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INTERNATIONAL SOS

Philippines: Metro Manila: Abduction of Chinese national underscores persistent kidnap risks


OVERVIEW

 **Level:**


Notice

 **Location:**

Metro Manila - Philippines

 **Category:**

Kidnap

 **Active:**

23 Jan 2021 - 16 Feb 2021

Last Updated: 23 Jan 2021 15:45 (GMT)

The table below shows the number of impacted and potentially impacted individuals and assets at the date/time the alert was issued. The counts include individuals within the impact radius of the alert and may not reflect the total number of people in each area listed.

Please log into [Tracker](#) for the latest information or [click here](#) for an up-to-date list of affected individuals and assets in the impacted area.

EXPOSURE IN IMPACTED AREA ONLY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
Manila	3	3	2	5
TOTAL	3	3	2	5

EXPOSURE BY COUNTRY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
Philippines (Medium Risk)	3	3	2	6

Four men abducted a Chinese national in front of the [UP Town Center mall](#) in Quezon city (Metro Manila) at approximately 22.30 (local time) on 21 January. The victim was rescued and the four kidnappers were killed during a rescue operation by the security forces on the following day. Investigations are ongoing and the motive behind the abduction remains unclear. The incident underscores the persistent threat of kidnapping in Metro Manila, particularly for Chinese nationals and members of the Filipino-Chinese communities, who are often targeted due to their perceived wealth.

MORE DETAIL

While the motive for the recent incident remains unclear, those with business or personal disputes are typically more vulnerable to these incidents, as indiscriminate kidnappings remain rare in Metro Manila. Most kidnapping incidents in the Philippines involve locals. Nonetheless, Chinese nationals in Metro Manila, particularly those associated with the gaming industry, are often the target of these criminal groups. According to the Philippine National Police Anti-Kidnapping Group (PNP-AKG), many of the kidnappers and victims in incidents recorded in 2020 were Chinese nationals.

On 9 January, eight men, allegedly from a kidnap-for-ransom gang, were arrested in San Pedro in Laguna province (Calabarzon) over kidnap-for-ransom activities targeting Chinese nationals. According to the authorities, the group was involved in the kidnapping of three Chinese nationals on 18 and 23 December 2020. Two of the victims worked for the same company. On 7 December, a Chinese woman who worked in the game industry was abducted in the business district in Makati city (Metro Manila) due to an alleged personal dispute. Earlier on 18 November, a Vietnamese-Chinese national who also worked for a gaming operator firm was kidnapped while waiting for a ride outside a condominium in Makati city. Three Chinese nationals were arrested for their involvement in the kidnapping three days later.

WHAT WE ADVISED YOUR PEOPLE

High rates of crime pose a significant threat to travellers and assignees in Metro Manila. Accommodation and transportation should be arranged with local hosts with attention to the risks posed by violent crime. Liaise with your local host or hotel concierge for information on nearby trouble spots and minimise time on foot, especially after dark.

Opportunistic and narrowly-targeted kidnap-for-ransom remains a threat in the capital. Avoid ostentatious displays of wealth and be aware that kidnappers may pose as police officers. Be particularly vigilant at roadblocks and during spot-checks.

To mitigate the risk of kidnap, be discreet regarding your travel plans, vary routines and exercise heightened situational awareness for signs of being watched or observed. If you notice something unusual, move to a secure site immediately and report it.

Criminals, including kidnappers, are commonly armed. If targeted, avoid doing anything to resist or antagonise the assailant/s.

Monitor our alerts on the Philippines for more information on travel to and within the country.

ASSISTANCE



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Call our medical and travel security specialists any time for advice and assistance before, during or after your trip. All 24-hour Assistance Centre phone numbers can be viewed [here](#).

YOUR FEEDBACK

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Yes

No

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