

Boston Arrest, Kidnapping

Source:

1. <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ero-boston-arrests-guatemalan-national-accused-kidnapping-indecencies-child-after>

2. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/mexican-drug-cartels-kidnap-thousands-35584454>

Evidence of Human Slavery by Migrants, Cartels, South American, Mexican, Foreign, Military Aged Is Empirical

"In South America and the surrounding regions, mass kidnappings have evolved from **political tools used by guerrilla groups into "industrial-scale" criminal enterprises**. While Mexico (in North America) currently sees the highest volume of mass abductions, South American countries like Colombia and Ecuador remain significant centers for these crimes.

1. Modern Trends in South America

Mass kidnapping in South America has shifted from targeting high-profile individuals for political leverage to large-scale extortion of vulnerable populations.

- **Ecuador:** Currently reports some of the highest kidnapping rates in Latin America (approximately 4.7 per 100,000 people). Groups often target **migrants**—particularly those from Ecuador and Colombia—as they travel through the region or toward North America, holding them for ransoms ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000.
- **Colombia:** Historically known as the "kidnap capital of the world," Colombia continues to see mass abductions by groups like the **National Liberation Army (ELN)** and FARC dissidents. Modern groups use these abductions to maintain local systems of "taxation" and enforce loyalty through terror.
- **Human Trafficking:** Mass abductions often feed into sex trafficking networks. Tens of thousands of women from Colombia and the Dominican Republic are trafficked annually to destination countries like Argentina and Brazil.

2. Significant Regional Hubs (Mexico & Haiti)

While not in South America, these regions involve many South American victims and perpetrators.

- **Mexico's "Industrial" Kidnapping:** Cartels such as the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas conduct mass abductions of migrants. In 2024, security forces rescued 42 hostages in Sinaloa following a wave of kidnappings targeting entire families.
- **Haiti:** Gangs like **400 Mawozo** engage in mass abductions of missionaries and neighborhood groups, driven primarily by financial motives in a destabilized economy.

3. Historical Context: "The Disappeared"

Historically, mass kidnapping was a state-sponsored tool for political suppression.

- **Argentina's "Dirty War":** Between 1976 and 1983, up to [30,000 people "disappeared"](#) at the hands of the military government.
- **Civil Wars:** In Guatemala (40,000–50,000 disappeared) and El Salvador (8,000+), mass abductions were systematically used to eliminate government opponents and generate public terror.

4. Common Kidnapping Methods

- **Express Kidnapping:** A short-term abduction where victims are forced to withdraw money from ATMs before being released.
- **Virtual Kidnapping:** A scam where criminals call families claiming to have abducted a loved one to secure a quick ransom, though no physical kidnapping has occurred.
- **Migrant Stash Houses:** Cartels intercept large groups of migrants (often via freight trains) and hold them in isolated ranches or "stash houses" until their families wire money via services like Western Union."



