

The Abu Ssayyaf group

Islamic militant group in the southern Philippine region of Mindanao

Origins

- Established in the 1990s, offshoot of a Muslim separatist insurgency that has claimed more than 100,000 lives

Members

- Originally around 1,000 fighters
- Now about 300 gunmen remain

Methods

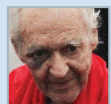
- Trail of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings
- Demand ransom for local and foreign victims in exchange for their freedom

Terror group

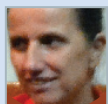
- Listed as "foreign terrorist organisation" by the US
- In recent years, several Abu Ssayyaf units have publicly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria group

Recent kidnappings

When: April 25, 2014



Stefan Okonek, 70s
German



Henrike Dielen, 50s
German

RELEASED October 2014
Ransom reportedly paid

Oct 7, 2015



Rolando Del Torchio, 56
Retired Italian priest

FREED April 2016

In 2016

Suspected Abu Ssayyaf kidnappings

March 26

Off Borneo island, Malaysia



10 Indonesian sailors

RELEASED May 1



Sept 21, 2015



John Ridsdel, late 60s
Canadian

BEHEADED April 2016



Robert Hall, 50
Canadian

Still missing



Marites Flor, 40
Filipina

Still missing



Kjartan Sekkingstad, 56
Norwegian

Still missing



April 1

Sabah state east coast



4 Malaysians
Still missing

April 16

Off Sabah



4 Indonesian sailors
Still missing