Situational Awareness: Survive the kidnap

It is quite normal for people to say to themselves ‘’it will never happen to me’’ but it has happened. Hundreds of people are kidnapped world-wide for numerous reasons. These incidents have taken place in South Africa, Uganda, Mexico, Philippines, Yemen, Nigeria, and other countries mentioned in the [1]NYA Global Kidnap Report (August 2017).

In the amazing work on Stockholm syndrome of [2]Christen Marie McLaughlin (2015), she outlines certain emotional bonds between the abductee and the kidnapper. The emotions in common would be that both dislike the police or authorities and they have positive feelings towards each other which could initially start as a manipulation by the kidnapper and resulting in spontaneous and mutual positive feelings between the kidnapper and the abductee.

Being kidnapped by a person or persons of a different culture bring about issues to consider. Without knowing one could aggravate the kidnap situation with simple physical gestures, because distinct cultures find certain behaviour highly offensive. You may touch the kidnapper with your left hand, cross your legs or expose parts of your body that is highly forbidden to some religions and cultures. Being aware of cultural behaviour of the kidnappers would reduce negative emotions towards the abductee

Furthermore, people of the same culture could talk to each other right in of the abductee without the abductee knowing by using cultural communication with their body language. This cultural communication through body movement of the hands or facial expressions display words in physical movement and expressions

[1] NYA Global Kidnap Report (August 2017)

[2] Christen Marie McLaughlin (2015): Fear or Love: Examining Stockholm Syndrome in the Elizabeth Smart Kidnapping case

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Objectives for longevity

1. Clarify the mission of the kidnapper/s.
2. Clarify the situation of the people on the ground (kidnappers) or focus on a person of interest. Using the HIM methods identify which person in the group is a possible person that may be a likely person of positive emotions. Try expressing the same dislike as they or the kidnapper possibly feels towards the authorities or anything that is in-line with their profile. The ones that agree or smile at the comments are most likely to support the abductee
3. Use the HIM methods to get the person of interest to talk as much as possible to gather reliable and all-the-information to determine their likes and dislikes. In other words, know where they truly stand in relation to their personal life and beliefs.
4. Make sure that you are asking questions or making comments that generate approval which can be seen or heard using the HIM methods.

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