

Where countries stand on making ransom payments



UNITED STATES

Government refuses to pay ransoms to free hostages, but says it will arrange talks with hostage-takers and will no longer prosecute citizens involved in private ransom deals



UNITED KINGDOM

Does not pay ransoms or negotiate with terrorists. However, UK firms and individuals do make payments to captors. Government will not help set up deals, but does not prosecute people for making these transactions



ISRAEL

Has often struck deals to secure release of its citizens. In 2011, it freed over 1,000 prisoners in exchange for Israeli soldier

Gilad Shalit (left) – held captive by militants for over five years



CANADA

No ransom payments, prisoner swaps, negotiation with hostage-takers

or immunity from prosecution

Family members paid \$450,000 to free British yachting couple **Rachel and Paul Chandler (left)** in 2010



CONTINENTAL EUROPE

France, Germany, Italy and Spain have directly paid ransoms to hostage-takers, sparking criticism that they are funding terrorism. Al Qaeda is estimated to have earned at least \$125 million from kidnappings since 2008

French President **François Hollande** (centre) with **Didier François, Edouard Elias, Nicolas Hénin** and **Pierre Torres** – four journalists freed in Syria in 2014 for reported \$18m

