

State Department launches "K Risk Indicator" for kidnapping, terrorism

In the spring of 2019, the U.S. Department of State introduced a new feature on its Travel Advisory page: a "K" indicator to communicate the risk of kidnapping and hostage taking by criminal and terrorist actors around the world.

The Department of State issues Travel Advisories on its website for every country in the world. These Advisories offer general advice based on established risk indicators such as crime, terrorism, civil unrest, natural disasters, health, and other potential risks. The Travel Advisories for 35 countries have been updated to include a "K" indicator to communicate the risk of kidnapping and/or hostage taking.

The current list of Travel Advisories may be found on the State Department's website, <https://travel.state.gov>. When it was introduced in April of 2019, the countries with K indicators included: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine (in Russian-controlled eastern Ukraine), Venezuela, and Yemen.