



We have all seen the international headlines about humanitarian aid workers, school children, and business executives being kidnapped for ransom. There are also many lower profile cases, all of which help generate funds for terrorist organisations.

Kidnap for ransom is a nexus crime, providing huge profits for terrorist and other violent extremist organisations as well as organised crime groups. Kidnapping and maritime kidnapping has been identified by several Member States, as one of the top organised crime threats in their national security strategies.

In recent years, Member States representatives and counter-terrorism officials have expressed concerns over the limited capacities of several countries, especially fragile and conflict-affected States, to enable their respective criminal justice, law enforcement institutions and security services to effectively prevent, manage and investigate kidnap cases using the latest proven methods, technologies and techniques. This is further complicated by differing cultural and professional practices when the victims may be nationals of one country, the kidnapping occurred in a second country, and the kidnappers are from a third one. This makes clear the need to have common, standardized guidance and professional training curriculum and the guidance and training they need to conduct all aspects of investigations related to kidnap cases is crucial to the effective response of the criminal justice system against kidnap threats and terrorism in general.

It should go without saying that developing counter-terrorism and law enforcement officials' capacity to investigate kidnap cases, to make well-formulated decisions and gather evidence in support of ethical and professional investigative activity is essential for counter-terrorism efforts.

And as the nature and severity of crime changes, so must the skills of those that have to

