

Western hostages held in Syria

Kidnapping westerners for ransom has become big business for the Islamic State group (IS) and Nusra Front, with some \$35-45 million – an average of \$2.5 million* per hostage – paid over the past year

Feb 2014: Russian engineer **Sergei Gorbunov** executed by IS

Mar: Spanish journalists **Marc Marginedas, Javier Espinosa** and **Ricardo Garcia Vilanova** freed

Apr 18: French journalists **Didier François, Nicolas Hénin, Edouard Elias** and **Pierre Torres** freed – allegedly for \$18m ransom

May 15: Médecins Sans Frontières confirms that five of its staff members have been freed

May 26: Italian aid worker **Federico Motka** freed for alleged \$4 million ransom

Jun 19: Danish freelance photographer **Daniel Rye Ottosen** and German national **Toni Neukirch** freed

Aug 24: U.S. freelance journalist **Peter Theo Curtis** freed after intervention by Qatar government

2 Sep 2: U.S. journalist **Steven J. Sotloff** beheaded by IS

Sep 7: Italian reporter **Domenico Quirico** and Belgian **Pierre Piccinin de Prata** freed

3 Sep 13: British aid worker **David Haines** beheaded

Sep 20: 46 Turkish consulate hostages freed

4 Oct 3: British aid worker **Alan Henning** beheaded

5 Nov 16: U.S. aid worker **Peter Kassig** beheaded

1 Aug 19: U.S. journalist **James Foley** beheaded by IS after U.S. declines to pay \$132 million ransom

*figure cited by UK and circulated to UN Security Council in Jan 2014

†New York Times data

France \$58.1m

Qatar and Oman \$20.4m

Switzerland \$12.4m

Spain \$11.0m

Austria \$3.2m

Ransom money paid to Al Qaeda and affiliates: \$126.5m† (2008-2013)

Other \$21.4m