogue in 2023. Additionally, the Ministry of Women and Child Development's public-facing website and application for the Mediation Cell became unavailable, which affected left-behind parents'

access to its mediation services.

Central Authority: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	87	103	85	101
New cases filed with the FCA	18	20	30	35
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	105	123	115	136
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	68	82	70	79
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	65%		61%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, 11 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 2023, 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.

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

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 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 to date. The competent authorities in Jordan persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 27 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 eleven months. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jordan. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases 2022	Children 2022	Cases 2023	Children 2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	6	7	7	15
New abduction cases	3	9	5	5
Total abduction cases	9	16	12	20
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	1 (8%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	2 (17%)	4
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	7	14	9 (75%)	15

Central Authority: In 2023, the competent authorities in Jordan 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	6	7	5	7
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	6	11
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	7	11	18
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	4	5	3	4
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	67%		27%	

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

Judicial Authorities: While there are legal procedures in place, they have so far been unable to resolve 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

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea since 2013. In 2023, the Republic of Korea continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, law enforcement regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. As a result of these enforcement failures, 29 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 three years and 10 months. The Republic of Korea was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	2	3
New abduction cases	1	1	7	10
Total abduction cases	4	6	9	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	1 (11%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	8 (89%)	12

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	5	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	5	7

Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	7	10
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	3	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		29%	

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

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

Enforcement: Judicial decisions in Convention cases in the Republic of Korea were not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. 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 return orders.

Department Recommendations: The Republic of Korea's efforts to reform its enforcement procedures were encouraging; however, it remains to be seen if this change will secure prompt returns. The Department will continue intense engagement with Republic of Korea authorities to address these concerns.

Montenegro

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Montenegro since 2006. In 2023, Montenegro demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in a single case, which has been unresolved for over two years. In this case, the judicial authorities failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure to reach a final decision in this case, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 29 months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 U.S. and the Montenegrin Central Authorities have a productive relationship despite the challenges.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Montenegrin authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Montenegrin judicial authorities in deciding a Convention case. As a result of these delays, one case has been pending with the judiciary for more than two and a half years.

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 will continue intense engagement with the Montenegrin authorities to address issues of concern.

Peru

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2023, Peru continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention, judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention, and law enforcement regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Peru for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	9	11	5	5
New abduction cases	3	3	2	4
Total abduction cases	12	14	7	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	7	9	5 (71%)	7
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (14%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	5	1 (14%)	1

Significant Developments: In 2023, the Peruvian Central Authority did not complete a review of its own procedures to become compliant with the Convention, as previously committed, in part because of frequent turnover in leadership. Peru has taken a positive step to limit judicial delays by approving a judicial resolution designating one judge in each judicial district to hear all IPCA cases. While it is too early to evaluate the resolution's impact, the Department remains committed to supporting mechanisms Peru believes will result in prompter decisions under the Convention.

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. 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 and frequently failed to respond substantively to inquiries from the U.S. Central Authority. The Peruvian Central Authority also refused to accept a return case in a manner inconsistent with the Convention. Finally, Peruvian Central Authority officials have stated that they perceive conflicting mandates between the mission of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and the Convention that may prevent them from fulfilling some of the requirements of the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	9	11	5	5
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	11	13	7	8
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	3	3	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	27%		14%	

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 2023, 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 two weeks to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the 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. To illustrate, one case pending in the Peruvian

judiciary for six years was closed in 2023 when the child aged out of the Convention without a final judicial decision.

Enforcement: Judicial decisions in Convention cases in Peru were generally not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. For example, one left behind parent withdrew a case, which was pending with the judiciary for six years, after Peru did not enforce its own court's orders for return. In another case still open after four years, two return orders have not been enforced, due to an apparent lack of coordination between the judiciary and law enforcement.

Access: In 2023, 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, 2023, 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.

Poland

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Poland since 1992. In 2023, Poland demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Polish law enforcement during this reporting period regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 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 three years. Poland was previously cited for demonstrating patterns of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Poland for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	2	2
New abduction cases	2	3	1	2
Total abduction cases	3	4	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	1 (33%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	2 (67%)	3

Significant Developments: The Polish government passed legislation in June 2022 which allows for multiple lengthy appeals of civil judgments under Polish law. A new Polish government was seated in 2023.

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		67%	

Location: The competent authorities of Poland failed to take appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. The Department of State requested location assistance, but the Polish authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Poland routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Polish judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2023.

Enforcement: Unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a return order under the Convention, judicial decisions in Convention cases in Poland were generally not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. There was one case accounting for 33 percent of the unresolved cases that has been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement has failed to enforce a return order.

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

Romania

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. In 2023, Romania continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Romania failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 100 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 3 years and 4 months. Romania was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017, and 2020-2023 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	3	2	4
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	4	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	2	4	2 (100%)	3

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Romanian 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3	2	4
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	4	2	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	3	2	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Romanian judicial authorities impacted cases during 2023.

Enforcement: Judicial decisions in Convention cases in Romania were generally not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. 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 return orders.

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

Russia

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 currently available for resolving cases. In 2023, Russia continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Russia persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Russia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2023 Annual Report.

The ability of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to provide consular services to U.S. citizens throughout Russia 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 Russia.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Russia. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	13	14	13	16
New abduction cases	4	6	0	0
Total abduction cases	17	20	13	16
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	4	1 (8%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (8%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	13	16	11 (85%)	14

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 2023, the United States did not inform the Russian government of reported abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	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	50%		100%	

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

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure 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.

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

Summary: The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2023, 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, 44 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and eight months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018-2023 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Arab Emirates. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	6	6	10
New abduction cases	2	6	3	5
Total abduction cases	7	12	9	15
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	3 (33%)	5
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	6	10	6 (67%)	10

Central Authority: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	6	10
New cases filed with the FCA	4	9	3	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	12	9	15
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	2	4	7
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	29%		44%	

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 to the Convention.

**COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH ONE OR MORE
ABDUCTION OR ACCESS CASES**

Algeria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Algeria have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Algerian law and the Algerian government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Algerian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Algerian courts, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing

international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Algerian law makes it difficult for Algeria to resolve these cases.

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

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

Australia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Australia, for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	1	1
New abduction cases	3	3	7	8
Total abduction cases	5	7	8	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	6	5 (63%)	6
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	2 (25%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (13%)	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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	4	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	6	7
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	7	7	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 2023, 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: 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving three children under the Convention in Australia. This case was opened in 2020. By December 31, 2023, this case involving three children had been resolved.

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

Austria

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	0	0
New abduction cases	2	3	1	1
Total abduction cases	4	5	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	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 Austrian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	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%	

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 2023, 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 United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Austrian judiciary in 2023.

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 Austrian authorities.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Austria. This case was opened in 2023. This case has been filed with the Austrian Central Authority. This case was filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case (100 percent) had been resolved.

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

The Bahamas

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and The Bahamas since 1994. While the Department did not cite The Bahamas for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2023, the Department is concerned about delays in the administrative process and the lack of a timely response from The Bahamas Central Authority. The Bahamas was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2011 – 2018 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	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

Significant Developments: In November 2022, the Department submitted an application to the Bahamian Central Authority (BCA) requesting a return to the United States. This abduction case remains with the BCA, and they have not reported any steps taken to facilitate the institution of judicial proceedings. Representatives from the Department traveled to The Bahamas in November 2023 for meetings with members of the Bahamian Central Authority and the Office of the Attorney General, however the case remained stalled.

The Department is concerned that unless The Bahamas employs additional measures, such as a standardized timeline for the process of handling IPCA cases, from reception to resolution, abduction cases could continue to be delayed at the administrative level.

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Bahamian Central Authorities

have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases, and the apparent lack of a standard procedure for processing cases in a timely manner, are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 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 47 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bahamian judiciary in 2023.

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 will continue intense engagement with the Bahamian authorities to address issues of concern.

Bangladesh

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 2023.

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.

Belgium

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Belgium for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Belgian Central Authorities have a strong and 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 2023.

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 2023, 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 2023. This case was filed with the Belgian Central Authority. By December 31, 2023, this case had been resolved.

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

Bolivia

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.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Bolivia. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	4	3	3
New abduction cases	0	0	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	4	3	3
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	3	3	3 (100%)	3

Central Authority: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	0	0
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 Bolivian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bolivian judiciary in 2023.

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 continue to engage with Bolivian government officials regarding potential partnership.

Canada

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 2023, the Department received seven initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Canada for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	8	10	14	17
New abduction cases	19	23	27	43
Total abduction cases	27	33	41	60
Abduction cases resolved during the year	13	16	28 (68%)	41
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	3 (7%)	4
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	14	17	10 (24%)	15

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	8	10	14	17
New cases filed with the FCA	18	22	25	40
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	26	32	39	57
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 2023, 12 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 22 days to 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases involving four children under the Convention in Canada. Of these, one case involving one child was opened in 2023. Three of these cases involving three children have been filed with the Canadian Central Authority. One case involving one child was filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, one case involving one child (25 percent) was resolved, two cases involving two children (50 percent) were closed for other reasons, and one case involving one child (25 percent) remained open.

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

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 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the PRC. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	11	13	12	15
New abduction cases	1	2	6	7
Total abduction cases	12	15	18	22
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	5 (28%)	7
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (6%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	12	15	12 (67%)	14

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	8	10	10	12
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	3	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	10	12	13	16
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	8	10	6	8
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	80%		46%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the PRC judiciary in 2023.

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

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Colombia since 1996. While the Department did not cite Colombia for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2023, the Department is concerned about the lack of timely responses from the Colombian Central Authority.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	6	8
Total abduction cases	1	1	7	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	4 (57%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (14%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	2 (29%)	2

Significant Developments: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority met with Colombia’s Hague Network Judge, other family court judges, public defenders and the Colombian Central Authority, to discuss the implementation of the Convention in Colombia.

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Colombian 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	6	8
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	7	9
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 2023, 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 Colombia 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 Colombian authorities.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases involving six children under the Convention in Colombia. Two cases (involving three children) were opened in 2021, one case (involving one child) was opened in 2022, and two cases (involving two children) were opened in 2023. By December 31, 2023, four cases (involving four children) remained open. Two cases have been pending with the Colombian 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 Colombian Central Authority.

Costa Rica

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 2023, the Department is concerned about prior delays in the judicial process. The first successful judicially ordered return under the Convention occurred in early 2022. Costa Rica was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2011-2016 and 2020-2022 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Costa Rica where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	4	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (100%)	0

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	0	0
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%	
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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 2023, 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 month to locate a child. As of December 31, 2023, 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: 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 Costa Rican authorities.

Access: In 2023 the U.S. central authority had two access cases open involving two children under the Convention in Costa Rica. Two cases were resolved during the year.

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

Cote d'Ivoire

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Cote d'Ivoire. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	3	4
Total abduction cases	2	4	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	4	2 (67%)	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 (33%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	4	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	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 2023, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

from the Ivoirian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Ivoirian judiciary in 2023.

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 Ivoirian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Cote d'Ivoire to accede to the Convention.

Croatia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Croatia for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	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	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	2	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	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 Croatian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Croatia 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 Croatian authorities.

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	2	3
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	2	3	3	5
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	3	2 (67%)	3

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 2023.

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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New abduction cases	2	3	3	3
Total abduction cases	3	4	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	2 (50%)	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 (50%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	4	4	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.

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 Republic Central Authority will continue the effective processing of cases under the Convention.

El Salvador

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New abduction cases	2	4	4	5
Total abduction cases	4	6	6	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	4	5 (83%)	6
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	1 (17%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	3	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 2023, 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. As of December

31, 2023, there were no cases 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

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	1	4	1	2
Total abduction cases	1	4	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

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 2023.

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.

Finland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Total abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
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%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 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 Finland routinely reached timely decisions.

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

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Finland. This case was opened in 2023. This case has been filed with the Finnish Central Authority. This case was filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case remained open.

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

France

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	6	1	1
New abduction cases	3	3	7	10
Total abduction cases	7	9	8	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	6	8	3 (37.5%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	5 (62.5%)	7

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	6	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	7	10
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	8	8	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%	

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 31 days.

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

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

Access: In 2023, 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 2023. Both cases have been filed with the French Central Authority. By December 31, 2023, one case involving one child (33.33 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2023, one case 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.

The Gambia

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to The Gambia. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	1	3
Total abduction cases	2	2	1	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	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%)	2

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.

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 2023.

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.

Georgia

Summary: While Georgia became a party to the Convention in 1997, the Convention is not in force between Georgia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Department of State and the competent authorities in Georgia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Georgian law and the Georgian government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Georgian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Georgian judiciary in 2023.

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 Georgian authorities.

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

Germany

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Germany for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	4	5
New abduction cases	7	11	3	3
Total abduction cases	10	15	7	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	5	9	4 (57%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	1 (14%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	5	2 (29%)	2

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	5	7	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	10	6	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%	

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 2023, 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving four children under the Convention in Germany. Of these cases, two were opened in 2023. A total of three cases involving four children have been filed with the German Central Authority. All three cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, all of these cases have been resolved.

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

Ghana

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ghana. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	6	2	2
New abduction cases	1	1	3	4
Total abduction cases	5	7	5	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	1 (20%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	4 (80%)	4

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	4	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	4	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	33%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ghanaian judiciary in 2023.

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

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 2023, the Department remains concerned about delays in the judicial process.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	2	3
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	6	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	1 (50%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	5	2	3
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	6	2	3
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	2	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		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 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Greek judicial authorities impacted cases during 2023.

Enforcement: While a court in Greece ordered a return under the Convention in December 2023, the taking parent did not voluntarily comply with the order issued. The case was awaiting enforcement by law enforcement as of December 31, 2023. The United States is not aware of any other 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 will continue intense engagement with the Greek authorities to address issues of concern.

Guatemala

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 2023, 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.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Guatemala for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	3	4
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	4	5	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	2 (67%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (33%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	4	0 (0%)	0

Significant Developments: Guatemalan national elections in August 2023 resulted in a change in administration. While vacancies arose in key positions in the Guatemalan Central Authority, our improved communication assisted with the safe return to the United States of three children in two cases

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	3	4
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	4	5	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		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 10 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Guatemalan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2023.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Guatemala were 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.

Guinea

Summary: While Guinea became a party to the Convention in 2012, the Convention is not in force between Guinea and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Total abduction cases	0	0	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	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Guinea have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Guinean law and the Guinean government took steps to resolve such cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means. Embassy consular staff in Guinea coordinated closely with Guinean authorities and the Department to facilitate mediation and secure the voluntary return of the children.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Guinean judiciary in 2023.

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 Guinean authorities.

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

Hungary

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 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 17 days.

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

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Hungary were 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 Hungarian Central Authority.

Iceland

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 decided by the Icelandic judiciary in 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Iceland. This case was opened in 2021 and was filed with the Icelandic Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case had been resolved.

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

Indonesia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	5	5
New abduction cases	3	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	6	6	5	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	2 (40%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	5	5	3 (60%)	3

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	5	5
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	6	5	5
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	3	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	33%		60%	

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 2023.

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 Indonesian authorities.

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

Iran

Summary: Iran does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The United States does not have diplomatic or consular 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	6	2	3
New abduction cases	1	2	1	1
Total abduction cases	5	8	3	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	2 (67%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	1 (33%)	2

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

Iraq

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.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	2	4
New abduction cases	0	0	3	5
Total abduction cases	3	5	5	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	2 (40%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	3 (60%)	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 2023, 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: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Iraqi judiciary in 2023.

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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Ireland for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	2	4
Total abduction cases	1	1	2	4
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	0	0	1 (50%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	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. It took 30 days to locate the children.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Irish judiciary in 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases involving three children under the Convention in Ireland. Both cases have been filed with the Irish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, one case involving one child (50 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2023, one case involving two children remained open. One case involving two children had 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

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 Inquiry: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Israel for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	3	1	1
New abduction cases	2	3	2	2
Total abduction cases	3	6	4	4
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	5	2 (50%)	23
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	2 (50%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	3	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	4	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 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 2023, 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, 2023, this case involving three children remained open. This case involving three children has been pending with the Israeli authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Israel 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of seven open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, two were initially opened with the U.S. Central Authority in 2023. As of December 31, 2023, two cases were resolved. By December 31, 2023, five 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open abduction case in Gaza. As of December 31, 2023, one case remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Italy

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Italy for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	2	2
New abduction cases	2	2	5	6
Total abduction cases	2	2	7	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	3 (43%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	4 (57%)	5

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	4	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	6	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 took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 13 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Italy 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 Italian authorities.

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

Jamaica

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Jamaica since 2019. While the Department did not cite Jamaica for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2023, the Department is concerned about the Jamaican Central Authority's case acceptance procedures.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received 11 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jamaica for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	1	2
New abduction cases	8	11	10	11
Total abduction cases	11	14	11	13
Abduction cases resolved during the year	8	10	10 (91%)	12
Abduction cases closed during the year	2	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	2	1 (9%)	1

Significant Developments: In 2023 the Jamaican Central Authority did not accept two cases. Their lack of acceptance of these two cases was inconsistent with the Convention.. In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority met with Jamaica's Hague Network Judge and the Jamaican Central Authority to discuss Convention best practices. Additionally, Jamaica participated in a 10-day Caribbean-focused International Visitor Leadership program in the United States centered around Convention implementation.

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Jamaican 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	3	4	3	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	7	4	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: In 2023, nine 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving five children under the Convention in Jamaica. All cases were opened in 2023. Two cases were filed with the Jamaican Central Authority. The third case involving three children was not sent to the Jamaican Central Authority and was closed for other reasons.

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

Japan

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 2023, the Department received 10 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Japan for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	11	15	11	17
New abduction cases	8	13	3	5
Total abduction cases	19	28	14	22
Abduction cases resolved during the year	8	11	5 (36%)	9
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	11	17	9 (64%)	13

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	11	15	11	17
New cases filed with the FCA	8	13	5	7
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	19	28	16	24
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 2023, 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 21 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of five open access cases involving seven children under the Convention in Japan. Of these, zero cases involving zero children were opened in 2023. All of these cases have been filed with the Japanese Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2023. While no cases have been resolved by December 31, 2023, three cases involving four children were closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2023, two cases involving three children remained open. No cases have been pending with the Japanese authorities for more than 12 months.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2023, four pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Japan. In 2023, one pre-Convention case was resolved. In 2023, one pre-Convention 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 Japanese Central Authority.

Kenya

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Kenya. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	6	8	9
New abduction cases	5	5	6	10
Total abduction cases	10	11	14	19
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	4 (29%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	8	9	10 (71%)	15

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	6	4	5
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	8	12
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	12	17
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	4	5	4	5
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	80%		33%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, three abduction cases were 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 Government of Kenya has indicated their intention to accede to the Convention. The Department will encourage accession to the Convention.

Kuwait

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Kuwait have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Kuwaiti law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Kuwaiti authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kuwaiti judiciary in 2023.

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 the Convention.

Kyrgyz Republic

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Department of State and the competent authorities in the Kyrgyz Republic have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Kyrgyz law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Kyrgyz authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kyrgyz judiciary in 2023.

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 Kyrgyz authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage the Kyrgyz Republic to accede to the Convention.

Latvia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Latvian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Latvia 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 Latvian authorities.

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

Lebanon

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.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Lebanon. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	7	8	7	10
New abduction cases	1	3	1	1
Total abduction cases	8	11	8	11
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (13%)	3
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	1 (13%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	7	10	6 (75%)	7

Significant Developments: In June 2023, Lebanon engaged with Department principals on IPCA for the first time since signing the MOU in 2004. These meetings have led to establishing multilateral training on preventing and resolving international parental child abduction and discussions involving representatives of the Lebanese Government, Lebanese civil society, and the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	7	8	6	7
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	7	8	7	10
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	6	7	5	6
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	86%		71%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 the Lebanese judiciary in 2023.

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 continue to encourage Lebanon to accede the Convention.

Liberia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Total abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	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 Department of State and the competent authorities in Liberia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Liberian law.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Liberian judiciary in 2023.

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 Liberian authorities.

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

Libya

Summary: Libya does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. Embassy in Tripoli suspended its operations in July 2014. The U.S. government therefore is unable to provide routine or emergency consular assistance 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	1 (50%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	3	1 (100%)	1

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 2023, 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 2023.

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.

Lithuania

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Lithuanian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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. It took 18 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Lithuania 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 Lithuanian authorities.

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

Malaysia

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 remain limited under Malaysian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 2023.

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.

Mali

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Mali. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Total abduction cases	0	0	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
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%)	2

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

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Malian judiciary in 2023.

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 Malian authorities.

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

Mexico

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received 49 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Mexico where no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	70	94	53	71
New abduction cases	30	44	48	70
Total abduction cases	100	138	101	141
Abduction cases resolved during the year	44	62	44 (44%)	66
Abduction cases closed during the year	3	3	3 (3%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	53	71	53 (53%)	70

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	70	94	53	71
New cases filed with the FCA	19	26	40	60
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	89	120	93	131
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	22	28	14	16
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	25%		15%	

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 2023, 18 abduction

cases involving 26 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 9 months. As of December 31, 2023, there were 21 cases where the Mexican authorities remain unable to initially locate a child. Of those 21 cases, six cases were filed prior to 2020.

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 2023. 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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 15 open access cases involving 21 children under the Convention in Mexico. Of these, 11 cases involving 16 children were opened in 2023. A total of seven cases involving ten children have been filed with the Mexican Central Authority. Six of these cases involving nine children were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, two cases involving three children (13 percent) have been resolved and five cases involving five children have been closed for other reasons. Of those resolved, one case involving one child was resolved by a Hague access order. By December 31, 2023, eight cases involving 13 children remained open. One of these cases involving one child has 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.

Morocco

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Morocco since 2012. Morocco was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Morocco for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	4	4
New abduction cases	5	5	3	4
Total abduction cases	8	8	7	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	4	4 (57%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (14%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	2 (29%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	3	3
New cases filed with the FCA	2	2	3	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	5	6	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%		17%	

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 2023, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In one case, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The Department of State requested location assistance, but the Moroccan authorities have not yet identified a location.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Moroccan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access cases 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 2023. By December 31, 2023, 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

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	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 2023, the competent authorities in Nepal 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 Nepalese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 more than 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 Nepalese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nepalese judiciary in 2023.

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 Nepalese authorities.

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

Netherlands

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Netherlands for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	2	3	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	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	1	1	0 (0%)	0

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	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 2023, one abduction

case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Dutch judiciary in 2023.

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.

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

New Zealand

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	3	3
Total abduction cases	1	1	4	4
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	1	1	2 (50%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	3	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	4	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. 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

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. Nicaragua was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 2023, the competent authorities in Nicaragua occasionally declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve a pending abduction case. Moreover, the options for resolving IPCA cases under Nicaraguan law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases from the United States under Nicaraguan law makes it difficult to resolve such cases.

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

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

Nigeria

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Nigeria. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	4	8
New abduction cases	6	10	7	10
Total abduction cases	6	10	11	18
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	4 (36%)	6
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (9%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	8	6 (55%)	11

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	5	8
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	2	6	10
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: In 2023, three 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 2023.

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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Norway for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	1 (100%)	2
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 Norwegian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	1	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 Norwegian authorities.

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.

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

Pakistan

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Pakistan since 2020.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Pakistan for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	4	4
New abduction cases	5	6	6	6
Total abduction cases	6	7	10	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	4 (40%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	4	6 (60%)	6

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	4	4
New cases filed with the FCA	5	6	5	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	7	9	9
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	0	0	3	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		33%	

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 2023, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Pakistan judiciary in 2023.

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 Pakistan authorities.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Pakistan. This case was opened and filed with the Pakistan Central Authority in 2022. No new cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case had been resolved.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2023, four pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Pakistan. In 2023, four pre-Convention cases were resolved, and one pre-Convention 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 Pakistan Central Authority.

Panama

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Panama for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 U.S. and Panama have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	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 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Panamanian judiciary in 2023.

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 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

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 2023.

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 2023, 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 2023. By December 31, 2023, 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

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 2023, the Department received 19 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Philippines. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	10	13	9	10
New abduction cases	1	1	9	12
Total abduction cases	11	14	18	22
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	6 (33%)	7
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	9	10	12 (67%)	15

Central Authority: In 2023, 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 Philippine law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	3	4
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	2	1	1

FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		33%	
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Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, 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. The average time to locate a child was six months.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Philippine judiciary in 2023.

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.

Portugal

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Portugal for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New abduction cases	1	1	3	7
Total abduction cases	1	1	4	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	3 (66%)	7
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	(0%)	
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (33%)	1

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	2	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	3	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 2023, two abduction

cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 25 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Portugal 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 Portuguese authorities.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Portugal. This case was opened in 2023. This case has been filed with the Portuguese Central Authority. By December 31, 2023, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Portuguese 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 Portuguese Central Authority.

Qatar

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	1 (100%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: In 2023, the Department of State and the competent authorities in Qatar had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Qatari law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 more than 12 months	0	0	0	0
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. It took 21 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before or decided by the Qatari judiciary in 2023.

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

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 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Saudi Arabia. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	4	5	6
New abduction cases	2	2	0	0
Total abduction cases	5	6	5	6
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	5	6	5 (100%)	6

Significant Developments: In 2023, the Department learned that new laws enacted in Saudi Arabia in 2022 allow mothers to petition the court for permission to travel outside of the country with their children on trips of less than 90 days in duration when the father refuses consent.

Central Authority: In 2023, the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia 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 Saudi law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	5	6
New cases filed with the FCA	3	3	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	6	5	6
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	2	3	5	6
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	40%		100%	

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

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 to resolve these cases.

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

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

Senegal

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Senegal. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	2	3	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	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%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	0	0
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	0%	0

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 2023.

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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	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 Serbian Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	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 Serbian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Serbian judiciary in 2023.

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.

Sierra Leone

Summary: Sierra Leone does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Sierra Leonean judiciary in 2023.

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 Sierra Leonean authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Sierra Leone to accede to the Convention.

Singapore

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	2	2	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	1 (100%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	0	0	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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	1	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 2023.

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

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	1	1	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 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 2023, the United States did not inform the Somali government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 2023.

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

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	5	8	1	1
New abduction cases	0	0	2	4
Total abduction cases	5	8	3	5
Abduction cases resolved during the year	4	7	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%)	3

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	8	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	8	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: In 2023, 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 United States is not aware of any abduction cases

brought before the South African judiciary in 2023.

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

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in South Africa. This case was opened in 2020. By December 31, 2023, this case involving one child had been resolved.

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

Spain

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 2023, the Department is concerned about the lack of a timely response from the Spanish Central Authority to the requests of the U.S. Central Authority.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Spain for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	4	5	2	2
New abduction cases	5	6	5	8
Total abduction cases	9	11	7	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	7	9	4 (57%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	3 (43%)	5

Central Authority: While the U.S. and the Spanish 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	6	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	4	5	5	8
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	9	11	7	10
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. In one case that was resolved in 2023, the Spanish authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child but were unable to locate the child for over three years. In another case that was resolved in 2023, it took the Spanish authorities 39 days to locate the child. As of December 31, 2023, there were two other cases in which the Spanish authorities were unable to initially locate the children.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Spanish judiciary in 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Spain. This case has been filed with the Spanish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case had been resolved.

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

Sweden

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	0	0
New abduction cases	1	1	1	2
Total abduction cases	2	2	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	1 (100%)	2
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 Swedish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	1	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 2023, 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 brought before the Swedish judiciary in 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving four children under the Convention in Sweden. This case was opened in 2023. This case has been filed with the Swedish Central Authority. By December 31, 2023, this case remained open.

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

Switzerland

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	1	2
Total abduction cases	2	2	1	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	2	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%)	2

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	1	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. 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 Swiss judiciary in 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases involving four children under the Convention in Switzerland. Of these, two cases involving three children were opened in 2023. A total of three cases involving four children have been filed with the Swiss Central Authority. Two cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, two cases involving two children (67 percent) have 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 Swiss Central Authority.

Syria

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 Syria. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Syria.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	5	3	6
New abduction cases	1	2	1	1
Total abduction cases	4	7	4	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	1 (25%)	2
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	6	3 (75%)	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.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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: In 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 brought before the Syrian judiciary in 2023.

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

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.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	6	9	6	8
New abduction cases	3	4	1	1
Total abduction cases	9	13	7	9
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	2	1 (14%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	6	8	6 (86%)	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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	4	5	5	7
New cases filed with the FCA	2	3	2	2
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	6	8	7	9
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	3	4	4	6
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	50%		57%	

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases that have reached a final decision by the Taiwan judiciary in 2023.

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 Taiwan authorities.

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

Tanzania

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	2	1	2
New abduction cases	0	0	1	1
Total abduction cases	1	2	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	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	2	1 (50%)	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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	1	2	0	0
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	2	1	2
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	0	0	1	2
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2023, one case was resolved through voluntary means.

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 2023.

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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Thailand for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	1	2
New abduction cases	3	6	1	1
Total abduction cases	4	7	2	3
Abduction cases resolved during the year	3	5	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: 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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	1	1	1	2
New cases filed with the FCA	2	4	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	3	5	2	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 2023, 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 aware of one abduction case that was filed directly to the Thai judicial authorities by the left behind parent.

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.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Thailand. This case was opened and filed with the Thai Central Authority in 2022. By December 31, 2023, this case had been resolved.

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

Togo

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Department of State and the competent authorities in Togo have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Togolese law.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Togolese judiciary in 2023.

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 Togolese authorities.

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

Trinidad and Tobago

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.

Significant Developments: Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority and judiciary officials visited the Department in May 2023 to participate in a Caribbean-region focused informational exchange program, which included discussions regarding central authority and judiciary procedures and responsibilities for resolving abduction cases.

Central Authority: The U.S. and the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authorities have a strong and 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 Trinidad and Tobago authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Trinidad and Tobago judiciary in 2023.

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 Trinidad and Tobago authorities.

Pre-Convention Cases: In 2023, one pre-Convention 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 Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority.

Türkiye

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 2023, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process and concurrent custody cases.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Türkiye for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	4	6
New abduction cases	2	4	3	4
Total abduction cases	5	7	7	10
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	1	4 (57%)	5
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	4	6	3 (43%)	5

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	4	6
New cases filed with the FCA	2	4	3	4
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	7	7	10
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	2	4
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	20%		29%	

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 73 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Turkish judicial authorities at both the first instance and appellate levels impacted cases during 2023.

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.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving three children under the Convention in Türkiye. This case was opened in 2023. This case has been filed with the Turkish Central Authority in October 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Turkish authorities for more than 12 months.

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

Uganda

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Uganda. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	3	3
New abduction cases	0	0	2	5
Total abduction cases	3	3	5	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	3	3 (60%)	6

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	2	2	2
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	2	5
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	2	4	7
Cases that have been unresolved for over 12 months	2	2	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	100%		25%	

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 2023.

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 join the Convention.

Ukraine

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	3	3	3	5
New abduction cases	2	5	2	3
Total abduction cases	5	8	5	8
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	3 (60%)	4
Abduction cases closed during the year	2	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	3	5	2 (40%)	4

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	3	3	3	5
New cases filed with the FCA	2	5	2	3
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	5	8	5	8
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 competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time

to locate a child was three months.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Ukraine 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 Ukraine 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

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

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received 13 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Kingdom, and one regarding a possible abduction to the British overseas territory of the Cayman Islands, for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	7	8	11	17
New abduction cases	10	17	12	22
Total abduction cases	17	25	23	39
Abduction cases resolved during the year	5	6	13 (57%)	19
Abduction cases closed during the year	1	1	2 (9%)	3
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	11	17	8 (35%)	17

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	5	5	8	13
New cases filed with the FCA	10	17	14	24
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	15	22	22	37
Cases that have been unresolved for more than 12 months	1	1	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	7%		5%	

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 2023, one abduction case to the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda 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 20 days.

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

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

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 11 open access cases involving 16 children under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Of these, one case involving one child was opened in 2023.

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

Uruguay

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Uruguay since 2004.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding a possible abduction to Uruguay for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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 Uruguayan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

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 2023, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

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

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uruguayan judiciary in 2023.

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 Uruguayan authorities.

Access: In 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving one child under the Convention in Uruguay. This case was opened in 2023. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2023, 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 Uruguayan Central Authority.

Venezuela

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Venezuela since 1997. In March 2019, the U.S. Department of State withdrew all diplomatic personnel from the U.S. Embassy Caracas. All consular services, routine and emergency, remain suspended until further notice. Parents should consider the Department’s Travel Advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Venezuela.

Initial Inquiries: In 2023, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Venezuela for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	3	0	0
New abduction cases	0	0	5	7
Total abduction cases	2	3	5	7
Abduction cases resolved during the year	2	3	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	5 (100%)	7

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	2	3	0	0
New cases filed with the FCA	0	0	5	7
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	2	3	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.

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

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

Access: In 2023, 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, 2023, 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

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

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	1	1	2	2
New abduction cases	1	1	0	0
Total abduction cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction cases resolved during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	2	1 (50%)	1

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
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	1	1
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	0%		50%	

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 2023.

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

Summary: Yemen does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a suspended its operations in February 2015, and the U.S. government is unable to provide routine or emergency 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 2023, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Yemen. There was no additional assistance requested or necessary documentation submitted as of December 31, 2023.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	4	2	4
New abduction cases	1	2	2	2
Total abduction cases	3	6	4	6
Abduction cases resolved during the year	1	2	1 (25%)	1
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	0 (0%)	2
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	2	4	3 (75%)	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 2023, 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 2023.

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

Summary: While Zambia became 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. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Zambian government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases open at the start of the year	2	2	3	3
New abduction cases	1	1	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 Zambia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Zambian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	3	3
FCA caseload unresolved at the end of the year	67%		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 2023.

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 Zambian authorities.

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

Zimbabwe

Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Zimbabwe since 1995. While the Department did not cite Zimbabwe for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2023, the Department is concerned about the lack of a timely response from Zimbabwe Central Authority to the requests of the U.S. Central Authority.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
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	0 (0%)	0
Abduction cases closed during the year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction cases still open at the end of the year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: Delays in communication between the U.S. and the Zimbabwean Central Authorities about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern. The relationship between the U.S. Embassy and the Zimbabwean Central Authority (ZCA) is not adversarial, but in 2023 the ZCA did not acknowledge receipt of applications, respond to requests for updates on applications, and did not take certain actions necessary to resolve cases, such as locating the children.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2022	2022	2023	2023
Abduction cases filed with the FCA at the start of the year	0	0	1	1
New cases filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total cases on file with the FCA during the year	1	1	2	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 Zimbabwean authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Zimbabwean judiciary in 2023.

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 2023, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case involving two children under the Convention in Zimbabwe. This case was opened in 2021. This case involving two children has been filed with the Zimbabwean authorities. No new cases were filed in 2023. By December 31, 2023, this case involving two children remained open and has been pending with the Zimbabwean authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Zimbabwean government officials regarding communication concerns with the Central Authority.

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 & 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

2023 IPCA Cases by U.S. State

Alabama

Guatemala	1
Qatar	1

Alaska

Canada	1
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Arizona

Canada	2
India	5
Indonesia	1
Japan	2
Kuwait	1
Mexico	4
Vietnam	1

Arkansas

Mexico	1
Montenegro	1

California

Australia	3
Austria	1
Brazil	3
Canada	6
China	3
Colombia	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
Egypt	2
Ethiopia	1
France	1
India	27
Indonesia	3
Iran	1
Ireland	1
Israel	1
Italy	3
Jamaica	1
Japan	5
Jordan	3
Korea, Republic of	3
Kyrgyz Republic	1
Lebanon	1
Mexico	34
Netherlands	1
New Zealand	1
Nicaragua	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Peru	1
Philippines	6
Russia	6
Sweden	1
Taiwan	3
Tanzania	2

Thailand	1
Türkiye	1
Ukraine	2
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom	3
Yemen	1

Colorado

Australia	1
Canada	1
Colombia	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
India	4
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Japan	1
Mexico	6
United Kingdom	1

Connecticut

Brazil	1
Canada	1
China	1
India	2
Jamaica	1
Morocco	1
Pakistan	1
West Bank	1

Delaware

Egypt	1
Nigeria	1

District of Columbia

Philippines	2
Russia	1

Florida

Argentina	1
Bangladesh	1
Belize	1
Brazil	6
Bulgaria	1
Canada	2
Colombia	1
Dominican Republic	2
Egypt	1
El Salvador	2
Finland	2
Gaza	1
Ghana	1
Greece	1
Guatemala	1
Hungary	1
India	3
Italy	2
Mexico	2
Morocco	1

Nepal	1
Panama	1
Peru	2
Philippines	1
Russia	2
Singapore	1
Spain	4
Türkiye	4
United Kingdom	3
Venezuela	3
West Bank	2

Georgia

Belize	1
China	1
Egypt	1
Ghana	1
Guatemala	1
India	3
Jamaica	1
Kenya	1
Morocco	1
Spain	1
Taiwan	1
Zimbabwe	1

Hawaii

Japan	1
Mexico	2

Idaho

United Arab Emirates	1
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Illinois

Australia	1
Brazil	1
Bulgaria	1
China	4
Colombia	1
India	8
Jamaica	1
Kenya	1
Mexico	6
Serbia	1
Uganda	1
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom	1
West Bank	1
Zambia	2

Indiana

Canada	1
India	1
Italy	1
Kenya	1
Mexico	1
Philippines	1

Russia	1			New Zealand	1
Iowa		Michigan		New Jersey	
Japan	1	Argentina	1	China	1
Lebanon	1	Canada	1	Egypt	1
Kansas		Georgia	1	France	1
Canada	1	India	2	India	8
Pakistan	1	Iraq	2	Jamaica	1
Philippines	1	Italy	1	Japan	2
United Arab Emirates	2	Jordan	1	Jordan	1
United Kingdom	2	Kenya	1	Kenya	1
West Bank	1	Lebanon	2	Mexico	1
Kentucky		Mexico	1	Pakistan	2
Philippines	1	Pakistan	1	Panama	1
Spain	1	Saudi Arabia	2	Poland	1
Taiwan	1	South Africa	1	Poland	1
		Türkiye	1	Syria	1
		United Kingdom	2	Togo	1
		Yemen	1	United Arab Emirates	1
				United Kingdom	3
Louisiana		Minnesota		Uruguay	1
Jordan	1	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1		
Mexico	2	France	1	New Mexico	
Nigeria	1	India	1	Mexico	1
Pakistan	1	Iraq	1	Taiwan	1
Taiwan	1	Kenya	1		
Maine		Liberia	1	New York	
Germany	1	Mexico	1	Australia	1
		Pakistan	1	Bermuda	1
		Thailand	1	Canada	1
Maryland		Türkiye	1	Croatia	1
Canada	3	United Kingdom	1	Ecuador	1
China	1			El Salvador	1
El Salvador	3	Missouri		France	2
India	2	Canada	1	Germany	1
Iran	1	Honduras	1	Greece	1
Jamaica	1	India	1	Guinea	1
Japan	1	Jamaica	1	India	4
Jordan	1	Jordan	1	Iran	1
Libya	1	Vietnam	1	Israel	1
Nigeria	1			Jamaica	1
Pakistan	2	Nebraska		Japan	2
Peru	1	India	1	Jordan	1
Philippines	1	Mexico	1	Kenya	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1			Korea, Republic of	1
		Nevada		Latvia	1
Massachusetts		Canada	3	Malaysia	1
Algeria	1	France	1	Mali	1
Brazil	2	Germany	1	Mexico	2
Canada	2	Japan	2	New Zealand	1
Ghana	1	Korea, Republic of	1	Nigeria	2
India	2	Mexico	2	Pakistan	2
Korea, Republic of	1	Philippines	1	Peru	1
Pakistan	1			Poland	1
Sierra Leone	1	New Hampshire		Romania	1
Uganda	1	Honduras	1	Russia	1
Ukraine	1	India	1	South Africa	1
United Kingdom	1	Mexico	1	Syria	1

Ukraine	1	Portugal	1	Utah	
United Arab Emirates	2	Romania	1	Brazil	1
United Kingdom	1	Saudi Arabia	1	Canada	1
Yemen	1	Spain	1	China	1
		Uganda	1	India	1
North Carolina		United Arab Emirates	1	Korea, Republic of	1
China	2	United Kingdom	1	Mexico	2
Egypt	1			Venezuela	1
India	5	Puerto Rico			
Jamaica	1	China	1	Vermont	
Japan	1			Dominican Republic	1
Kenya	1	Rhode Island			
Lithuania	1	Dominican Republic	1	Virginia	
Mexico	1	Egypt	1	Bolivia	1
Pakistan	1			Canada	3
Switzerland	1	South Carolina		China	1
		Ecuador	1	Colombia	1
North Dakota		India	1	Egypt	1
India	1	Jordan	2	France	2
Ukraine	1	West Bank	1	India	6
		Zambia	1	Jordan	1
Ohio				Kenya	1
Canada	1	Tennessee		Libya	1
India	2	Egypt	2	Mexico	2
Israel	1	India	1	Morocco	1
Mali	1	Portugal	1	New Zealand	1
Pakistan	1	Somalia	1	Pakistan	1
Senegal	1			Philippines	1
		Texas		United Kingdom	1
Oklahoma		Australia	1	Yemen	1
Australia	1	Bahamas, The	1		
Canada	2	Bolivia	2	Washington	
Kenya	1	Brazil	6	Egypt	1
Lebanon	1	Canada	4	Gambia, The	1
Pakistan	1	China	2	India	7
Saudi Arabia	1	Colombia	1	Cote d'Ivoire	1
		Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	Japan	1
Oregon		Germany	3	Korea, Republic of	1
Canada	1	Ghana	1	Pakistan	1
Germany	1	India	14	Peru	1
Guinea	1	Cote d'Ivoire	1	Philippines	2
Ireland	1	Kenya	3	Poland	1
Morocco	2	Korea, Republic of	1	Saudi Arabia	1
United Kingdom	1	Lebanon	2	Uganda	2
		Mexico	27	United Kingdom	1
Pennsylvania		Morocco	1		
Brazil	1	Nigeria	5	West Virginia	
Canada	2	Pakistan	1	Philippines	1
Colombia	1	Peru	1		
Egypt	4	Portugal	2	Wisconsin	
Ghana	1	Russia	2	Canada	1
Hungary	1	South Africa	1	Indonesia	1
India	2	Syria	2	Japan	1
Iraq	2	United Kingdom	1	Kenya	1
Israel	1	Venezuela	1	Nigeria	1
Jamaica	2	West Bank	1		
Lebanon	1	Zimbabwe	1	Wyoming	
Liberia	1			Mexico	1

Unresolved Abduction Cases

Argentina

#1 pending 176 months

Bangladesh

#1 pending 45 months

Belize

#1 pending 51 months

Brazil

#1 pending 122 months

#2 pending 64 months

#3 pending 47 months

#4 pending 27 months

#5 pending 25 months

#6 pending 24 months

#7 pending 21 months

#8 pending 21 months

#9 pending 17 months

Bulgaria

#1 pending 40 months

China

#1 pending 96 months

#2 pending 57 months

#3 pending 36 months

#4 pending 36 months

#5 pending 36 months

#6 pending 23 months

Democratic Republic of the Congo

#1 pending 31 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 43 months

Egypt

#1 pending 116 months

#2 pending 47 months

#3 pending 36 months

#4 pending 36 months

#5 pending 24 months

#6 pending 24 months

#7 pending 13 months

#8 pending 13 months

Ghana

#1 pending 58 months

Greece

#1 pending 27 months

Honduras

#1 pending 26 months

India

X

#1 pending 96 months

#2 pending 96 months

#3 pending 96 months

#4 pending 96 months

#5 pending 96 months

#6 pending 96 months

#7 pending 96 months

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#13 pending 91 months

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#15 pending 84 months

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#22 pending 48 months

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#24 pending 48 months

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#57 pending 18 months

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#59 pending 18 months

#60 pending 16 months

#61 pending 16 months

#62 pending 16 months

#63 pending 16 months

#64 pending 12 months

#65 pending 12 months

#66 pending 12 months

#67 pending 12 months

#68 pending 12 months

#69 pending 12 months

Indonesia

#1 pending 14 months

#2 pending 14 months

#3 pending 14 months

Japan

#1 pending 138 months

#2 pending 122 months

#3 pending 114 months

#4 pending 114 months

Jordan

#1 pending 49 months

#2 pending 49 months

#3 pending 41 months

Kenya

#1 pending 38 months

#2 pending 38 months

#3 pending 33 months

#4 pending 29 months

Korea, Republic of

#1 pending 53 months

#2 pending 37 months

Kuwait

#1 pending 37 months

Lebanon

#1 pending 84 months

#2 pending 84 months

#3 pending 55 months

#4 pending 55 months

#5 pending 36 months

Malaysia

#1 pending 96 months

Mexico

#1 pending 121 months

#2 pending 98 months

#3 pending 98 months

#4 pending 56 months

#5 pending 53 months

#6 pending 41 months

#7 pending 31 months

#8 pending 31 months

#9 pending 31 months

#10 pending 26 months

#11 pending 19 months

#12 pending 18 months

Montenegro

#1 pending 29 months

Morocco

#1 pending 51 months

Nepal

#1 pending 15 months

Pakistan

#1 pending 91 months

#2 pending 78 months

#3 pending 62 months

#4 pending 22 months

#5 pending 20 months

#6 pending 19 months

Peru

#1 pending 15 months

Philippines

#1 pending 83 months

Poland

#1 pending 36 months

#2 pending 22 months

Romania

#1 pending 62 months

#2 pending 16 months

Russia

#1 pending 96 months

Saudi Arabia

#1 pending 69 months

#2 pending 47 months

#3 pending 20 months

#4 pending 20 months

#5 pending 12 months

Taiwan

#1 pending 96 months

#2 pending 37 months

#3 pending 25 months

#4 pending 12 months

#5 pending 12 months

Tanzania

#1 pending 20 months

Türkiye

#1 pending 20 months

#2 pending 15 months

Uganda

#1 pending 63 months

Ukraine

#1 pending 25 months

United Arab Emirates

#1 pending 82 months

#2 pending 15 months

#3 pending 15 months

#4 pending 15 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 27 months

Vietnam

#1 pending 15 months

Zambia

#1 pending 46 months

#2 pending 46 months

#3 pending 12 months

Unresolved Access Cases

Argentina

#1 pending 63 months

Colombia

#1 pending 32 months

#1 pending 25 months

#1 pending 16 months

Ireland

#1 pending 16 months

Mexico

#1 pending 57 months

Morocco

#1 pending 47 months

Paraguay

#1 pending 37 months

Peru

#1 pending 28 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 28 months

#1 pending 20 months

#1 pending 18months

Venezuela

#1 pending 64 months

Abduction Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authorities in 2023

Bahamas

#1 APFCA ,LI (Administrative Processing by
FCA, Location Issues)

Brazil

#1 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

#2 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

#3 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

Canada

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#2 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#3 RA(FCA Rejected Application)

#4 LI(Location Issues)

#5 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#6 LBPWA(LBP Withdrew Application)

#7 LI(Location Issues)

#8 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

#9 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

#10 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

Colombia

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

Dominican Republic

#1 LI(Location Issues)

France

#1 OTR(Other)

Honduras

#1 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

Israel

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

Jamaica

#1 RA(FCA Rejected Application)

Japan

#1 RA(FCA Rejected Application)

#2 RA(FCA Rejected Application)

#3 MED(Mediation)

#4 OTR(Other)

#5 LI(Location Issues)

#6 MED(Mediation)

#7 ESC(Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case)

#8 OTR(Other)

Mexico

#1 LI(Location Issues)

#2 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#3 LI(Location Issues)

#4 LI(Location Issues)

#5 LI(Location Issues)

#6 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#7 LI(Location Issues)

#8 LI(Location Issues)

#9 LI(Location Issues)

#10 LI(Location Issues)

#11 APFCA,LI(Administrative Processing
by FCA, Location Issues)

#12 LI(Location Issues)

#13 LI(Location Issues)

#14 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#15 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#16 LI(Location Issues)

#17 LBPWA(LBP Withdrew Application)

#18 LI(Location Issues)

#19 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

#20 LI(Location Issues)

#21 LI(Location Issues)

#22 I(Location Issues)

#23 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#24 LI(Location Issues)

#25 LI(Location Issues)

#26 LI(Location Issues)

#27 LI(Location Issues)

Morocco

#1 LI(Location Issues)

South Africa

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#2 MED(Mediation)

Spain

#1 RA,ESC(FCA Rejected Application, Non-
FCA Entity Submitting Case)

#2 ESC(Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case)

Thailand

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

Türkiye

#1 JAD(J/A Delays)

Zimbabwe

#1 OTR(Other)

Access Cases Not Sent to Judicial Authorities in 2023

Canada

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

Colombia

#1 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

Finland

#1 MED(Mediation)

France

#1 LI,OTR(Location Issues, Other)

Japan

#1 OTR(Other)

#2 OTR(Other)

West Bank

#1 OTR(Other)

Mexico

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#2 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

#3 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

#4 APFCA,PIR(Administrative Processing
by FCA, Pending Information
Requests)

#5 APFCA(Administrative Processing by
FCA)

Norway

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

Sweden

#1 PIR(Pending Information Requests)

Thailand

#1 MED(Mediation)

United Kingdom

#1 MED(Mediation)

Zimbabwe

#1 OTR(Other)

Countries and Areas with Abduction or Access Cases in 2023

Algeria	No Protocol	Latvia	Convention
Argentina	Convention	Lebanon	No Protocol
Australia	Convention	Liberia	No Protocol
Austria	Convention	Libya	No Protocol
Bahamas, The	Convention	Lithuania	Convention
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Malaysia	No Protocol
Belgium	Convention	Mali	No Protocol
Belize	Convention	Mexico	Convention
Bermuda	Convention	Montenegro	Convention
Bolivia	No Protocol	Morocco	Convention
Brazil	Convention	Nepal	No Protocol
Bulgaria	Convention	Netherlands	Convention
Canada	Convention	New Zealand	Convention
China	No Protocol	Nicaragua	No Protocol
Colombia	Convention	Nigeria	No Protocol
Costa Rica	Convention	Norway	Convention
Côte d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Pakistan	Convention
Croatia	Convention	Panama	Convention
Democratic Republic of the Congo	No Protocol	Paraguay	Convention
Dominican Republic	Convention	Peru	Convention
Ecuador	Convention	Philippines	No Protocol
Egypt	No Protocol	Poland	Convention
El Salvador	Convention	Portugal	Convention
Ethiopia	No Protocol	Qatar	No Protocol
Finland	Convention	Romania	Convention
France	Convention	Russia	No Protocol
Gambia, The	No Protocol	Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Gaza	No Protocol	Senegal	No Protocol
Georgia	No Protocol	Serbia	Convention
Germany	Convention	Sierra Leone	No Protocol
Ghana	No Protocol	Singapore	Convention
Greece	Convention	Somalia	No Protocol
Guatemala	Convention	South Africa	Convention
Guinea	No Protocol	Spain	Convention
Honduras	Convention	Sweden	Convention
Hungary	Convention	Switzerland	Convention
Iceland	Convention	Syria	No Protocol
India	No Protocol	Taiwan	No Protocol
Indonesia	No Protocol	Tanzania	No Protocol
Iran	No Protocol	Thailand	Convention
Iraq	No Protocol	Togo	No Protocol
Ireland	Convention	Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Israel	Convention	Türkiye	Convention
Italy	Convention	Uganda	No Protocol
Jamaica	Convention	Ukraine	Convention
Japan	Convention	United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
Jordan	No Protocol	United Kingdom	Convention
Kenya	No Protocol	Uruguay	Convention
Korea, Republic of	Convention	Venezuela	Convention
Kuwait	No Protocol	Vietnam	No Protocol
Kyrgyz Republic	No Protocol	West Bank	No Protocol
		Yemen	No Protocol
		Zambia	No Protocol
		Zimbabwe	Convention